

Magdalen Nabb
Some Bitter Taste

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**Magdalen
Nabb**
Nachtblüten
Guarnaccias zwölfter Fall

Roman · Diogenes

Book factsheet

Crime fiction, General Fiction
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English/UK (William Heinemann)

Awards

- 1991 »Josie Smith and Eileen« erhielt den
Smarties Book Prize.
1989 »Josie Smith« war nominiert für den
Guardian Children's Fiction Award.

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.

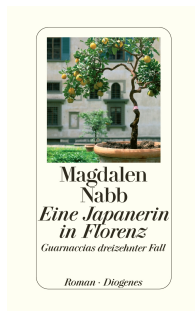


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Magdalen Nabb (1947 – 2007) studied at the Manchester College of Art, where she began to write. From 1975 onward she lived in Florence, working as a journalist and novelist. Nabb became famous for her *Guarnaccia* crime novels – she wrote 14 novels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



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