



Safekeeping

Jessamyn Hope

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Safekeeping

Jessamyn Hope

Safekeeping Jessamyn Hope

A dazzling debut novel about love, loss, and the courage it takes to start over.

It's 1994 and Adam, a drug addict from New York City, arrives at a kibbutz in Israel with a medieval sapphire brooch. To redress a past crime, he must give the priceless heirloom to a woman his grandfather loved when he was a Holocaust refugee on the kibbutz fifty years earlier. But first, he has to track this mystery woman down—a task that proves more complicated than expected.

On the kibbutz Adam joins other lost souls: Ulya, the ambitious and beautiful Soviet émigrée; Farid, the lovelorn Palestinian farmhand; Claudette, the French Canadian Catholic with OCD; Ofir, the Israeli teenager wounded in a bus bombing; and Ziva, the old Socialist Zionist firebrand who founded the kibbutz. Driven together by love, hostility, hope, and fear, their fates become forever entangled as they each get one last shot at redemption.

In the middle of that fateful summer glows the magnificent brooch with its perilous history spanning three continents and seven centuries. With insight and beauty, *Safekeeping* tackles that most human of questions: How can we expect to find meaning and happiness when we know that nothing lasts?

Safekeeping Details

Date : Published June 9th 2015 by Fig Tree Books

ISBN :

Author : Jessamyn Hope

Format : Kindle Edition 386 pages

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Literature, Jewish, Cultural, Israel

 [Download Safekeeping ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Safekeeping ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Safekeeping Jessamyn Hope

From Reader Review Safekeeping for online ebook

Alexis says

For some reason I didn't think I would like this book as much as I did; I have strong opinions on unreliable narrators, nonetheless, Safekeeping won me over - it was probably the dog that did it. The story was interesting and purposeful and there were a few characters I wish I could spend more time with. Beautifully written and highly recommended.

I think Jessamyn Hope could quickly become one of my favorite new authors. *Crossing my fingers she writes a book about Ofir. He is a heartbreaking character and his scene in the kasbah was an all time favorite.

Book Riot Community says

To atone for a past crime, Adam, a drug addict from New York City, must give a priceless heirloom to a woman his grandfather loved when he was a Holocaust refugee in Israel fifty years earlier. There, Adam meets other lost souls, and together they try and work out a shot at redemption. Safekeeping is a gorgeous debut, spanning seven centuries, that questions what it means to do, well, anything, if everything is temporary. This is an excellent emotional roller coaster ride.

Tune in to our weekly All The Books podcast to keep tabs on new books hitting shelves:
<http://bookriot.com/category/all-the-...>

Angela M says

The past and present are blended here as with so many novels I've read in recent years . The center of the story seems to be an heirloom brooch passed down through centuries, but for me it was not really about the brooch but the people whose lives were touched by it .

A kibbutz in 1994 Israel is the place where the paths of several characters converge . Adam an alcoholic and drug addict is in withdrawal . He is there to find a woman named Dagmar , the woman his grandfather, a holocaust survivor , fell in love with when he came to this kibbutz after the war. He desperately wants to make things up to his grandfather, now dead , for his transgressions by giving the brooch to the woman his grandfather intended to have it . Ulya , obsessed with going to Manhattan will do anything to get out of Russia and try to make her way there . She came to the kibbutz with stolen identification. Claudette , a Canadian woman who has lived her life in an orphanage , lonely, confused , has OCD and is emotionally unstable . Ofir is the teen age piano playing soldier with dreams of being a musician. They all seem to want to be somewhere else , doing something else except Ziva the 80 year Zionist and early founder of the kibbutz who wants to stay just where she is without change.

The past stories almost always hold me more than the present but there is something about these lost people in the present day story that reached out to me as they touch each other's lives . There are lovely things that happen - unsuspecting friendship, first loves , both past and present and there are the awful things that some people do to get what they want. While so much here is about these characters and how they connect , the novel certainly takes us to places in the Jewish experience from the centuries ago , to decades ago and to

present day . Hope skillfully move us back and forth.

I was fully invested in these characters and their stories . The fact that the ending was ambiguous is probably what kept me from giving that 5th star. Nevertheless, highly recommended.

Thanks to Fig Tree Books and Edelweiss.

Erika Dreifus says

I am so proud to be part of the team at Fig Tree Books that will introduce this extraordinary novel to readers.

Elyse says

The characters in Safekeeping are what linger in my mind....Jewish and non- Jewish. The story centers around an ornamental pin, (a brooch), passed down through generations and continents....symbolic of 'the people' and 'our stories' ...which live on and on. We pass our treasures...our jewelry....our stories....then 'let go'. They are no longer ours to possess tightly. It's how I made sense of the ending of this story.

The author covers the history of the Holocaust, and the creation of the Kibbutz....socially and politically. The changes in Kibbutz life are different than when I lived on Kibbutz Gesher in 1973. Some people have been frustrated with the new changes. I, too, miss the way things 'were'.

I took comfort enjoying the characters in this story. People's temperament and purpose in life don't changed as fast as laws and re-organizational policies do.

Many of the volunteers who came to live on the Kibbutz had troubled lives... with hopes for healing. Adam.. struggling with alcoholism. Claudette, a French orphan.... with mental health issues, (OCD), ... many memorable complex characters -

It was an older woman, Ziva whom I most got a kick out of.

She was a founding member with 'old school' beliefs. She was 'exactly' like the SENIOR MEMBERS on the Kibbutz where I volunteered.

"I should warn you, Claudette, Ziva can be very... what's a nice word for it?

Forthright? Even is Israelis find her rude. Don't take anything she says personally. Believe me, I should know. She's my mother." I got such a great laugh -- Ziva is soooo much like many of the Israeli's I was fortunate enough to 'finally' get close to!

After a few hammers taken to my head!

The author, Jessamyn Hope gave us a wonderful Kibbutz story with Knockout characters!!!

Lauren says

The setting of this book is what initially piqued my interest - the majority of the story takes place on an Israeli kibbutz in the 1990s, with well placed and seamless flashbacks. The intricate plot and characters

really drew me in as well. It's been a long time since I've really gotten lost in a book. A very satisfying read.

Anna says

SAFEKEEPING is a gem of a novel – a big, multi-faceted gem. Hope deftly weaves together the stories of six major characters from very different backgrounds. As the novel progresses, the characters' lives impact each other in unexpected ways, the most ironic of which is seeing their individual dramas played out in an environment, the kibbutz, that is so much about conformity. But like the sapphire brooch that is at the heart of the story and propels the action, this story is about the strange, eternal flux between tragedy and comedy that makes up life and always has. From chapters going back to the ancient origins of the brooch, to the establishment of the kibbutz and its early fight for survival, to the painful circumstances that have led each of these characters to seek refuge in a place whose future is in jeopardy, SAFEKEEPING pulses with desperation and hope. As different as they appeared to be from each other, I found myself identifying with each character on so many levels. When they meet their destinies at the end, it took my breath away.

Lorri says

Safekeeping: A Novel, blends a Medieval sapphire brooch with the lives of those living on a kibbutz in Israel, and those who have come to volunteer there. I was engrossed from the first page to the last page.

The story line explores how the old timers-the founders of the kibbutz and their adult children, intermingle with those who are volunteers. The dynamics between the sides are depicted in depth.

I found the novel to be a deep depiction of emotional and mental capacities within the framework of kibbutz life, and those who choose to remain in an environment of socialism and extremes, compared to those who choose to move forward and bring a new definition to the kibbutz and community within it. Whether it be fifty years or one hundred years or more, nothing is continually static. Life goes on, changes occur, and nothing remains the same within the scheme of things.

It is an extremely compelling and intense read, leaving one to ponder questions of identity, change, old time attitudes, socialism, autonomy, and materialistic items within the realm of individual possession, or as part of the whole.

The story line is complex, and handled masterfully through Jessamyn Hope's writing. I applaud her dedication to historical fact, and to the humanness of her characters.

I want to thank Fig Tree Books, and want to thank Erika Dreifus for the Advanced Review Copy. I feel privileged to have been given the book-which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Martin says

What a surprise – a finely crafted page turner with heartbreakingly real characters. These characters stuck with me long after I finished reading: Ziva – the tough-minded idealist; Adam – the addict with a guilty

conscience; Ulya – the beautiful pragmatist with a heart of ice, and Claudette – the obsessive-compulsive, lost as much in innocence as in her own mind. They are all brought together on a kibbutz for a few months in 1994, where their memories spar and dance with their present world.

It's in the melding of past and present where the novel truly soars. Each character in trying to create their future is inescapably linked to their past. And, at the center of these stories, the state of Israel itself, tethered to history by a thousand different threads; its creation, a culmination of pogroms, holocausts, and a great cultural yearning. Not only is *Safekeeping* a love story, one that recognizes the limits of love and its harsh realities, but it's also a love story between the Jewish people and Israel. If any novel can convince a reader about the necessity of Israel, this is it. This should be required reading for every book club.

Yoav Bergner says

This novel is complex and moving. It's not a fluff piece, it's not infantilizing young adult fiction, but rather a real novel for adult readers. It does not play literary games but is told through clean, simple writing. I laughed, I cried, I rooted for characters in spite of disliking them. I gained insights into the human condition. Recommended for fans of W. Somerset Maugham, Tolstoy, and Jennifer Egan.

Rebecca Foster says

A bit like *All the Light We Cannot See*, the plot of this debut novel revolves around a priceless jewel. In this case it's a medieval sapphire brooch that has been passed down through Adam's family for centuries. In 1994, after the death of his grandfather, a Holocaust survivor, Adam undertakes a quest to return the brooch to the woman he fell in love with on an Israeli kibbutz and never forgot. Adam has his own problems – he's a recovering junkie and alcoholic – but he feels he owes this to his grandfather's memory.

A kibbutz undergoing the bitter transition from communalism to salaried work provides a vivid contrast to Adam's native New York City. Hope populates her novel with a wonderful cast of eccentric characters. There's Ulya, a Belarussian prima donna with a shoplifting habit; Claudette, a French Canadian Catholic crippled by mental health issues; Ziva, a kibbutz veteran who fights the changes tooth and nail despite advancing infirmity; and Ofir, a young man who endeavors to finish his military service early so he can return to his beloved piano.

I loved the way that Hope links the disparate characters in a constellation of connections. Acts of generosity, small or large, make a huge difference, even though betrayals past and present still linger. Close third person narration shifts easily between all the characters' viewpoints, while two surprising historical interludes add depth. Hope handles flashbacks as elegantly as I've ever seen: you follow characters into their thoughts and suddenly snap back to the present right along with them.

I'll confess I was slightly disappointed with the inconclusive ending. We follow the brooch rather than the characters, which means that in two cases we are left wondering about a person's fate. Still, I was so impressed with the writing, especially the interweaving of past and present, that I will be eager to watch Hope's career. *Safekeeping* is published by Fig Tree Books, a champion of modern Jewish literature, and has one of the most terrific book covers I've seen in a while.

(Originally published with images at my blog, Bookish Beck.)

Julie says

Safekeeping is a big, sweeping novel with interesting characters that intertwine in interesting and unexpected ways. I especially loved Ziva, the kibbutznik, though all of the characters were enchanting. Well-worth the read!

AdiTurbo says

DNF. I think that because I am Israeli, and this book is written about Israel for non-Israelis, it is not for me. Also, I did not find myself interested in the plot. I've read too many of these stories, I guess - an old man or woman leaving the protagonist something that would make them have to research their family's past, find an old love, etc. I can see where this is going to lead, and I have no patience for such quests right now. Since I know our people's and country's history inside and out, the historical research does not add a lot to my knowledge, even though it is well done and nicely written. As I said, not for me, not right now. It may be a wonderful read for others who want to know more about Israelis, Israeli ways of life and the history behind it.

Amy says

A Five Star Read - Simply precious!

This was the selection for the Jewish Book Club, of which I appear to be the sole monthly reading member. It looked great, so I thought try again. Plus my friend from Westchester was also reading it, and she wrote me to tell me that she loved it and thought I would too. She was right.

I loved everything about this story. 6 (plus) very unusual and compelling characters, each interesting and complex and broken in some way. The story begins in New York, with Adam, a troubled but good hearted kid who has lost his way, and recently lost his grandfather, the only stable and loving person in his life, who has shaped his existence. His grandfather's legacy is a 700 year old brooch, about which this story centers, and will unfold. For reasons he can barely understand or explain, and to make something meaningful happen in his life, Adam travels to a Kibbutz in Israel, (set in the last dying days of the Kibbutzim) to find an old lover and return the brooch. He arrives at the Kibbutz, broken, and alone, and the Kibbutz is dying. As is its founder, Ziva, passionate, idealistic, pioneer, and early Zionist. There are many more characters, trying to fix and heal their lives, but fascinating, there is Claudette, the French orphan with OCD, Ofir, a young bombing victim, Ulya, a Russian 1/8 Jew who is just trying to survive, and get to New York at any cost, Ziva, Adam, Ziva's son Eyal, Ulya's Arab lover, Dov, a young idealist, and a dog named Golda. The story is wonderful, and traces through the history of each of the characters. And really shows the experience of the Kibbutz and what that was about. And how and whether any or some or all of the characters ultimately find healing, transcendence, or freedom. My heart stays with this book and each of the characters within it. Plus it just made my top ten.

Jonathan Papernick says

Safekeeping is a brilliant, complex, heartrending novel set on a kibbutz in 1994. Hope deftly weaves together multiple storylines with crystalline clear prose that illuminate the darkest hearts of her troubled protagonists. This novel is going to be huge. Highly recommended.
