



## M\*A\*S\*H Goes to Maine

*Richard Hooker*

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**M\*A\*S\*H Goes to Maine** Richard Hooker

Back from Korea and zanier than ever, those four irreverent military surgeons--Hawkeye, Trapper, Duke and Spearchucker--are eager and ready to operate again. This time it's on the crusty natives of Spruce Harbor, Maine.

There the irrepressible M.D.s meet their lunatic equals and join with them in a wacky, hilarious romp through every operating room and bedroom in town.

### M\*A\*S\*H Goes to Maine Details

Date : Published January 1973 by Sphere (first published 1972)

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Author : Richard Hooker

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## From Reader Review M\*A\*S\*H Goes to Maine for online ebook

### Robert says

It's a good read, but MASH it isn't. Well, that's unfair. It 'is' MASH, because this is the follow up novel by the original author. But everyone's mind is polluted with memories of the TV show, so the product feels off, even though it isn't. Just as before Hawkeye is the ringleader and focal point, and all the other characters - particularly Duke and Spearchucker - fall by the wayside for long stretches. Just as in the original, the novel reads more like a collection of short stories than as a cohesive tale. Unlike before, two of the new secondary characters are so well drawn that in their stand-out chapters they can move the reader to tears (That would be Dr. Doggie and Moose for those in the know).

Read it for what it is, enjoy it for what is isn't, and wonder about the 'could have been' where Hooker becomes Garrison Keillor before Keillor does.

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### DEREK CROSSLEY says

You have to love MASH to give a fuck about this book, but I do, so I think it's great.

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### Wetdryvac Wetdryvac says

My favorite in the series by a decent margin, and an interesting turning point in humor and compassion with racism, sexism, and all manner else in play. The first book - MASH - is somewhat more cleanly written, but this one has a seriously wonderful spirit to it.

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### Corto says

The real shame of this book is that the author didn't have an editor with vision. I can see the problem. I imagine that the opportunity to capitalize on the success of the movie and the TV series prompted Richard Hooker's publishing house to come up with a sequel. Having exhausted the story of The Swampmen in Korea, Hooker has to come up with a plausible way to continue on with the same characters. The result is a hackneyed and disjointed (though humorous) installment in what was to become a lengthy literary series.

What would've made this book and the subsequent series better? If Richard Hooker (real name, Hornberger) had just been allowed to "write what he knows"- which was the lives of Coastal Mainers, and center the novel on one character, his alter ego Hawkeye. This is where this novel shines, and belies a real potential for what could've been a great folksy novel about a combat surgeon's return to civilian life.

Instead, Hooker has to shoehorn in most of the principal characters from the original novel (Hawkeye convinces The Swampmen to move to Maine), which has a very contrived feel. Hooker probably didn't like that he had to do it, as evinced by an exchange between Hawkeye and Duke which was something to the effect of (I don't have the book handy), "Why'd you pack up and move up here so suddenly, Duke?" "I don't really know!" End of contrived plot point. (The only character whose appearance in Crabapple Cove that doesn't seem too forced is Trapper, a fellow New Englander.)

Hooker/Hornberger loved Coastal Maine, and it shows. He paints a number of funny and poignant episodes in the lives of the quirky and eccentric people in Hawkeye's hometown. Hooker also has an amusing and biting way of writing about the politics of practicing medicine in a relatively rural area. Had Hooker been allowed not to bring The Swampmen to Maine it would've been a superior and more plausible novel. Hooker was sold short as a writer and could've, if given the opportunity, rivaled any other regional humorist.

If you enjoyed the first novel, this'll be fun. If you haven't read the first novel, and are only familiar with the show, be warned that there is some very politically incorrect, racist language here, which is only balanced by the fact that Hooker gives an African-American character a large, dignified, non-stereotypical, non-pandering role in the book (despite the character's racist nickname). This is commendable considering that the era was more known for its exploitative representations of African-Americans.

If you're new to MASH, I'd start with the first novel anyways. If you're only familiar with the TV show, bear in mind that the literary Hawkeye has virtually nothing in common with Alan Alda's interpretation.

Missed opportunity here, but if the first novel left you wanting more, this'll help fill that void.

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### **Paz says**

En la línea del esperpento valleinclanesco

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### **Don LaFontaine says**

It was an okay book, and it possible, I would rate it 2 1/2 stars. It brings back four of the main characters from his original book MASH, Hawkeye, Trapper, Spearchucker, and Duke. Basically, the plot of the book is how these four doctors got back together and started a practice in Maine. There were some funny parts to it, but I felt that much of the book was forced. It seemed that the author was trying to recreate what was successful in the original book, with so-so results. It is a sequel, and as such, if you liked the original book, you should enjoy this one mostly because of the recurring characters. Just don't expect too much out of it.

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### **Frank says**

Followup to MASH read in the 70s

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### **Jeremy says**

Finest kind! I think that many parts of this book surpass the original. A great book.

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### **Blake Hiatt says**

Funny and a good follow-up to MASH.

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## **Samantha says**

More of my book reviews can be found on my website: <https://theartisanpenguin.com/>

You were likely aware that the original M\*A\*S\*H TV series that was on the air for eleven seasons was based off a movie from the 70's starring Donald Sutherland and Tom Skerritt? But did you know that the movie was based off a book written by Richard Hooker? Well from 1968 to 1977 Richard Hooker wrote Fifteen M\*A\*S\*H books, and only the first one took place during the Korean war.

M\*A\*S\*H Goes to Maine is the second book in this series. If you've never seen the movie and have never read the first M\*A\*S\*H book, you will be quite lost as you read this book. There are characters in these books that never show up in the TV series, or were only in the series for a few episodes. I loved the TV series, I remember watching it as a child, then again in my teens and once more as an adult. It was one of those shows that you could watch over and over again, and it always seemed to be on TV. I would always skip over the nightmare episode though as I found it quite disturbing as a child and those feelings still linger there as I remember Major Margaret "Hot-Lip" Hoilihan standing there with blood running down the front of her nightgown, shudder, but that's all I remember of that episode. Thankfully the rest of the episode's memories have been lost to time.

Back to M\*A\*S\*H Goes to Maine. The second book is written pretty much the same as the first, a bunch of short stories held together by an overall premise, in this case the opening of the Finestkind Clinic and Fishmarket. This was Maine in the late 50's and medicine back then was very different than what it is now (be glad). The surgeons of the swamp, Hawkeye Pierce, Trapper John, Duke Forrest, Oliver Harmon "Spearchucker" Jones, are all tops of their respective fields and have banded together to provide the residents of Maine the very best or "Finestkind" medical clinic and fishmarket. Get your medical exams and procedures done in the morning and on your way out in the afternoon pick up some fish for dinner.

M\*A\*S\*H Goes to Main is a quick read that I enjoyed, however, If you don't like M\*A\*S\*H or struggle with understanding the time frame something was written, then I don't think you would enjoy this. It's quite disjointed in the way Hooker tells his story, hopping around from one "small town event" to another. There is also quite a lot of crude language, racial slurs and outdated views on women in M\*A\*S\*H Goes to Main. This book was written forty-five years ago, and then also written about a time fifteen years earlier than that. Societal views on language, race and women were very different then than they are now. It made me glad that in many ways society isn't like that any more. We are not perfect, we will likely never be perfect and there is still a long long way to go before everyone feels safe, but it is better than it once was.

Maybe one day I will go on to read more of this series, but for now, I'll take a pass.

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## **Tania Schoolcraft says**

Hilarious sequel to M\*A\*S\*H. I love the way the story follows the lives of swamp men after they leave Korea. I wish I could find it in ebook format.

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## Ray Daley says

Finished reading this yesterday, I read it in a day.

Taking Hawkeye, Trapper, Duke and company out of Korea might have been a bad idea.

This book follows Hawkeye a year after his departure from Korea. We're introduced to the residents of Crabapple Cove, I'll admit that most of them are quite interesting characters and I enjoyed learning about them over the course of this book.

Hawk goes through thoracic training and opens up his own clinic off the back of this. It's at this point he decides to get the band back together. One by one, Hawk tracks down his old 4077th buddies, expanding the skills of his own clinic.

It's an odd little read, fairly dry as a first read but I think it'd be a good re-read.

Give it a go if you enjoyed the first book.

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## Jon Koebrick says

This was a bit of a clunker and felt like it was missing a central plot. I loved the original book, the movie and the TV series and hoped this would continue the story well.

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## Steph (loves water) says

Laughed hysterically through the whole thing ;0)

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## Benn Allen says

"M\*A\*S\*H Goes to the Maine" is the first sequel to the novel, "M\*A\*S\*H". It is also the first of the 13 "M\*A\*S\*H Goes to" books and the only one Richard Hooker (Dr. Richard Hornberger) actually had a hand in writing. (The next twelve books would be written by William E. Butterworth, though Hooker would get a writing credit.) That it is the only book in the "Goes to" series Hooker worked on makes it unique, but it's not the only thing that makes it unique. The first book, "M\*A\*S\*H" wasn't so much a novel, as it was a collection of incidents, sketches. It was episodic in nature. "M\*A\*S\*H Goes to Maine", however, is a novel. Or at least it starts out as one.

The first half of "Maine" concerns Hawkeye Pierce becoming board certified to be a chest surgeon and then gathering together his former colleagues from MASH 4077th. This part of the book is fairly interesting. However, once Hawkeye has gotten Duke, Spearchucker and Trapper to join him in Maine and the Finestkind Clinic and Fish Market is opened, the book then becomes episodic; primarily a series of sketches. Which isn't bad in and of itself. It worked well for "M\*A\*S\*H". But it does make "Maine" uneven. It's almost as if Hooker was unable to write a complete novel for a 192 pages.

