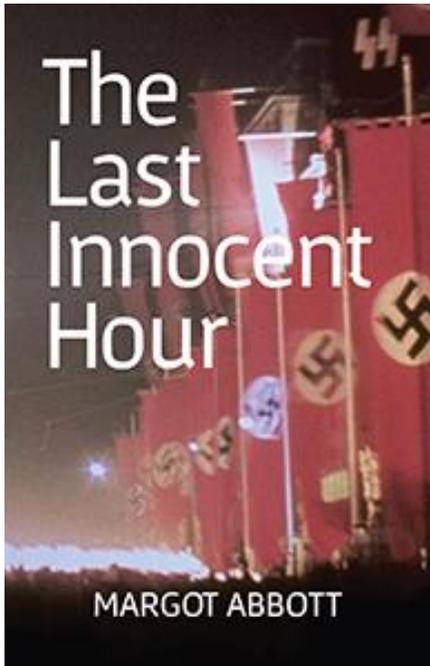


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The Last Innocent Hour

By Margot Abbott

It's the 1930s and the daughter of the American Ambassador to Berlin accompanies her father to his latest post. Sally has been schooled in Germany and as a child met handsome Christian Mayr. Sally enjoys the social whirl of Berlin and as the Nazi party grows in Germany, so does her love for Christian. But the newlyweds have no understanding of the corrupt and decadent world they have entered and as the country prepares for war, Christian's boss, Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's protégé and the head of the SS Secret Police, begins to brutally control their lives. Years later, Sally returns to a flattened and defeated Berlin, not knowing what happened to Christian. She becomes friends with another of her co-workers, an American psychiatrist named Tim Hastings. When photographs of the brutal destruction of a Czech village are brought into their unit, Sally is horrified to discover she can identify one of the perpetrators: her husband, SS Hauptsturmführer Christian Mayr.

Is Christian alive or dead? Fatalistically, she waits for him to find her, not knowing whether this will mean her own death—or her redemption.

REVIEWS

With the élan of a born story-teller the author paints vivid pictures of a decadent Berlin before the war and a desolate Berlin afterward. Sally Jackson is an admirable, multilayered heroine, but Christian Mayr is even more fascinating. Ms. Abbott explores the very nature of evil and the implications of loving a perpetrator of evil. *The Last Innocent Hour* humanizes stereotypes while telling a magnificent love story.

Atlanta Journal Constitution & Chicago Tribune

This is a good yarn set against a historical background that continues to galvanize the imagination.

Washington Post

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Category: Fiction: Romance, historical/ 20th century

Fiction: Historical, romance

To be young in Hitler's Third Reich was a ghastly accident of birth. And to be in love was to risk losing all that you most valued to the Nazi nightmare. So Margot Abbott perceives in "The Last Innocent Hour," a huge, emotive and vividly researched novel of wartime Germany...the novel deepens into a disturbing psychological drama about soul-destroying shame – the legacy of Sally's all-too human fascination for decadence and for a golden boy wearing a Hauptsturmführer's uniform. This sweeping tale of innocence, evil and hard-won redemption contrives to charm, repel and rivet you by turns. It leaves you wondering if, given the misfortune to have lived through those horrific times, you would yourself have found the strength to resist evil with courage, or give way to fear.

She magazine, U.K