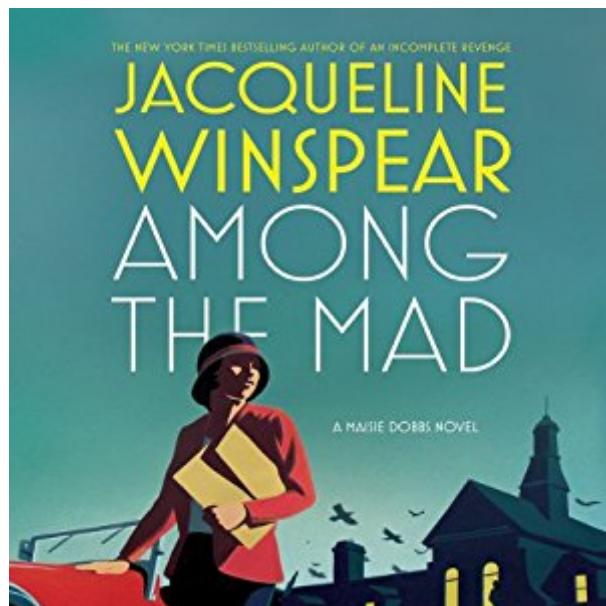


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Among The Mad: A Maisie Dobbs Novel



Synopsis

In the thrilling new novel by the New York Times bestselling author of *An Incomplete Revenge*, Maisie Dobbs must catch a madman before he commits murder on an unimaginable scale. It's Christmas Eve 1931. On the way to see a client, Maisie Dobbs witnesses a man commit suicide on a busy London street. The following day, the prime minister's office receives a letter threatening a massive loss of life if certain demands are not met; and the writer mentions Maisie by name. After being questioned and cleared by Detective Chief Superintendent Robert MacFarlane of Scotland Yard's elite Special Branch, she is drawn into MacFarlane's personal fiefdom as a special adviser on the case. Meanwhile, Billy Beale, Maisie's trusted assistant, is once again facing tragedy as his wife, who has never recovered from the death of their young daughter, slips further into melancholia's abyss. Soon Maisie becomes involved in a race against time to find a man who proves he has the knowledge and will to inflict death and destruction on thousands of innocent people. And before this harrowing case is over, Maisie must navigate a darkness not encountered since she was a nurse in wards filled with shell-shocked men. In *Among the Mad*, Jacqueline Winspear combines a heart-stopping story with a rich evocation of a fascinating period to create her most compelling and satisfying novel yet. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With breath-taking timeliness, Winspear gives us a critique of society's tendency to respect physical

wounds of war while dismissing or ignoring damage mental and spiritual. As the current debate over giving the Purple Heart for PTSD and other non-bleeding injuries is conducted in the press and DC, we might do well to think back to the Great War and realize that this problem isn't as new as some VA spokespeople try to make it sound. What do we expect from mystery/thrillers? Whodunnit, of course, and some action - mental or physical or, better yet, both. In excellent mysteries we also expect the exploration of a worth-while topic, whether it be the plundering of Bagdad museums or the cultural norms of the Seneca nation. There is darkness here, both in the plot and in the problems of the characters, but -- unlike Elizabeth George's characters, for example -- the protagonists here are not miserable people. Billy and his wife have lost a child; Maisie has lost her long-time love. But they are capable of happiness. The time of year, year's end in foggy London, increases the foreboding, as it never seems to be full daylight. There are a few too many men with important jobs running around for the casual reader to keep straight. If it's important that someone took a train, we should be able to remember who he is. But the plot keeps everything moving, with timed treats ticking off the hours. It's easily the most high-tension novel Winspear has given us. One reviewer here complains that the book continues after the crime is solved -- not so. There are two endings, the public and the private. For fans of the series, this is a big reward. The Maisie Dobbs series is grounded in social justice issues - class boundaries are at the heart of it, but each novel has its own additional agenda. Yes, it makes for a darker read than Wodehouse provides, but then Jeeves never went to Cambridge, did he? If we have a thinking protagonist, we must expect her to think. If you read with pleasure Laurie R King's *Touchstone*, you will treasure this novel.

The Maisie Dobbs saga continues with *Among the Mad*, and although I have read only books 1, 2, and 3 previously, this book 6 is a solid and moving and consistent addition. The evocation of post-WWI England's struggle with the Depression, the return of maimed (in body and mind) men from the war zone, the high unemployment, and the feelings of desperation and hopelessness in the populace are all dispassionately laid out in this installment. It is the early training of Maisie in meditation and respect for Theosophical ideas that seems to permeate the series, and brings calm to the reader amidst the chaos of a world gone awry and few social supports to improve the situation. The solving of the mystery takes place in the midst of the uncertainty, and the reader looks forward to the next book that will also chronicle Maisie's move from depression to hopefulness.

Thoroughly enjoying the Maisie Dobbs series as the time changes, the characters age and grow, and the society mores change. This book takes a different tone, as she deals with the heavy topic of

mental illness per WWII. The only draw back to these books is the hours I read after I should be sleeping. All violence and sexual mentions are done with the sensitivity of years past.

This is the 6th book in the Maisie Dobbs series. Maisie is on her way to an appointment, accompanied by Billy, on Christmas Eve when she sees a man, likely a disabled veteran on the street. She senses that something is very wrong, and on her way over to him, he commits suicide with an explosive device. After being debriefed, Maisie is shocked to later find out that she is being brought into the investigation which has been moved to the highest levels when a letter threatening further destruction is received by the Prime Minister's office. As an advisor to the Special Branch, she must adapt her methods to work with a team. She suspects that the key to the mastermind has to do with war veterans and their poor treatment. Her investigation leads her to some ugly truths about the post war period, and as the perpetrator's acts show a greater and more deadly sophistication, she also begins to find some ugly truths about the government's continued research into deadly weapons, particularly those of a chemical nature. She also must help her associate Billy deal with his wife's downward spiral into depression, requiring her to be institutionalized, and works to help her get to a better and more enlightened facility. Beyond the mystery, the author does an excellent job in showing us some of the issues and troubles of the interwar era, adding key historical detail.

I am loving this entire marathon of history lessons from the 1900s in England on. To be transported to a time and place, with interesting characters and Sherlock Holmes (of the female variety) type mysteries continues to fascinate me. Maisie Dobbs is a unique heroine, and continues to endear me to her as the books and her life progresses. Winspear has a way of painting the characters, what they wear, their mannerisms, way of speaking, and gestures, that bring them all to life and let the reader make personal decisions about them. Still have several books to go, but am going to finish them all, with pleasure.

This book Maisie works with Scotland Yard to solve a case. Still working independently, she brings her own style in solving a case. She gives the police a view of how to enhance their ways of solving cases by out of the box thinking.

As always Winspear brings you into Maisie's world. This time we see the psychological stress on Billy and his family due to his wife's inability to move past her daughter's death a year ago and th

lack of know in how to approach this malady. The story line goes back to the treatment or lack thereof and the story of a bitter survivor of the war who plans to get back at those who used him and ignored him. He plans to harm many in his cry to have shell shocked and injured veterans helped by their government. Massive continues in her unique form of investigation to help find the man before it is too late

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