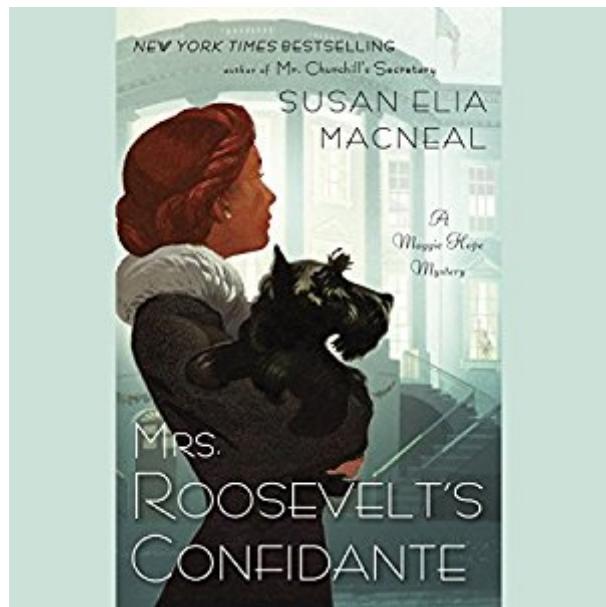


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# Mrs. Roosevelt's Confidante: A Maggie Hope Mystery



## **Synopsis**

In this latest riveting mystery from New York Times best-selling author Susan Elia MacNeal, England's most daring spy, Maggie Hope, travels across the pond to America, where a looming scandal poses a grave threat to the White House and the Allied cause. December 1941. Soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Winston Churchill arrives in Washington, DC, along with special agent Maggie Hope. Posing as his typist, she is accompanying the prime minister as he meets with President Roosevelt to negotiate the United States' entry into World War II. When one of the first lady's aides is mysteriously murdered, Maggie is quickly drawn into Mrs. Roosevelt's inner circle - as ER herself is implicated in the crime. Maggie knows she must keep the investigation quiet, so she employs her unparalleled skills at code breaking and espionage to figure out who would target Mrs. Roosevelt and why. What Maggie uncovers is a shocking conspiracy that could jeopardize American support for the war and leave the fate of the world hanging dangerously in the balance.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is the 5th book in the Maggie Hope series, set during WWII. In the first book Maggie is an American who travels to England to settle an inheritance; she winds up working for Winston Churchill, and in subsequent books she carries out various missions for the Allies. This book takes place shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Maggie is thrilled to be back in America when she accompanies the PM to visit President Roosevelt. This makes for a fun situation as Maggie explains American things to her British friends, and their amazement at all things non-Blitz -- there's no

rationing (yet), no blackouts, etc. Maggie works with Eleanor Roosevelt on a problem and encounters more than she bargained for, of course. There is also a side story about Maggie's very complicated family life, which promises trouble for the next book. This is a fun book in this always entertaining series. If you haven't read the others you would still be able to enjoy this one, and the stage has been set for book 6. If this were a movie it would star Ginger Rogers, but there is a 21st century sensibility too, as we are privy to gay couples and premarital relations (no details of course -- the Queen wouldn't like it!). Winston Churchill is always fun to read about, and it's obvious the author has done her research. This is a fun series, full of WWII adventure. Books in the series are: Mr. Churchill's Secretary, Princess Elizabeth's Spy, His Majesty's Hope, The Prime Minister's Secret Agent, and Mrs. Roosevelt's Confidante.

British code breaker and spy Maggie Hope returns to her U.S. homeland in this latest installment of the World War II series. I liked this book better than the past two, partially because of the active roles played by FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt. In this book, Maggie and her cohorts David and John (the latter her former fiancÃ©) travel to Washington with Winston Churchill, who's hoping to convince the president to commit more men and materiel to the war effort. And, yes, there's a murder -- a young woman who was temporarily filling in as Eleanor's private secretary. Her killer tries to make it look like a suicide, but an autopsy reveals the truth. Found in the young woman's room is a note that would create scandal for Mrs. Roosevelt, and by extension her husband and his administration. It's up to Maggie to get to the bottom of the mystery, risking her life in the process. Author MacNeal does a good bit of research for her novels. In the past, one problem I have seen is that her books are overly heavy on historical details, slowing the narrative. Perhaps it's because this book was set in the States, not Britain, but I found it faster-moving and more engaging than the two previous novels. I also got a good idea of what it was like to be in D.C. during the war and how FDR and his administration began to move into a wartime mode. The book ends as 1942 begins, so there will be plenty more adventures for Maggie and friends in future books.

I'm a fan of the series and I've had this book on pre-order for months. I love British history and WWII history, and I've thoroughly enjoyed the other books in the series. I'm struggling to get through this one and not enjoying it at all. Reading this book is like attending a lecture on all of the bad things in America's history and mistreatment of "brown people" (yes, the author used this phrase - more than once.) Britain isn't spared either, with preaching about colonialism. I'm a student of history, and of course I know that Jim Crow laws existed and that minorities didn't always get a fair trial, but I didn't

really want to read an entire book about those things. The intrigue and action of the prior books has been missing here. I've found myself enjoying the sections about the German POWs in Britain and skimming the parts with Maggie. This one was a huge disappointment.

I loved the first book in this series. It was different and fresh. The second book I liked a little less, but still enjoyed it majorly. The third book was too dark for me - I found it depressing. This newest book is a return from the dark side for me and I enjoyed it, about as much as the second book in the series. To me, the mystery took a back seat to the story about the characters and that's fine. At least, she isn't becoming a know-it-all super sleuth and that seems more real to me. I enjoyed the story being set in the U.S. and getting to know her aunt more. I didn't like what she did with John's character and wonder why Maggie put up with him in this book. This book was a solid "like" for me.

I'm a huge fan of this series and eagerly awaited the next book, pre-ordering months in advance. Sadly, I found the story laboring along mid-book and that I was actually scanning/skipping portions (which I never do!) out of boredom with the characters discussions of political minutia in the 1940s. And I absolutely love history, so that's saying something! The story begins to feel thin on plot and like there is a whole lot of uncomfortably preachy "filler" to take up the rest of the pages. I was left feeling much as I do with some of Rita Mae Brown's series- less politics for your captive audience and more story, please!! Very disappointed.

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