

PRESS RELEASE

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HIDDENLIGHT OPTIONS MAISIE DOBBS SERIES

HiddenLight, the global studio co-founded by Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, Chelsea Clinton and Sam Branson, has acquired the film and TV rights to the *Maisie Dobbs* books as its inaugural fiction option. Written by the multiple-award-winning and best-selling author Jacqueline Winspear, this internationally renowned series comprises 16 books. The option was announced today at the Royal Television Society's Cambridge Convention as part of Secretary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton's keynote session.

Jacqueline Winspear's *Maisie Dobbs* series has been an enormous popular success for the British mystery writer. The first book, titled *Maisie Dobbs*, was published in 2003. Since then, the series has sold millions of copies worldwide and been translated into multiple languages.

Roma Khanna, Executive Chair, HiddenLight and lead for the company's scripted output, says: "The *Maisie Dobbs* series focuses on a female sleuth living in extraordinary times. As the world experiences the deep and complicated impacts of global events beginning with World War I, *Maisie Dobbs* touches on themes of the past that echo forward to a new relevance today. We are very excited to bring Maisie Dobbs to the screen to delight her fans and introduce her to new audiences around the world."

"War and its aftermath provide fertile ground for mystery and historical reflection," says **Jacqueline Winspear**. "Maisie Dobbs is very much a woman of her time, and of today. She has come of age at a period of great social upheaval, allowing for the strange and unusual to emerge. HiddenLight understood the stories I created about this pivotal era and I am thrilled to be working with them to add a new dimension to *Maisie Dobbs*."

Maisie Dobbs, psychologist and investigator, begins her working life at the age of 13 as a servant in a Belgravia mansion, only to be discovered reading in the library by her employer. After serving as a Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse during World War I, she returns to London to work with her mentor, the accomplished forensic psychologist Dr Maurice Blanche. When Blanche retires, Dobbs takes over his private investigation business. With wisdom, experience and empathy beyond her years, little does Maisie realise the extent to which her strength of character is soon to be tested.

Full of period detail – from World War I to the Spanish Civil War and through to World War II – the series takes Maisie on a series of compelling investigations which, at the same time, chart a rapidly changing society.

Jacqueline Winspear is represented by Amy Rennert and WME. HiddenLight is represented by WME.

Notes to Editors

About HiddenLight

HiddenLight Productions is a global studio creating premium documentary, unscripted and scripted entertainment for TV, film and digital that celebrates the best of the human spirit and helps audiences see the world in new ways. Founded by former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Sam Branson and Chelsea Clinton, the company launched in December last year. Its first project, *Gutsy Women*, is a straight-to-series order for Apple TV+ inspired by the best-selling book, *The Book of Gutsy Women: Favorite Stories of Courage and Resilience* by Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton. In January, the company announced it had acquired the series adaptation rights to best-selling author Gayle Tzemach Lemmon's *The Daughters of Kobani* and, in February, HiddenLight confirmed the appointment of Siobhan Sinnerton as Creative Director & SVP Unscripted. Lydia Arding then joined the company as Head of Production in September. Led by Executive Chair Roma Khanna, CEO Johnny Webb, and COO Claire Featherstone, HiddenLight is based in London, New York and LA.

www.hiddenlight.com

About Jacqueline Winspear

Jacqueline Winspear is the creator of the award-winning New York Times and National Bestselling series featuring psychologist and investigator, Maisie Dobbs. Jacqueline has won many awards and accolades for the series including a New York Times Notable Book of the Year; Agatha Award for Best Novel; Macavity Award for Best Historical Novel; and a Bruce Alexander Memorial Historical Mystery Award; as well as being named one of the "Nine Mysteries Every Thinking Woman Should Read" by Oprah Winfrey. *The Consequences of Fear*, the 16th novel in the series was published in 2021, with *What Would Maisie Do?* – a non-fiction book based on the series – in 2019. Jacqueline's "standalone" novel set in WW1, *The Care and Management of Lies*, was a finalist for the 2015 Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Her Edgar nominated memoir, *This Time Next Year We'll Be Laughing* was published in November 2020, giving insight into the inspiration for many of the stories that underpin the Maisie Dobbs' series.

Jacqueline's grandfather was severely wounded and shell-shocked at The Battle of the Somme in 1916, and her grandmother, a munitions worker, was partially blinded in an explosion that killed several women working alongside her. As she began to understand the extent of her grandfather's suffering in particular, Jacqueline became deeply interested in the lingering after-effects of conflict, which became a continuing theme in the Maisie Dobbs series.

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