Before I Say Good-Bye

MARY HIGGINS CLARK

BEFORE I SAY GOOD-BYE

A NOVEL

READ BY JAN MAXWELL

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Synopsis

Mary Higgins Clark, America's "Queen of Suspense," delves into the mystery of psychic powers in her gripping new thriller, Before I Say Good-Bye. When Adam Cauliff’s new cabin cruiser, Cornelia II, blows up in New York harbor with him and several close business associates aboard, his wife, Nell MacDermott, is not only distraught at the loss but wracked with guilt because she and Adam had just had a serious quarrel and she had told him not to come home. As the investigation into the boat’s explosion proceeds, Nell is shocked by the official confirmation that it was not an accident but the result of foul play. Was Adam the target of the explosion? As Nell searches for the truth about Adam’s death, she receives messages from Adam transmitted by a medium. What she does not know is that she is being closely watched, and the nearer she comes to learning what actually happened on the boat that night, the nearer she is to becoming the next victim of a ruthless killer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed Mary Higgins Clark’s latest thriller "Before I Say Goodbye" -- An Exciting and suspenseful ‘page-turner’ that kept me guessing 'who-done-it' til the very end. Nell McDermott is a distraught young woman whose husband Adam is killed along with 4 others in a boat explosion. Nell is doubly upset because she and Adam had a big fight before he left for the boat trip over her decision to run for a Congressional seat once held by her grandfather. It soon becomes apparent that the explosion was no accident but a planned murder. As Nell begins to discover that her husband was involved in illegal real estate deals and bid-rigging the story becomes increasingly intriguing and suspenseful. Many interesting and well-defined supporting characters add to the
mystery and Mary Higgins Clark, in her own wonderful style, has weaved them all into another winner!

Mary Higgins Clark is a smart writer. She knows her strengths and she sticks to the type of writing that she does well. Clark’s latest novel, "Before I Say Goodbye," is the story of Nell MacDermott, a newspaper columnist who wants to run for her grandfather’s former Congressional seat. She has been married for three years to Adam Cauliff. Adam is an architect who has been acting secretly of late. He is vehemently opposed to Nell’s idea of running for office, and this is a source of friction in their marriage. Suddenly, a terrible accident occurs on Adam’s cabin cruiser, and Nell’s entire world is turned upside down. The man whom she loved is suddenly a stranger to her, and Nell must come to terms with some harsh truths about her husband’s secret life. Clark’s plot is intricate, with many characters woven into the narrative. One problem with the book is the large number of coincidences that tie all the characters and plot elements together. Too many unbelievable things happen to bring the story to a "logical" conclusion. To her credit, Clark avoids writing gloppy romantic scenes, and she limits the melodrama to the very end of the novel. "Before I Say Goodbye" is good escapist fiction, a genre at which Mary Higgins Clark excels.

BEFORE I SAY GOOD-BYE includes a lot (romance, corruption, envy, politics) and makes full use off all of them. It’s a fabulous who-done-it. The best suspense thriller since Michael Crichton’s TIMELINE and Craig Furman’s THE SHAPE. And I think it’s a treat that this novel is longer than a lot of Clark’s novels. More words to savor!

Former Congressman Cornelius "Mac" MacDermott asks his granddaughter Nell Cauliff to run for his old seat in the House. Two years ago she rejected his request because her spouse objected to her becoming Mac’s legislative puppet. However, this time Nell decides she wants to run for the public office as politics is in her blood. The next day she informs her husband, architect Adam Cauliff, about her plans. He becomes irate and they have a serious argument before he leaves for a meeting on his cruiser. An explosion occurs on the ship apparently killing Adam, several business associates and employees. Nell is left feeling guilty and ashamed of herself. The police believe the explosion was deliberate. When rumors abound that Adam was on the take, Nell decides to investigate the accident to prove her spouse’s innocence, which means one of the other guests was the intended victim. She also follows Adam’s instructions from the grave thorough a medium while a killer looks on, wondering if Nell needs to be eliminated. Known for her suspenseful bestsellers, Mary
Higgins Clark writes an intriguing tale that combines elements of a thriller with that of an amateur sleuth mystery. The story line is fun and exciting, especially when Nell begins her inquiries. Nell is a wonderful character and her grandfather comes across as a powerful individual. The support cast is developed to the point where the reader understands their flaws. Ms. Clark provides her myriad of fans with another enthralling tale filled with action and adventure exciting tale. Harriet Klausner

Mary Higgins Clark has never been better than in this totally suspenseful tale of a young woman whose husband is killed in a boating accident after they quarrel. Haunted by his death, she seeks help from a famous psychic and, in a spell-binding climax, finds closure to the end of her marriage. The heroine, Nell MacDermott, is surrounded by a cast of well-defined supporting characters. She is delightful as is her curmudgeon of a grandfather, her spinster aunt, a handsome pediatric surgeon and many others. I was literally on the edge of my seat and completely terrified by the ending. It's a definite can't-put-down book, so start it when you have several free hours ahead.

I did like this book, however I felt difficulty "getting into" the book for the first 70 pages or so. She introduces so many characters at first (this is her signature style) and I kept getting confused who was who. The book did pick up and unlike some of her other books, I could not guess "who did it". If you want to read Mary-Higgins Clark's all-time best, read "A Cry In The Night". That has to be one of my all time favorite books of all time!

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