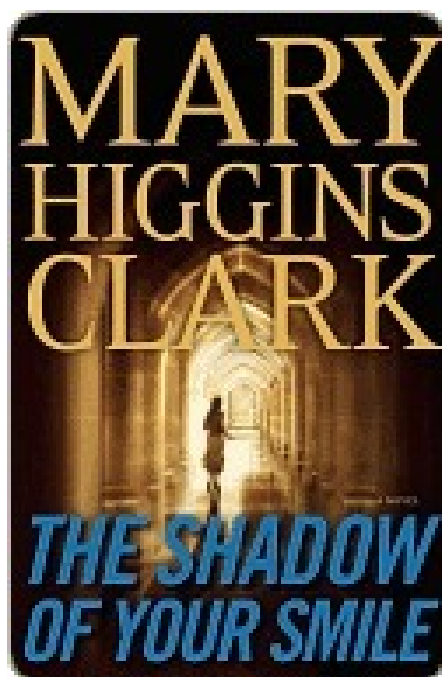




The Shadow of Your Smile

Mary Higgins Clark

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In The Shadow of Your Smile, worldwide bestselling author Mary Higgins Clark weaves a spellbinding thriller revolving around a long-held family secret that threatens to emerge and take the life of an unsuspecting heiress.

At age eighty-two and in failing health, Olivia Morrow knows she has little time left. The last of her line, she faces a momentous choice: expose a long-held family secret, or take it with her to her grave.

Olivia has in her possession letters from her deceased cousin Catherine, a nun, now being considered for beatification by the Catholic Church—the final step before sainthood. In her lifetime, Sister Catherine had founded seven hospitals for disabled children. Now the cure of a four-year-old boy dying of brain cancer is being attributed to her. After his case was pronounced medically hopeless, the boy's desperate mother had organized a prayer crusade to Sister Catherine, leading to his miraculous recovery.

The letters Olivia holds are the evidence that Catherine gave birth at age seventeen to a child, a son, and gave him up for adoption. Olivia knows the identity of the young man who fathered Catherine's child: Alex Gannon, who went on to become a world-famous doctor, scientist, and inventor holding medical patents.

Now, two generations later, thirty-one-year-old pediatrician Dr. Monica Farrell, Catherine's granddaughter, stands as the rightful heir to what remains of the family fortune. But in telling Monica who she really is, Olivia would have to betray Catherine's wishes and reveal the story behind Monica's ancestry.

The Gannon fortune is being squandered by Alex's nephews Greg and Peter Gannon, and other board members of the Gannon Foundation, who camouflage their profligate lifestyles with philanthropy.

Now their carefully constructed image is cracking. Greg, a prominent financier, is under criminal investigation, and Peter, a Broadway producer, is a suspect in the murder of a young woman who has been extorting money from him.

The only people aware of Olivia's impending choice are those exploiting the Gannon inheritance. To silence Olivia and prevent Monica from learning the secret, some of them will stop at nothing—even murder.

Clark's riveting new novel explores the juxtaposition of medical science and religious faith, and the search for identity by the daughter of a man adopted at birth.

The Shadow of Your Smile Details

Date : Published (first published April 13th 2010)

ISBN :

Author : Mary Higgins Clark

Format : Kindle Edition 340 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Suspense, Thriller, Mystery Thriller



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Karen says

This is my first time with Mary Higgins Clark. I know she has been a very popular author for many years now, but I have to say I probably will not read her again of my own free will. Her writing drove me nuts with way too many characters thrown at me in the first chapter! Slow down, lady! And while we all talk/think to ourselves everyday, I think it's safe to say we do not over describe details and other people the way it's done in this book. My own example: "She thought to herself, 'I think I'll go talk to my neighbor down the street, the one who was a private detective for 50 years and lives in the yellow house with the barking dog, and who I hope will ask me out on a date so I'd better wear the red dress and matching shoes that my grandmother, the one who lives in Maine, sent me for Christmas when I was married to Tom, the husband who cheated on me with my best friend, the one who I went to elementary school with.'" Wow. Maybe I have a career as an author after all! Not! Ha ha.

Siobhan says

I feel as though the Mary Higgins Clark books are good for quick reads.

For me all her books seem to be three point five star books. They're good if you want something quick to read and yet I never seem to enjoy them as much as I love other authors. They're sort of just there for when I want something quick to read.

I think my main problem is that they all seem to be a lot of the same, in my opinion. Whether it is simply due to the selection of her books I have read or whether such is the case all over I cannot say. However, I only really recommend them if you want something quick.

For me they're never all that gripping and I never really connect with the characters. Whilst she is good at making you question characters it is still quite easy to work out the mysteries well in advance. That is probably my biggest issue: the predictability of her books.

As I've said, for me they're nothing spectacular but they do pass the time.

Alex is The Romance Fox says

Mary Higgins Clark is not one of the authors I consciously think "I CAN'T WAIT FOR HER NEXT BOOK". However saying this I must admit I have read all her books and have become familiar with her work.

Her books are filled with light suspense, no bad language, violence and graphic sex scenes and her female characters are always gentle lady-like independent women. Naturally there has to be some murders and a bit of romance too but nothing heavy

I enjoy her style of writing short chapters that end with a bit of suspense keeping the tension of the story moving. With each chapter she switches between the different characters viewpoints which I find interesting. Her stories are filled with lots of layers and characters, twists and turns and you find yourself totally unable to stop turning the page until everything is revealed in the last part of the book. It has an intriguing storyline THE SHADOW OF YOUR SMILE is filled with all those characters that at first seem to have nothing in

common with each other but as you continue you realize that they all play a part in the story.

The story centers on Monica Ferrell, a pediatrician who continues searching for her biological ancestors that began with her late father's wish for finding the true story of his adoption. But there are some unscrupulous people who will go to great lengths, including murder to stop her from discovering that she is the unknown heir to a family fortune.

Greed, a nun, how far people will go to make and keep their money, a stalker, a hit man, a retired detective, faith, family secrets, a handsome surgeon, kind old ladies....the story has this and more.

A quick easy read that nonetheless keeps you turning the pages surprised by the ending. Again, I was not disappointed with this book...I knew exactly what to expect from this author.

Tiffy_Reads says

Another great Mary Higgins Clark book! Loved every minute of this book.

***Laura* says**

When I was in middle and high school, I read and owned every single Mary Higgins Clark novel. I couldn't wait for the next one to be released! After reading this one, I'm sad to say I was a little disappointed. The story was still good - a young doctor trying to learn about her heritage while caught up in the midst of a murder investigation with someone coming after her. I don't know why, but something was just a little lacking for me. While I still liked the book, I didn't have that feeling when I got done reading that it was so phenomenal, like several of her others gave me - when they shocked me and I had no idea that the killer was the killer. I'm wondering if part of it is because I've read so many of her books that I can predict who the killer may be? I'm not sure. It was still a good book, after all, because she is a great author. I just didn't enjoy it as much as her last. Hopefully, the next will bring back the feeling I used to get.

Sara says

Mais um livro maravilhoso de Mary Higgins Clark!

Já disse que Adoro Mary Higgins Clark? (lol) :)

<https://momentosdemagia.wordpress.com...>

Susan says

This was a well-written suspense novel. I must admit, it wasn't as good as the previous Mary Higgins Clark novels I've read, but still able to hold my interest and clean suspense. When anyone of the characters passes in the story, I actually felt emotional for their loss! Mary describes the person mentally and physically so you come to know the character intimately. I think the title of the book is off. I would have called it 'The Doctors', 'The Doctor's Heiress' or something. 'Shadow of Your Smiles' is a weak title. The conclusion to the novel is good, emotional and not too over-the-top. I would recommend this novel if you like a good story, well-written suspense novel~Susan

Annie says

I thought the subject matter was confusing, characters dull, and the plot line incredibly implausible and crammed (Suddenly the friend/cleaning lady feels the need to wash the pillowcases and notices the bloodstain, takes it to Dr. Monica, a new acquaintance? Please.). I didn't care about Monica finding out that she was the love child of the rich Alex Gannon and a nun. The nun is currently up for beautification for her ability to heal children. Although it was alluded to that her granddaughter had the same ability this was never flushed out. Maybe, at this point, Mary Higgins Clark realized her book was in the toilet. I didn't believe that the greedy nephews and crooked board members would really kill people, yet the body count of distantly connected characters was supposed to convey otherwise. I never was fearful for the protagonist, which, in my opinion, is a key component to a good mystery.

Aorta says

This has to be one of the worse books I have ever read. Looking at the book critically I have found no redeeming qualities in either the writing style or plot. I am convinced that no one edited this book before it was submitted. Not only were there grammar errors, which if I can spot it means it's pretty bad, but the sentence structure was muddled and confusing. Also there was too much inner dialog and pointless details. I as a reader am not really concerned about what the numerous characters had for breakfast or if they showered or not.

The plot was just as muddled as the sentence structure. The plethora of characters, who contributed little or nothing to story, made the already confusing storyline worse. The plot also had terrible pacing. The plot moved at a snail's pace until the last fifty pages where there was a rush ending which left me with a bitter taste in my mouth. The title of the book, to my dismay, was never explained. To me though, I imagine it's the smile I would get throwing this book out of the garbage.

Ashy Khaira says

a story about lies, betrayal and murder. monica farell is a paediatrician whose father was adopted. olivia marrow is her cousin through her biological grandmother who is killed by her long time friend and cardiologist carl. all because the greed for the money runs high in all of them and olivia planned to reveal the truth. the gannon group wants the company and has been swindling the money from all their clients and someone is killing off everyone who is involved starting with olivia. but who plans the deaths? why is it so important that olivia don't reveal the truth

Meganb.rowe says

It has been at least a year since I've reviewed a book here, and only my complete and utter disgust has motivated me now. It can all be summed up with this "the old lady is losing her touch." I've enjoyed M.H.C. since I was a teenager, but with this addition she has lost my respect. The main character is supposed to be a pediatrician but it appears the author thought her advancing years were sufficient research because she certainly never actually talked to a pediatrician.

Rather than being horrified by the mysterious stalker I found myself thinking that perhaps she should be followed haunted by at least a dozen malpractice suits instead. Giving Aspirin to a toddler! Not intubating a severe asthma attack, yet bemoaning that fact that "I nearly lost my patient." The complete and utter lack of any medical reality made me physically ill! The Queen of Suspense should probably settle into retirement or start doing some research before creates another horrifying inaccurate drama of the impossible.

Ana Luisa Henriques says

Um livro fantástico, com plots que se entrecruzam de forma hábil e com todas as peças a fazer sentido, nada forçadas e com uma leitura simples mas que nos faz querer sempre virar a próxima página.

Todas as personagens estão construídas de forma brilhante e o livro só peca pelo final que não traz consigo nenhum twist significativo. Mais uma vez, Mary Higgins Clark é uma autora a seguir.

Jay Connor says

Formulaic. In the case of the vast majority of frothy mystery writers (think Janet Evanovich or Sandra Brown), “formulaic” not only describes the plot but also comments on the nutritional value.

Mary Higgins Clark, very much like Agatha Christie before her, takes formulaic and makes it comforting (no gratuitous violence – are you following, James Patterson?), empowering (strong female characters – are you listening, Stuart Woods?) and fun (yes, Robert Crais, it doesn’t have to be intense from cover-to-cover, we can have some fun along the way).

Unlike Christie and her Miss. Marple, Higgins Clark does not repeat characters, but her strong leading women are almost interchangeable: brilliant lawyer, dedicated doctor, passionate marketer, etc. And her plots are very linear: meet an amazing but troubled lady, see impending doom, run into a series of men of shady backgrounds and intents, someone is murdered, woman is in peril, pick which of the men will harm and which will help, love triumphs.

Spending time with Mary Higgins Clark is like having high tea with a gentle, yet spunky maiden aunt. You don’t want to make a habit of it, but every time you go and she pours into her tea that little “strengthener” from the flask she keeps in her brocade handbag, you wonder why it is so long between visits.

Kendra says

I'm not sure why I love the writing of Mary Higgins Clark so much, but I do. Part of it is that I started reading her right at the beginning of high school. And after all these years, her writing feels so familiar and takes me back. The other reason I have stayed a devoted fan is that her stories are always so positive. Yes, I know, they are mysteries – which means someone always ends up dying, but still.... The characters are really nice, interesting people that I always think would make really great friends if only they were real and lived close by.

So Higgins' latest story, which is currently on the New York Times Best Seller List, is The Shadow of Your

Smile. There is a very good reason why this is selling oodles of copies – it's great! It follows the life of Monica Farrell, a talented pediatric doctor, and her very greedy relatives who want her to never find out that she is entitled to a fortune and go to great lengths (even murder) to keep that secret well hidden. This is a gentle thriller that is a very fast read. If you want a quick little escape from reality, this is your book!

Jana Heinzelmann says

The Shadow of Your Smile is not the best book of Mary Higgins Clark. I have read a lot better ones. But still it kept me fascinated and I did not want to stop reading. As with all novels by Mary Higgins Clark, this one as well is written in many small chapters switching perspective between the characters every few seconds. I love this style of writing because it keeps the tension up. It is similar to a daily soap. You get a relatively small bit of information and then the episode ends with something compelling that makes you want to know more. Her chapters are exactly the same. But then, you have to wait a few chapters because in the next ones, different characters play the main role and new insights into the story are given. In the end of the novel, all pieces of the puzzle fall into places and you can figure it out by yourself. Once again she was able to surprise me with an outcome of the story that I was not expecting.

?As usual, Mary Higgins Clark develops a big group of different characters who seem to have nothing to do with each other in the beginning. But after a while you figure out while they are all equally important to the story. Every one of them is a piece of the puzzle. I think the word puzzle describes the stories of Mary Higgins Clark the best because that is what it is for the reader and that is what kept me reading. I wanted to solve the puzzle and see the whole picture.

The story is not the best of all times and not extremely new. Also I would have loved to get to know the characters a bit better and in more detail to actually feel with them. That is something I was definitely missing in this story. Only if you feel to be a part of the story, it is a brilliant story and the author was able to grab your attention completely. That did not happen with this book.

Nevertheless, when I was reading it, I was really busy at work and with traveling. Therefore, I would not have been able to read a complicated story anyway. So, if you are searching for a book that does not bore you but at the same time does not demand your full concentration, then this is definitely the book you are searching for. It is an easy and compelling read and thus the perfect companion on travels or during busy times. The short chapters make it easy to stop often without losing track of what is happening.

Overall, the book did not disappoint me but it also did not knock me over.

Read more of my reviews here: <http://booksaroundtheworld.wordpress.com>
