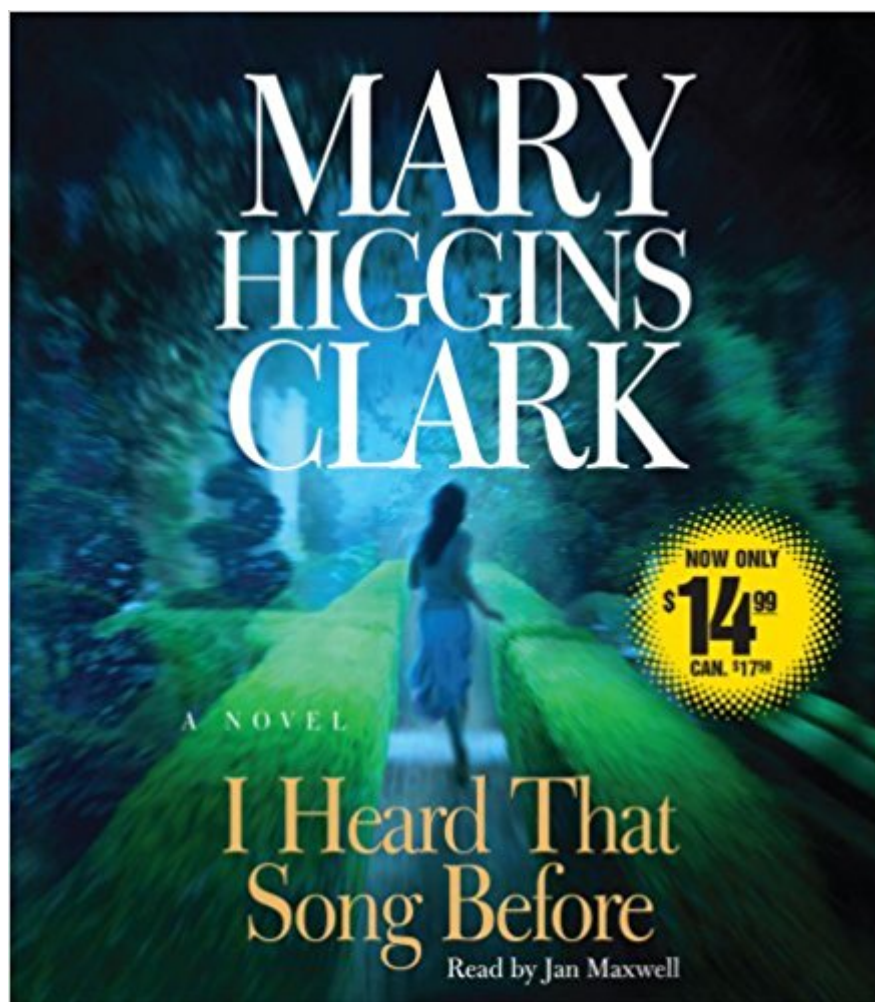


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I Heard That Song Before: A Novel



Synopsis

Kay Lansing grew up in Englewood, New Jersey, daughter of the landscaper to the wealthy and powerful Carrington family. One day, accompanying her father to work, six-year-old Kay overhears a quarrel between a man and a woman that ends with the man's caustic response: "I heard that song before." That same evening, young Peter Carrington drives the nineteen-year-old daughter of neighbors home from a formal dinner dance at the Carrington estate, but she is not in her room the next morning and is never seen or heard from again. Decades later, a cloud of suspicion hangs over Peter, not only for his neighbor's disappearance but also for the subsequent drowning death of his own pregnant wife in their swimming pool. But when Kay Lansing, now a librarian in Englewood, asks Peter's permission to hold a literary benefit cocktail party on his estate, she comes to see Peter as misunderstood...and when he begins to court her, she falls in love -- and marries him. However, she soon makes a discovery that leads her to question her husband's innocence. She believes that the key to the truth lies in the identities of the man and woman whose quarrel she witnessed as a child. What she does not realize is that uncovering what lies behind these memories may cost Kay her life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mary Higgins Clark has been a must-read for me most of my adult life. Her well-plotted, faced-paced novels are easily devoured in a day or two and always leave me thinking, "I should have seen that coming!" This one is particularly good not only because of her trademark brand of short chapters with cliff-hanger endings but because each of the characters is so well-defined. Sometimes she has

so many characters that it is hard to keep track of them, but in this novel each is unique and easily identifiable. The action takes place at the Carrington family mansion in New Jersey. Our young protagonist, librarian Kay Lansing, asks Peter Carrington for permission to hold a fund-raiser for a literacy program at his estate. Love blooms and not long after the fund-raiser and a whirlwind courtship Kay finds herself married to the much older Carrington. He has been living under a cloud of suspicion for over twenty years and is still considered a "person of interest" in the disappearance of neighbor Susan Althorp as well as in the drowning death of his first wife. What possesses a woman to marry a man under such a cloud of suspicion and could her life be in jeopardy as well? Add to this mix a former stepmother now in residence on the estate, a long-time employee, a married couple who cook and serve for the family, an art gallery owner with a gambling addiction, an irate caller who never gets a return call, a grieving mother, and a private investigator intent on cracking a cold case. Suspicion falls on everyone before all the red herrings are cleared away and all questions are resolved.

This is my second MHC book that I've read. The author uses her fine tactics of deeply defined characters, brief chapters, & cliff hanger endings to create a modestly good read. The story takes place at the Carrington family mansion in New Jersey. The young librarian Kay Lansing, asks Peter Carrington for permission to hold a fundraiser for a literacy program at his estate. Soon romance blooms & a dizzying courtship finds Kay married to the far older Carrington. For two decades the latter has lived under a cloud of suspicion in the disappearance of Susan Althorp his neighbor, as well as in the drowning death of his pregnant first wife. Could the naive Kay be in danger? Now a former step-mother resides at the estate, a married couple who runs the kitchen, a gambling addict-art gallery owner, a cranky caller who gets no response, a grieving mom, & a private detective who is ardently trying to solve a cold case. Some of the dialogue felt forced & seemed very unrealistic. Nonetheless, you will enjoy this novel. I just think you will prefer "On The Street Where You Live More?"

Kay's dreams of growing up and living in a mansion come true. I enjoyed this book very much and read it in one afternoon. I kept thinking I had it figured out and then something else would steer me in another direction. It seems that everyone figured it out at the same time, which was just in time to keep Kay safe. It was not as suspenseful as some of her other books, but it was definitely a page turner. If you liked any other Mary Higgins Clark book you will like this one as well. It earned 4.5 stars!

Mary Higgins Clark is a national treasure. I read her first book, WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?, when it was first published 30 years ago, and I've faithfully read every one since. When it comes to neo-Gothic romantic suspense, she never disappoints. Her new novel is particularly enjoyable. Let's see--we have the heroine, Kay, the daughter of the landscaper for a great estate house in New Jersey. We have the house itself, complete with lush gardens and hidden chapel. And we have the brooding master of the house, with whom Kay falls in love against her own better judgement. It seems a young woman in his past disappeared mysteriously, then his pregnant first wife committed "suicide." Nearly everyone suspects him of being a ladykiller, including the police. And Kay just might be the next lady on his list....Clark is one of the few writers who can take these classic ingredients and mix them together into a story that always seems fresh and new. It is a remarkable talent. If you enjoy her stories as much as I do, you'll want to read this one.

I've been a MHC fan for many years and although I enjoyed this book I couldn't help but think that she's becoming very Danielle Steel-like. By that I mean cranking out mediocre books that become immediate best sellers because of her fan base, but not great mysteries as she used to write years ago. Readable yes, but good entertainment for the mystery lovers?...not really.

MHC tackles the subject of sleepwalking in this one - as well as sundry themes and ideas she has traversed extensively in her earlier books. This one is surprisingly unengaging. I never connected with the heroine at all. On one page, Kay Lansing tells us the cloud of suspicion following mega-rich Peter Carrington, the man she has met once. On the very next page, they get married. Huh? I am wondering if Clark was sleepwalking herself when she wrote this. I knew by page 20 who the bad guy was because she telegraphed it. The plot never really came together, but still I kept reading. Why? because I couldn't quite believe how bad it was. If she was a new writer, Clark wouldn't get past the publishing house's initial slush pile with a book as bizarre and half-baked as this.

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