



As Time Goes By

Mary Higgins Clark

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In this exciting thriller from Mary Higgins Clark, the #1 *New York Times* bestselling “Queen of Suspense,” a news reporter tries to find her birth mother 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 read by a master of the genre.

As Time Goes By Details

Date : Published April 5th 2016 by Simon & Schuster

ISBN :

Author : Mary Higgins Clark

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Suspense, Audiobook

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Dana says

Mary Higgins Clark has been a favorite of mine since I was about 11. While they have become somewhat predictable, they are a quick, light read that is always enjoyable. I don't think this one is as good as some of her earlier books...but then again, I'm sure my age factors in somewhat. :)

Julie says

As Time Goes By- by Mary Higgins Clark is a 2016 Simon & Schuster publication.

Mary Higgins Clark - Wow! What can you say? She is eighty-eight years old and still writing quality stories.

I will admit, though, the Alvirah and Willy series is hit or miss with me, and I don't actively seek them out. I didn't realize this book was a part of that series when I checked it out, but I'm glad I did.

Besty's beloved husband, Ted, has been murdered and she is facing prosecution for the crime. Her chances aren't good and only a miracle will prevent her from being convicted.

Television journalist, Delaney Wright, gets the chance of a lifetime when she is assigned to cover the trial. Although her star is rising, Delaney is still troubled about finding her birth parents. Alvirah feels compelled to do a little snooping on Delaney's behalf and makes a startling discovery along the way.

This story is one of the better installments in this series. I liked the courtroom scenes, which we rarely encounter anymore, and the mystery is solid enough that I never guessed whodunit.

Alvirah and Willy are not featured prominently in this one, as Alvirah mainly sticks to the adoption angle of the story, but what she helps to uncover is a big part of the story.

While all of MHC novels are devoid of explicit sex, graphic violence, and harsh language, this series really does belong in the cozy category, I think. This is super light reading, and not at all complex. The suspense that is a MHC trademark is notably toned down in this series, which is why I haven't always been overly enthusiastic about it.

This story has a few threads going on at once, but everything comes together in a short time frame, quite nicely, although there are some details that are glossed over a little too quickly. Still, I thought this was a pretty solid addition to the series and after reading some heavier material recently, it provided me with a much needed break and was entertaining as well.

It is amazing to see that this author is still putting out a material and should be an inspiration to us all. I hope to see many more books by MHC in the future.

Julie says

Mary Higgins Clark is one of my favorite authors. I treasure her suspense novels and keep a complete set on hand to reread on occasion. The older ones are my favorites, but I enjoy all of them. There is just a certain class and storytelling to her books that is like sliding on a cozy, favored sweater and wrapping cold fingers around a mug of steaming tea. Extra points when the weather is foul or spooky-windy and so was the case with my first reading of this book.

"As Time Goes By" is classic Mary Higgins Clark. The characters are likable, the plot is suspenseful, the scenery descriptions enjoyable, and the overall tone is a win for me. Although parts of the plot were predictable and there wasn't really a cliffhanger to speak of, it felt like a mini vacation to the Manhattan/New Jersey area of most of MHC's works, visiting people I feel I would like in real life. Or, in the case of the villains, despise in real life.

I'm very thankful for the shelf filled with MHC novels, because the wait until the next new novel being a year away would be very hard to endure without them.

;) Julie

Vi~Inkvotary says

3.5 stars

Inkvotary

No doubt, a nice to read crime novel with some wonderful scenes. But the author knows it better. A lot better. And the key scene, in which the real bad person was unveiled, was a bit too much of everything. I liked the main figure, though. And Betsy Grant was a wonderful figure, too. So if you are a huge Mary Higgins Clark fan, you might get a bit disappointed. But if you don't expect much and like a nice and solid crime novel, I guess you will like it. I kind of enjoyed it, yes, but as I said, the author can do way better.

Colona Public Library says

This was a typical Mary Higgins Clark Novel. It was a pretty quick and easy read. The plot was interesting, but very predictable. Still, I enjoyed reading it.

Laima says

I have always enjoyed MHC novels but this one was dull and lacking in some ways. It was definitely NOT a page turner. I kept dozing off .

The storyline was predictable - I had it figured out long before the end. The characters didn't sound very

enthusiastic and all used very flat and dull language. This was especially true in the court scenes. At times I thought “people don’t really speak like this, do they??”

Also, there was repetition which seemed like filler. I didn’t care how Betsy wore her hair, clothes and jewellery each day at the trial. It wasn’t relevant, just boring.

Although it was a decently written book, there was lack of excitement and suspense usually found in a mystery novel. I should have waited to read this book from the library.

Carol says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Interesting twists and turns that make it so intriguing to listen to. Newscaster Delaney Wright is reporting on the trial of Betsy Grant, a wealthy woman accused of murdering her Alzheimer’s-afflicted husband, Ted. Although there are several others who seem more likely to have done the deed, the courtroom testimony does not seem to bear out Betsy’s claim of innocence and a conviction seems likely.

As the trial plays out in the courtroom and on the nightly news, Delaney finds herself convinced that Betsy is innocent, but each day the testimony in the courtroom seems to add more credence to the prosecutor’s claim that Betsy is guilty of her husband’s murder. As Time Goes By both in a book and in a comedic TV program have won my heart several times over.

Tapped to assume the anchor spot on the network news, Delaney is quickly rising in her chosen profession and should be happy. But, haunted by a need to know the circumstances of her birth and adoption, Delaney feels an urgency to find her birth mother and is determined to know the truth, no matter what the cost. Highly recommend.

Angie says

3.5 stars

This writing here is not like the MHC Suspense Queen of the '80s, but a nice relaxing mystery. Good, if just a bit repetitive. I liked the characters and the side story of adoption. The recurring characters of Alvirah & Willy appear here, but are not overbearing. Easy & Fast reading.

Recommended for MHC fans and those who enjoy lighter mysteries.

Melissa A.S. says

For the most part, Mary Higgins Clark has a formula: The heroine is always white, wealthy (or about to inherit a million-dollar fortune should the crime be solved), living in New York (or a neighboring city), she and her acquaintances love to drink coffee, and she's beautiful even if so is not explicitly stated. Maybe it's because I know this formula too well that I could foresee literally within minutes who was who and who did

what, thus I did not enjoy this novel as much as her previous ones.

Some plot points reminded me of a few of her books, it feels as though I've read this novel before, everything was terribly familiar. The Queen of Suspense is obviously a formidable writer, but this was not one of her finest works.

Eve Nolon says

Lacking in several aspects but mostly enjoyable if I didn't think too hard.

Kavita says

Where is the woman who wrote classics such as *Where are the Children?* and *You Belong to Me*? This book lacks any suspense at all and is about as dull as watching paint dry. I wonder if the creation of the absolutely useless Alvirah and Willy have sapped all of MHC's creative juices, leaving her with nothing interesting to write about.

Betsy Grant, widow of Doctor Ted Grant, is on trial for her husband's murder. At stake are fifteen million dollars, which would be shared equally between Betsy and Alan Grant, Ted's son. If Betsy is found guilty, then Alan would get the entire inheritance. Delaney Wright, a news reporter struggling with her non-issues, covered the Grant trial, but she is somehow convinced that Betsy is innocent. There is no reason whatsoever for Delaney to so firmly believe in Betsy but she does, because convenient schmaltzy plot!

Delaney also keeps weeping about her unknown mother, even though she had been adopted into a loving and supportive family. Enter Alvirah, who I believe the author thinks is the best thing since sliced bread. In my opinion, she is just mouldy and stale bread. Alvirah, with her stupid sunburst pin, and her apparently endless money, goes and distributes bounty like she was some queen of yore, in order to find Delaney's birth mother. It is quite obvious who this birth mother is, and then schmaltzy ending! And let me just mention here that Alvirah is the most annoying character ever created in detective fiction.

Did Betsy do it? Well, obviously not since Delaney believes in her *eyeroll*, but what other suspects are there? There is the son, and there are a couple of doctors with whom Ted Grant used to practice. The solution, when it comes out, is not just obvious, but also pretty convoluted and unbelievable. I can see no reason for Mr/Ms Murderer1 to team up with Mr/Ms Murderer2.

As if things weren't bad enough, there were two other plots that were completely unnecessary to the main story. One was a petty thief who went around stealing things and saw the murderer pulling out in a car. But since his story never stood up in court, it was useless and could have just been skipped. Another was a drug story angle, which was simply pointless.

The story is told through courtroom scenes and interrogations, and I was heartily bored with them. There simply wasn't enough character building, action or suspense to hold my interest.

Phrynne says

I have only read a few of this author's books so far but I think this may be lighter than her usual fare because it was virtually suspense free and she is described as the "queen of suspense." It was however an interesting mystery with happy endings for all concerned (well except the bad guys of course) and no need for stress at any point. Maybe a little too much time spent in the court room, but that is just personal preference. I know many people love a good court room drama, just not me!

The plot was good, the characters interesting and the dialogue okay if a bit stilted from time to time. A pleasant enough read and I will read more of her books in due course.

Rebecca McNutt says

I was expecting some sappy love story, so I'm glad this compelling thriller turned out to be anything but. The mystery was pretty simple to figure out but the real depth here is in the powerful friendships the characters share with each other.

Nurse Lisa In Ohio (PRN Book Reviews) says

MHC -- consistent and easy to read...smoothly entertaining :-)

Nattie says

As Time Goes By has got to be one of the most obvious books ever written. There was nothing that couldn't be figured out by the middle of the book, and that's being generous. It was so obvious who Delaney's biological mother was. I kept trying to make myself believe it was someone else just so I wouldn't have figured out a major detail within the first few chapters, which were about two pages long in some cases.

The only reason I questioned my suspicion was because I thought Delaney was at least 30 and too old, she wouldn't have been able to be older than 26. I certainly could have overlooked it, but I don't recall her actual age being mentioned until close to the end. If that was the case, it seems they were intentionally bypassing that detail because all you would have to do is subtract 26 from 43 and know who the mother was.

I can't stand a book with mystery overtones and nothing is even close to being mysterious. I didn't give two squats about any of the characters, and the story focused on far too many. Another MHC book I struggled to read had the same problem of extremely short chapters and too many players.

The courtroom scenes were very basic but painful. Some of those chapters seemed to drag on for eternity. I don't think I'll try another MHC book.
