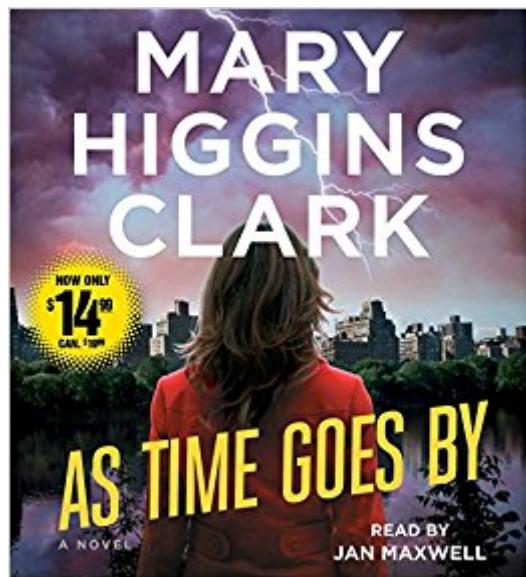


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# As Time Goes By



## Synopsis

Now in Encore! The #1 New York Times bestselling "Queen of Suspense" Mary Higgins Clark crafts a thrilling mystery in which a news reporter develops an interest in her birth parents just as she is assigned to cover the high-profile trial of a woman accused of murdering her wealthy husband. Television journalist Delaney Wright is on the brink of stardom after she begins covering a sensational murder trial for the six p.m. news. She should be thrilled, yet her growing desire to locate her birth mother consumes her thoughts. When Delaney's friends Alvirah Meehan and her husband Willy offer to look into the mystery surrounding her birth, they uncover a shocking secret they do not want to reveal. On trial for murder is Betsy Grant, widow of a wealthy doctor who has been an Alzheimer's victim for eight years. When her once-upon-a-time celebrity lawyer urges her to accept a plea bargain, Betsy refuses: she will go to trial to prove her innocence. Betsy's stepson, Alan Grant, bides his time nervously as the trial begins. His substantial inheritance hangs in the balance—his only means of making good on payments he owes his ex-wife, his children, and increasingly angry creditors. As the trial unfolds, and the damning evidence against Betsy piles up, Delaney is convinced that Betsy is not guilty and frantically tries to prove her innocence. A true classic from Mary Higgins Clark, *As Time Goes By* is a thrilling story by "the mistress of high tension" (The New Yorker).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for New York Times bestselling author Mary Higgins Clark "The mistress of high tension." (The New Yorker) "A flawless storyteller." (The Washington Post

Book World) "The grande dame of American thriller writing." (Los Angeles Times Book Review) "Clark, known rightly as the Queen of Suspense, performs her usual magic." (Richmond Times-Dispatch) Praise for *The Melody Lingers On* "A summer list would be lacking without one from Mary Higgins Clark." (New York Post) "[An] enjoyable novel of romantic suspense" Clark keeps readers wondering. (Publishers Weekly) "Clark, whose novels and short stories have entertained her fans for 40 years, proves again that she's a master of plot twists and sympathetic portrayals of strong damsels in serious distress. *The Melody Lingers On* is no exception, and the octogenarian Clark continues to shine." (Richmond Times-Dispatch) Praise for *Death Wears a Beauty Mask and Other Stories* "This collection nicely illustrates Clark's range and superlative storytelling talent." (Publishers Weekly) "A gem" "a tale with all of Clark's trademarks: multiple twists, rising tension and a true whodunit. It's a story to savor, as are the remaining pieces" "all previously published" in the collection. "There's something about Mary, and that something is her unfailing ability to grip her legion of readers. And those fans are in for a triple treat as her anniversary year proceeds." (Richmond Times-Dispatch) Praise for *I've Got You Under My Skin* "Fans of MWA Grand Master Clark will find plenty of intrigue and excitement in this contemporary thriller." (Publishers Weekly) Praise for *The Cinderella Murder* "Fans of MWA Grand Master Clark will find plenty of intrigue and excitement in this contemporary thriller...Clark keeps readers guessing and in suspense." (Publishers Weekly) "The snappy pace, layered characters, and many plot surprises will keep readers guessing in this fascinating mystery by two talented writers." (Booklist) "This serendipitous series launch, or continuation, will satisfy Clark's legion of fans and may well win her some new ones." (Kirkus Reviews) Praise for *Daddy* "Gone A Hunting" Mary Higgins Clark has penned yet another mystery that will keep her at the top of the suspense writers list for a very long time. "Daddy" "Gone A Hunting will chill readers." This one is not to be missed. (Bookreporter.com) Praise for *I'll Walk Alone* "Teeming with tantalizing twists, Clark's crackling tale of identity theft, revenge, and murder is a tempting and thought-provoking thriller." (Booklist) "Fans will bite their nails to the quick." (Kirkus Reviews) Praise for *The Lost Years* "They say that Agatha Christie was the Grand Dame of Mystery. If that's true, then Mary Higgins Clark must be the Marquise, because this book is a royal treat. . . . *The Lost Years* is truly a keeper." (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The #1 New York Times bestselling author Mary Higgins Clark has written thirty-seven suspense novels, four collections of short stories, a historical novel, a memoir, and two children's books. With her daughter Carol Higgins Clark, she has coauthored five more suspense novels, and also wrote *The Cinderella Murder*, *All Dressed in White*, *The Sleeping Beauty Killer*, and *Every Breath You Take* with bestselling author Alafair Burke. More than one hundred million copies of her books are in print in the United States alone. Her books are international bestsellers.

As a new mystery writer, I am purposely reading authors with great commercial success. MHC does. I used to love her books but I think they are predictable now; readers are kept guessing to a certain degree but the outcomes are always expected. However, as I am reading to learn these days--although it is pleasurable, I find myself wanting surprises. MHC does have a good murder mystery 'recipe' but I'd like mine spicier!

I think I've read all of Mary Higgins Clark's mysteries, and I always enjoy them and come back for more. This is not one of her best books, but it is an appealing story. The two plot lines involve Betsy Grant, a woman on trial for the murder of her husband, a doctor with Alzheimer's, and Delaney Wright, a young TV reporter who is covering the trial and who wants desperately to find her birth mother. To assist in her search, Delaney seeks the help of Alvirah and Willy Meehan, recurring characters in many of Ms. Clark's books, and I found their presence very welcome here. I thought the story was somewhat slow getting started--the trial begins on page 32, but it took a while for it to become compelling. I also found it quite predictable--there was one plot development that I had not anticipated, but most of it was quite easy to figure out. There were several revelations--bombshells to the characters if not the readers--which occurred in the last line of chapters, and we never had the pleasure of seeing how the person reacted to the amazing information. In spite of these flaws, however, I found this an enjoyable story with a satisfying ending. Fans of Mary Higgins Clark will not want to miss it.

My favorite character is Sharky - he's got a lot of personality. However, he's one of the elements of luck that pervade this book. No detective work. No suspense. Just a lot of being in the right place at the right time and running into the right person who will supply the information needed, and of people behaving stupidly at the perfect time. A pleasant read, but that's about all. It ranks at the bottom of MHC's list, as far as I'm concerned.

Doing what she does best! Couldn't put it down...fast, easy read...full of suspense ..looking forward to the next one! You'll love it

Very disappointed. Book was totally predictable and there was no mystery. I knew how it was going to end after the first few chapters with a "and they all lived happily every after" conclusion.

Slow moving and long.

I have been a huge fan of Mary Higgins Clark's novels since I was a kid. I love the books she has written with Alafair Burke as well. I wish this story were as satisfying as her other works. The plot was so thin, and it so easy to figure out...there was no mystery at all. It was all too clear from the beginning how Delaney's story would pan out...same thing with Betsy. It was an enjoyable enough read, but I missed the mystery. I kept wondering as I read if I were missing something, thinking that surely there was a bigger mystery here and MHC was just baiting the reader. Alas, that was not the case. The story was too predictable, and I didn't especially love the protagonist, Delaney. She wasn't very fleshed out, and I tired of reading about her struggle to remain unbiased while reporting on the trial.

I always enjoy this author. This book is OK and a great summer read on the beach or back porch. However it is not as exciting as most other stories. I think my romantic soul did not think the male characters were well drawn. Not bad but . . .

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