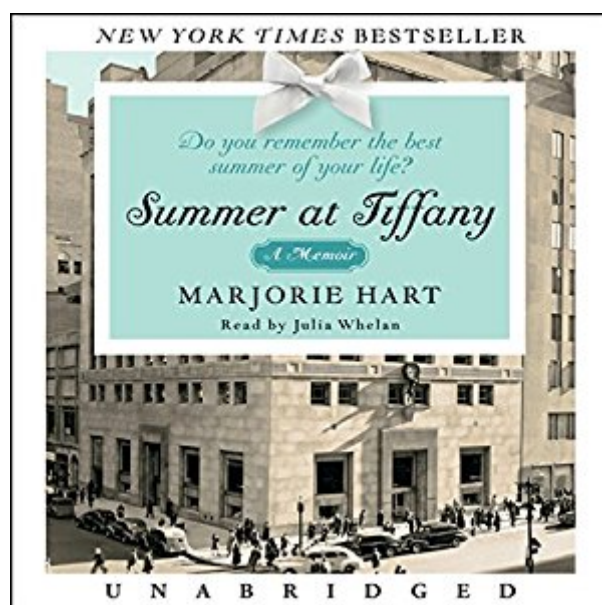


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# Summer At Tiffany



## Synopsis

Do you remember the best summer of your life? New York City, 1945. Marjorie Jacobson and her best friend, Marty Garrett, arrive fresh from the Kappa house at the University of Iowa hoping to find summer positions as shopgirls. Turned away from the top department stores, they miraculously find jobs as pages at Tiffany & Co., becoming the first women to ever work on the sales floor - a diamond-filled day job replete with Tiffany blue shirtwaist dresses from Bonwit Teller's - and the envy of all their friends. Hart takes us back to the magical time when she and Marty rubbed elbows with the rich and famous; pinched pennies to eat at the Automat; experienced nightlife at La Martinique; and danced away their weekends with dashing midshipmen. Between being dazzled by Judy Garland's honeymoon visit to Tiffany, celebrating VJ Day in Times Square, and mingling with Caf society, she fell in love, learned unforgettable lessons, made important decisions that would change her future, and created the remarkable memories she now shares with all of us.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Coming to Manhattan with little money and one secondhand reference takes great bravery and pluck, particularly in war-torn America in 1945. Images from movies and the grand sweeping melodies of standard tunes of the era provide Marjorie Hart and her best friend Marty with a jumping-off point as tourists. But as they make do with what little they've brought with them, they end up becoming bonafide New Yorkers for a summer that ends triumphantly with love all around and a VJ Day celebration in Times Square. The details of the time, the mores and concerns of a

young lady in this pre-women's-lib period, are wrought quite skillfully and imaginatively by Hart, a first-time memoirist. A cellist by trade, she never lets go of either her Iowa good sense or her little girl's love of all things romantic and exciting. So she becomes a first-rate tour guide through a New York that remains only between Trump-sized towers and well-known chain stores. The drama --- for example, of saving enough CHANGE to take public transportation each day (a nickel!) or trying to figure out what kind of drink to order in an elegant cafe you've read about in movie magazines your whole life --- is small but never really quaint. There is enough in Hart's experiences for even the most jaded techno-kid of this age to find some commonalities between that world and today's. But it is the girls' experiences in Tiffany & Co. that make the book what it is. After Marty brazenly drags Marjorie into the store and, using a reference that may or may not come through, more or less demands jobs for them --- making them the first female pages in the history of Tiffany --- their lives take a dramatic and fantastic upswing.

A trip to Tiffany always cheers me up, but unfortunately, I won't be visiting Chicago or New York again any time soon. So, what's the next best thing to visiting Tiffany & Co. along Michigan Avenue in Chicago or the one along Fifth Avenue in New York? READING about WORKING at Tiffany! This wonderful memoir by 83-year-old Marjorie Hart takes place during the summer of 1945 when she and her best friend, Marty, worked as pages at Tiffany & Co., making them the first female employees ever to work the sales floor. As pages, they were responsible for delivering packages to the repair and shipping department whenever one of the salesmen discretely "rapped" on the counter. There is a really funny story about how Ms. Hart mispronounced one of the salesman's names - which would ultimately cause her trouble later in the story -- because she had misunderstood the person who had told her the salesman's name due to the person's thick Brooklyn accent. What I find almost more interesting than Ms. Hart's memories of working at Tiffany - there's another really funny story about all the stress she endured while riding in the elevator with a bunch of loose pearls bouncing around as she tried helplessly to catch them -- are the ways she tried to save money! For instance, she cashed in empty soda bottles, at a nickel each, to help pay for her \$40 round-trip train ticket from Iowa to New York and budgeted her weekly \$20 paycheck right down to the last penny (e.g., ride the subway daily for two nickels, eat a sandwich at the Automat for 15 cents, use penny postcards to write back home -- no 3-cent stamps!) While the book is a fun light read, there's also some serious moments. Even though Ms. Hart is working at Tiffany -- TIFFANY!

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