



Miss Seeton's Finest Hour: A Prequel

Hamilton Crane

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The year is 1940 and the British have their backs to the wall. Everyone is preparing for the battle that, as Winston Churchill said, would see the “whole fury and might of the enemy turned upon us.” Everyone including the young Miss Emily Seeton, London art teacher, who finds her strangely prophetic sketches do not go unnoticed by the secret services.

At first suspected of being a fifth columnist, she soon finds herself recruited by the dashing Major Gerry Haynes and sent to carry out a very special observance task at a rural Spitfire factory.

Faced with bombs, sabotage and murder, Miss Seeton must summon all her courage – it is after all her nature to Keep Calm and Carry On!

Miss Seeton's Finest Hour: A Prequel Details

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Author : Hamilton Crane

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From Reader Review Miss Seeton's Finest Hour: A Prequel for online ebook

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: Miss Seeton's Finest Hour - Miss Seeton Series Book 20

Author: Hamilton Crane; Heron Carvic

Publisher: Farrago

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Genre: Mystery, Thrillers & Suspense

Sub-Genre: Amateur Sleuth; Cozy British Mystery; Crafts & Hobbies; Psychics

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Reviewed For NetGalley and Farrago

Reviewer: DelAnne

Rating: 4.75 Stars

The year is 1940 and the British have their backs to the wall. Everyone is preparing for the battle that, as Winston Churchill said, would see the “whole fury and might of the enemy turned upon us.” Everyone including the young Miss Emily Seeton, London art teacher, who finds her strangely prophetic sketches do not go unnoticed by the secret services.

At first suspected of being a fifth columnist, she soon finds herself recruited by the dashing Major Gerry Haynes and sent to carry out a very special observance task at a rural Spitfire factory.

Faced with bombs, sabotage and murder, Miss Seeton must summon all her courage – it is after all her nature to Keep Calm and Carry On!

We finally learn more about Miss Seeton as a young woman. Her trials and intelligence gathering past. Even as a young women she was Calm under fire and afraid of very little. Her life experiences make her a woman you want to know and have in your life.

Miss Seeton mysteries are a bit of Miss Marple with a dash of Jessica Fletcher and always a joy to read.

Done with style and flair that make you want to fly off to England to meet the grand lady in person.

Disappointment comes only when you realize that she is not a real person and we must wait for the writer to bring her to life with her fertile imagination.

My rating of "Miss Seeton Finest Hours" is 4.75 out of 5 stars.

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Twitter Link: <https://twitter.com/DelAnne531/status...>

Andrea says

This jumps back to a 29 year-old Miss Seeton, drawn (unknowingly) into military intelligence.

I was curious to see if young Miss Seeton would behave any differently to older Miss Seeton, but she wasn't notably different. I did enjoy the book though, not least for the glimpses of aspects of WW2 that don't usually get a lot of attention - the push against 'defeatist' talk, and so forth.

It seems that the e-release of this series has revived the series itself, since there's apparently plans to release another book, nearly 20 years after the last.

Elaysee says

This book was provided by the publisher and NetGalley for my honest review.

I am a long-time fan of Heron Carvic's Miss Seeton, having read the five originals from the library, acquired my own copies, and pre-ordered the electronic editions when they appeared. I've always avoided the further installments as being unlikely to capture all the magic. Recently, a trusted cozy mystery fan of my acquaintance has been plowing through the Hamilton Crane books. Thus when I saw this book at NetGalley, I was curious to read it for myself.

Is it Carvic's Miss Seeton? Not quite. She says some of the right things, and others have some of the right reactions to her, but her inner life doesn't ring true for me. The series of events and observations that bring her into the plot are appropriately Seetonesque, however.

For the rest, this was a pleasant cozy mystery with enjoyable characters and a good use of the wartime setting. I felt the plot became a bit cramped, fitting in the history lessons and setting up some Miss Seeton canon, but not unmanageably so.

Other readers should take my bias for Carvic's creations into account; I enjoyed this book and other cozy fans may well enjoy it more. I won't hesitate to look over more Crane installments in the future.

Grace J Reviewerlady says

What a fabulous book! Possibly the one book I've read with a WWII mystery which doesn't exaggerate the glamour but is a damn fine read.

I must confess to being new to this series, but I shall definitely be following up on the rest of the novels. A really satisfying read, beautifully written and finished off properly.

Can hardly wait to catch up with my tbr list to source more of this series. Love, love, love!!

SherleyB says

aka. SherleyB

Well this was a lovely old fashioned kind of storyline, must admit though I did enjoy reading this, shall look forward to reading more of Miss Seeton's adventures...

Elissa says

Set just before the start of The Battle of Britain this tale immerses you in the paranoia and patriotism of an island fearing invasion from without (the Nazis) and within (fifth columnists) and yet retains the wry humor for which the Miss Seeton books are so justly famous. More of Emily Dorothea's early background is revealed and we learn why she is so concerned about her knees and how she comes to have an umbrella collection. There are also a number of unexpected tragic twists adding depth to the character who becomes the inimitable spry spinster whose talents once trapped traitors. In many ways this may be the best written novel of the series.

I am sad that it is also the last of the volumes as I haunted Netgalley for the rerelease of each of the 22 stories as they came out. I may just have to go back and start again at the beginning!

Mizloo says

Of all the Seton books I've read so far, this is the weakest.

Emma says

Miss Seeton's Finest Hour. By Hamilton Crane.

Oh my Goodness, I am now a huge Emily Seeton fan.

Having been totally unaware of this series before this last few days , it is fortuitous then that this prequel was my first adventure in her company.

Fans of older detectives such as William Murdoch, Father Brown and of course the canon of "Agatha" herself will be able to bury themselves in this story of the young art teacher engaged by the government to winkle out a Nazi collaborator. It is my understanding that all future outings are the adventures of a much more aged protagonist, but this was a delightful introduction.

She is clever, resourceful and observant, she is sweet without being saccharin and she is interesting and a self contained character in her own right rather than just an observer before whom the action is played out.

The attention to period detail makes this an incredibly immersive read. I liked the way the story often grounded itself in the speeches of Winston Churchill and the title then becomes more resonant.

I thoroughly enjoyed the book and will definitely be making Miss Seeton a constant reading companion.

Juli says

This book is a departure from the usual Miss Seeton novel. Instead of a lively tale of the elderly, retired Emily Seeton solving mysteries, Miss Seeton's Finest Hour jumps back in time to 1940. She's 29 years old, living with her mother, and helping in the British war effort. In spare moments when she isn't involved with the local canteen, Miss Seeton ventures out to draw. Her artwork, however, lands her in hot water, as a few of her drawings seem to show advance knowledge of military plans. Someone reports her as a possible fifth columnist. After a meeting with her, a local major is sure she isn't a spy, but he isn't quite sure what she is....how could such a quiet young girl figure out the things she sketches in her drawings? But he's determined to put her mind to work for England! Miss Seeton finds herself working in a Spitfire factory as a "war artist." She is to sketch things she sees at the plant and try to ferret out the cause of recent sabotage at the factory. When things escalate from faulty wiring in aircraft to serious accidents and murder, Miss Seeton finds herself in danger!

I loved this peek into Miss Seeton's past. The story not only shows what she was like as a young woman, but also explains a bit about her talent for knowing impossible things. It also sheds a bit of light on the reason Emily Seeton is a spinster. I liked the portrayal of war-time England.....girls carrying gas masks to work in a plane factory, sky lights pulled out and boarded over, windows taped and draped with blackout material, rationing and fear of spies. The plot was believable and not melodramatic. A very enjoyable read!

The Miss Seeton series has 22 books. The first five books were written by Heron Carvic, with the rest penned by Hampton Charles (Roy Peter Martin) and Hamilton Crane (Sarah J. Mason). Farrago's re-release of this series has brought it back to life! For the first time in 20 years, there will be a new Miss Seeton novel this year! *Miss Seeton Quilts The Village* will release in September!

I am so glad I found this series! I am a huge fan of similar characters like Miss Marple, Mrs. Pollifax, and Jessica Fletcher. Miss Seeton seems like an elderly version of Columbo....appearing a bit bumbling, feather-brained and scattered when actually she sees things quite as they are and expresses it in her art. The difference is that Miss Seeton knows things, but doesn't always realize or understand what she knows. Being

an avid mystery reader since 1977, I am not sure how I missed this series. But I'm so glad to be reading it now!

I voluntarily read an advance readers copy of this book from Farrago via NetGalley. All opinions expressed are entirely my own.

Sid Nuncius says

I hadn't read any of this series before and took a punt on this without a great deal of expectation, to be honest. After a somewhat uninspiring opening, I enjoyed it a lot more than I thought I would.

Set in 1940, Miss Seeton is an art teacher in her late 20s with, it transpires, an uncanny knack of seeing through to the heart of things in her drawings. This, by convoluted means, leads her to be sent undercover by Military Intelligence to investigate possible sabotage in an aircraft factory.

The plot itself is pretty negligible; it felt rather more like a fleshed-out short story to me, and after the opening 30 pages or so I began to wonder whether anything was actually going to happen. However, a story does emerge, I began to warm to the characters, the writing is good and the period is very well conjured – far better than in some books set in the Second World War which take themselves much more seriously than this does. The light, often rather humorous tone is underpinned by some thorough research, very readable prose and decent character portraits, which makes the book more than just a bit of inconsequential fluff. It's no masterpiece of literature – and nor does it intend to be – but it's rather involving and surprisingly enjoyable.

This probably isn't the best place to start with Miss Seeton, but I can still recommend it even to novices like me and I'll almost certainly be trying more in the series.

(I received an ARC via Netgalley.)

Vanessa says

Another lively Miss Seeton novel in which she is set loose amidst a London deep into WWII. An enjoyable novel but still a bit of an imitation - sort of a cookie that you think will be chocolate chips and walnuts but ends up being carob and, like, hemp seeds. It's still a cookie but it doesn't really satisfy the sweet tooth all together. But, I'm willing to take my Miss Seeton in any form and this was neatly done. A recommend for sure.

I received an ecopy from the publishers and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Melisende d'Outremer says

back-story to the Miss Seaton series of cozy-crime novellas.

Bonnye Reed says

GNA I received a free electronic copy of this novel from Netgalley, the estates of Hamilton Crane and Heron Carvic, and Farrago in exchange for an honest review. Thank you all for sharing your hard work with me.

Heron Carvic began the tales of Miss Seeton and after his passing the tales were picked up by Hamilton Crane. This book contains a helpful glossary of terms not as well known by Americans as they are by Brits, as well as a link to Heron Carvic's essay covering the genesis of Miss Seeton.

This is an excellent historical novel, a prequel novel to the Miss Seeton series but totally stand alone. We have our excellent, comedic Miss Emily Dorothea Seeton in 1940, an elementary school art teacher pushing 30. Emily still lives at home with her mother Alice, in poor health since flu epidemic in 1919 and the death of her husband and younger child. There is much Emily would like to do for the war effort but she feels she must stay near her frail mother in her home village, so she volunteers with the Local Defence Volunteers, working at several troop canteens in surrounding villages to serve the British military. Until her art work, sketches done rapidly as she escorts the children to different outdoor attractions, is brought to the attention of the Ministry of Information who in turn involves MI5. But is she friend, or foe?

I found it very interesting after reading several of the Miss Seeton novels set later in WWII to meet this younger Miss Seeton. And to know a bit more deeply the person of Alice Seeton, often mentioned in later novels. This novel rounds out the personality of our Miss Seeton and reinforces the things that make her the staunch, patriotic woman we have come to know and love.

Gail Gassen says

What a wonderful book

Full of the fear & hardships of the English people during the second World War. Also the heartbreak of loss. I love her character & look forward to reading many more books with Miss Seeton in them. This also make me want to know about the many trials the British people went through & their fear of Hitlers invasion.

Jane says

Loved it. Not for the quality of the writing, but the characterizations and the backstory.
