

*The Last Bookshop in London* by Madeline Martin

The EPLD audiobook of this novel that I listened to was very enjoyable. One special aspect is that the reader has a British accent, an accent I particularly enjoy. Grace Bennett and her best friend move to big-city London in August of 1939, and find that the city isn't quite what they had expected. London is grimly preparing for air raids, while Grace just needs any job that can get her a letter of recommendation and keep her from having to return to an impossible situation in her hometown, where she was at the mercy of a cruel uncle and an even crueler aunt. Her best prospect is working at Primrose Hill, a dusty old bookshop, though she isn't really a reader herself.

Grace is drawn into the reading world that surrounds her. Using her observations of the flaws of the bookshop, she makes great strides in improving it and drawing more people in to savor the stories they have found there, as they while away hours in bomb shelters and attempt to escape the anxieties and pressures of war that surround them. A good feel for what the terrors of the Blitz were like for those who were personally threatened, along with their loved ones, neighbors, and workplaces.