

**Magdalen Nabb**  
***Some Bitter Taste***

Published by Diogenes as *Nachtblüten*  
Original title: *Some Bitter Taste*



**Magdalen  
Nabb**  
***Nachtblüten***  
*Guarnaccias zwölfter Fall*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

## Book factsheet

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Crime fiction, General Fiction  
336 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
August 2002

World rights are handled by Diogenes

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**Rights currently sold:**  
English/UK (William Heinemann)

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### Awards

- 1991 ›Josie Smith and Eileen‹ erhielt den Smarties Book Prize.  
1989 ›Josie Smith‹ war nominiert für den Guardian Children's Fiction Award.
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### Praise

Magdalen Nabb

»A writer of elegant crime fiction.« – The Daily Telegraph, London

»It takes a writer as good as Magdalen Nabb to remind us how subtle the art of mystery can be.« – The New York Times , Book Review

»Magdalen Nabb is one of the most original of all crime writers.« – Georges Simenon

We know that money alone does not make you happy, and that it can even be dangerous. But the fact that money cannot even prevent loneliness is something that an English art collector had to find out the hard way. Sara Hirsch appeals to Marshal Guarnaccia for help. She has the feeling that someone has been in her apartment. First of all she smelled it, and secondly, she found a kitchen knife in the hall in a place where she is sure she did not put it. Furthermore, the old lady received an anonymous postcard that began: »Now that we know where you live...« Guarnaccia suspects it is the work of an unscrupulous landlord who hopes to rid himself of a tiresome tenant so that he can put up the rent. He advises Mrs Hirsch to contact her lawyer and promises to come and see her the following day. Next day, however, Guarnaccia is called out to a break-in at a villa belonging to an English art collector called Sir Christopher. Although the only thing missing is a pair of silver hairbrushes, Guarnaccia's boss, Captain Maestrangelo, accompanies the Marshal to the scene of the crime. It is not long before Guarnaccia discovers why: the Captain hopes to catch a glimpse of the Monet painting in Sir Christopher's possession. Instead, the two men find a garden full of white flowers that develop their full scent only at twilight, a lily pond with goldfish and a statue that Guarnaccia believes to be a copy of the statue in the Boboli gardens. In fact, however, it is the original Roman statue from 200 BC. Guarnaccia is so busy with this new case that he almost forgets the elderly Mrs Hirsch. When he eventually visits her, he finds her dead in her apartment, and Guarnaccia suffers pangs of conscience.

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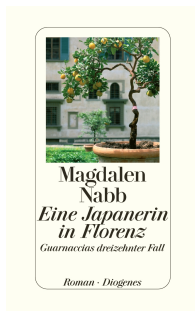
Photo: © Dirk Vogel

Magdalen Nabb (1947 – 2007) studied at the Manchester College of Art, where she began to write. From 1975 onward she lived in Florence, working as a journalist and novelist. Nabb became famous for her *Guarnaccia* crime novels – she wrote 14 novels about the crotchety yet likeable Maresciallo – and also wrote books for children and teenagers.

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**Vita Nuova**  
336 pages  
2008



**The Innocent**  
352 pages  
2006



**Cosimo**  
304 pages  
2004



**Property of Blood**  
368 pages  
1999



**The Marshal at the Villa Torrini**  
272 pages  
1998



**The Monster of Florence**  
544 pages  
1997



**The Marshal and the Madwoman**  
320 pages  
1997



**The Marshal Makes His Report**  
288 pages  
1995



**The Marshal's Own Case**  
240 pages  
1994



**The Marshal and the Murderer**  
272 pages  
1992



**Death of a Dutchman**  
288 pages  
1992



**Death of an Englishman**  
224 pages  
1991



**Death in Autumn**  
224 pages  
1990



**Death in Springtime**  
224 pages  
1988