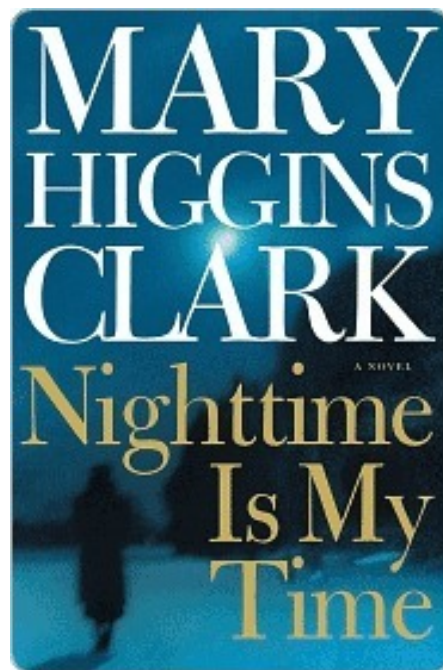




Nighttime Is My Time

Mary Higgins Clark

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Nighttime Is My Time

Mary Higgins Clark

Nighttime Is My Time Mary Higgins Clark

"The definition of an owl had always pleased him: *a night bird of prey...sharp talons and soft plumage which permits noiseless flight...applied figuratively to a person of nocturnal habits.* 'I am The Owl,' he would whisper to himself after he had selected his prey, 'and nighttime is my time.'"

Jean Sheridan, a college dean and prominent historian, sets out to her hometown in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, to attend the twenty-year reunion of alumni of Stonecroft Academy, where she is to be honored along with six other members of her class. There is, however, something uneasy in the air: one woman in the group about to be feted, Alison Kendall, a beautiful, high-powered Hollywood agent, died just a few days before, drowned in her pool during an early-morning swim, the fifth woman in the class whose life has come to a sudden, mysterious end.

Also adding to Jean's sense of unease is a taunting, anonymous fax she has just received, referring to her daughter, Lily, a child she had given up for adoption twenty years ago, the offspring of a romance between her and a West Point cadet killed in an accident a week before graduation. She had always kept the child's existence a secret, so who has found out? And why the implied threat now?

Struggling to conceal her fears, Jean arrives at the hotel where the reunion is being held. One by one she sees the other honorees, including Laura Wilcox, the class beauty, whose dazzling exterior belies the fact that her television career is sinking, and the four men who, like Jean, had spent four bitterly unhappy years at Stonecroft: Carter (formerly Howie) Stewart, an acerbic and successful playwright, once the class nerd; renowned child psychiatrist and talk-show celebrity Mark Fleischman, who has never been able to resolve the pain of his own adolescence; Gordon Amory, a media mogul, hardly recognizable as the awkward boy who was the butt of cruel jokes; Robby Brent, a popular comedian, whose caustic humor emanates from a childhood of rejection. Omnipresent is an old classmate, Jack Emerson, the chairman of the reunion, whose reasons for spearheading the event may be motivated by something other than class spirit.

At the award dinner, Jean is introduced to Sam Deegan, a detective obsessed for years by the unsolved murder of a young woman in Cornwall, who may also hold the key to the identity of the Stonecroft killer and the source of the anonymous threat to her child. She does not suspect that among the distinguished people she is greeting is The Owl, a murderer nearing the countdown on his mission of vengeance against the Stonecroft women who had mocked and humiliated him, with Jean his final intended victim.

In *Nighttime Is My Time*, Mary Higgins Clark creates a riveting novel of psychological suspense, penetrating behind the pervading façade of status and respectability to depict the mind of a killer.

Nighttime Is My Time Details

Date : Published (first published April 6th 2004)

ISBN :

Author : Mary Higgins Clark

Format : Kindle Edition 464 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Suspense, Thriller

 [Download Nighttime Is My Time ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online](#) Nighttime Is My Time ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online Nighttime Is My Time Mary Higgins Clark

From Reader Review Nighttime Is My Time for online ebook

Lesley says

Why do I keep trying Mary Higgins Clark? I can't stand her books.

Jerry B says

Tighter editing might have improved murder mystery...

We are longtime readers of Clark [every book except her memoirs:] and would like to express some amazement that she keeps pumping them out at age 75. But while the premise of this attempted thriller is OK, the storyline gets tiresome -- the novel might well be somebody's master's thesis on red herrings! The plot reveals that in the over 20+ years since a male classmate, playing an owl in a school skit, is humiliated by his classmates, he systematically murders off the list of seven girlfriends who always ate lunch together. Five are already dead when the 20th reunion arrives, but he has been so clever that nobody in law enforcement has even suspected foul play, let alone the connection between the deaths. As the classmates arrive for the big weekend, he is not only planning the imminent deaths of the remaining two, Laura and Jean, but also plans to off Jean's adopted-at-birth baby girl whose identity he has somehow learned. The prime male attendees are all suspects for the "Owl", including dark playwright Carter, caustic comedian Robby, real-estate tycoon Jack, sit-com producer Gordon, and talk-show psychiatrist Mark. For a couple of hundred pages, short chapters alternate between all these players, throwing out suspicion after suspicion to keep us readers totally on edge. Unfortunately, the red herrings soon grow into a mountain, and we just started getting tired and wanted the whole thing over. When the Owl kidnaps Laura (but conveniently keeps her alive so that he can kill Jean and her daughter while she watches), and then Jean, it's a long stretch to believe the women would follow his commandment to never utter his name (so that we wouldn't know who). In the end, while the bad guy was a modest surprise, we were pretty much beyond caring.

This time Clark's story took on a somewhat different nature. She lately has featured high-achieving leading ladies who go on to solve any and every crime despite the best but ineffective efforts of the professionals. Sometimes these women are unbelievably gorgeous, smart, and resourceful, which gets to be a strain of credibility. But in "Nighttime", the serial killer gets most of the attention, which may help explain why we weren't that thrilled by the climax -- we just weren't that terror stricken for the intended victims. If some of the nearly hundred chapters, all short and almost all featuring numerous changes of scenes and speaking characters, could have been pared and led us straighter line to a satisfying ending, we might have been more enamored with this tale. As it is, we hope Clark will go for higher quality next time, or get better editors, or (gasp) consider whether it might be time to retire the word processor. We'd prefer the former.

Jannelies says

Jean Sheridan is een succesvolle vrouw, die uitkijkt naar de reünie van haar middelbare school. Zij en nog een paar oud-klasgenoten zullen extra in het zonnetje worden gezet, omdat zij veel hebben bereikt in het

leven. Het hele weekend van de reünie zal worden doorgebracht in Cornwall-on-Hudson, het schilderachtige dorp waar de klasgenoten opgroeiden. Maar dan verdwijnt een van de klasgenoten... en blijkt zij niet de eerste, noch de laatste te zijn.

Mary Higgins Clark heeft met veel gevoel beschreven hoe mensen zich kunnen voelen die tijdens hun puberteit en op de middelbare school nu niet bepaald populair waren. Zeg maar: de buitenbeentjes. De stille, lelijke, stotterende kinderen. Wat komt daar later van terecht? Nou, heel wat. Ze worden net zo goed succesvolle mensen; plastische chirurgie en doorzettingsvermogen doen een hoop. Bij de een wat meer van het een, bij de ander wat meer van het ander. Jean Sheridan had geen plastische chirurgie nodig, maar degene die er op uit is om wraak te nemen op de klasgenoten, is niet meer degene die hij of zij (ja, ik ga hier de plot dus niet weggeven...) ooit was.

Hoewel de plot niet wereldschokkend is 'klasgenoten die op een foto staan verdwijnen een voor een' is de manier waarop weer op z'n Clarks beschreven: doordacht!

Vraag ik me verder alleen af wat de uitgever heeft bezielt om voor deze omslag en titel te kiezen... die beiden maar de helft laten zien. Nou vooruit, het geheel ziet er leuk uit, maar ik vond de originele titel wel stukken beter op het verhaal slaan.

Nadine says

Jean goes back to her hometown for a school reunion, someone has found out she had had given up a daughter for adoption when she was 18 and they are sending her messages making her believe Lily's life is in danger. when one for her classmates goes missing young reporter points out that 5 of the girls that used to sit at the same lunch table at school have died in the past 20 years and there is only 2 of them left including Jean.

We do know that the killer is one of the honorees who attended the reunion but we don't know which one, he refers to himself as "The owl" and there is something about all of them that makes them sound guilty. With the help of Sam Deegan a detective, Jean needs to find out where her daughter is and who adopted her to warn them that her life is in danger and also figure out which one of her classmates is " The Owl"

This was my first Mary Higgins Clark book and I absolutely loved it, I cannot wait to check out her other books.

Alisha says

I've never read a Mary Higgins Clark book before, and yes, they're clean as a whistle but BORING! I could barely make it threw the "page turner". I didn't care who the killer was because I didn't care about any of the characters and her style of writing is so boring. Maybe I would have liked her in, say, junior high. But even then I would have known the book was an easy read. I found myself hoping her main character Jean would be knocked off, big surprise, she wasn't!!! Are all her main characters kind, dumb, well-educated good people? I won't read anymore of her books to find out. If I had to chose between reading another of her books or staring at a wall for an equal amount of time, I'd pick staring at the wall. At least then an original thought or a shred of human insight might pop into my brain.

Razvan Banciu says

Unexpectedly good, as the novel rises to the best from Agatha Christie's stories. The plot is seductive, the rhythm is dense and alert, with few dead times and no unnecessary little flowers, the characters are well-crafted and you don't know who's the murderer until the final pages.

Of course, Jean and Meredith aren't the smartest women alive by exposing themselves, Duke is a far too convenient character for the writer, Laura's former house seems to be too remote, but the general impression is a fine one and four stars are more than deserved.

Dolceluna says

Trama accattivante anticipata in copertina e poi mantenuta, suspense alta sin dall'inizio e ritmo incalzante. Per certi aspetti, seppur alla lontana, mi ha ricordato Dieci piccoli indiani della Christie, con una ristretta cerchia di personaggi tutti potenziali assassini: individuare il colpevole, descritto parallelamente alla vicenda e in forma "anonima" come il Gufo, risulta ben difficile. Apprezzo inoltre, della Clark, la brevità dei paragrafi e la lunghezza non eccessiva dei romanzi. In questo avrei forse sviluppato maggiormente la descrizione dell'ambiente e qualche dettaglio in più sui delitti precedenti la vicenda ma ad essa legati. In conclusione resta comunque un bel giallo!

Ângela Costa says

Um livro fantástico de leitura muito agradável e recomendável. O que mais gostei foi a forma como Mary Higgins Clark nos empurra para falsas pistas, fazendo-nos crer que entrega o suspeito quase de bandeja, mas para quem já anda à imensos anos mergulhada em policiais, isso já não funciona ;) Gostei imenso!

Enchantress debbicat ? says

I don't think I am a Mary Higgins Clark kind of reader. It was okay, but somewhat boring. I could barely tolerate it at times on my walk. If it hadn't been for the fact that I liked the narrator so much, I likely would have abandoned it long before the last half of the book. Sorry. It is what it is. Just not for me. I don't think I will try another one. Too slow.

Karen says

Not as good as the usual Clark mysteries.

Phrynne says

This was a pleasant enough mystery but I found myself urging it on towards its conclusion and even skimming a few paragraphs here and there to speed things up. It just seemed to move so very slowly. There was not even much fun in trying to work out the murderer since the author supplied such a plethora of possibilities, all of them equally unpleasant people and each absolutely deserving of a possible life sentence. (That's a long winded way of saying I didn't care whodunit).
An okay read but not outstanding in any way.

Daniella says

Sure, I love red herrings in my mystery novels. Who doesn't? But this was just ridiculous. Too many red herrings in this one; everything felt chaotic and topsy-turvy. Plus, Jean, the protagonist, was so stupid she deserved to die. Ugh. I have so much hate for her character.

Miriam Smith says

I love Mary Higgins Clarke, every book she writes is a completely different story that is well written with a great story line and characters, I really enjoyed this book another 5 stars!

hidefan says

Como ya he mencionado en alguna que otra ocasión, con Mary Higgins Clark siempre voy a lo seguro. Cuando me leo un libro que no me gusta demasiado y pondero cuál va a ser el siguiente que me deje mejor sabor de boca, suelo recurrir a esta mujer porque ya sé qué esperar de ella y las posibilidades de llevarme una decepción son mínimas. **Escondido en las Sombras (Nighttime is my time)** fue publicado originalmente en 2004.

La profesora y escritora Jean Sheridan vuelve a su pueblo natal veinte años después de marcharse para la reunión de ex-alumnos de su instituto. Ella ya sabe de entrada que no va a ser un viaje agradable; allí no le esperan más que malos recuerdos de su infancia y también el recordatorio de que perdió al chico que amaba cuando estaba embarazada y que tuvo que dar en adopción a su pequeña, algo que ha mantenido en secreto durante todos estos años. Pero alguien ha averiguado este secreto y ha empezado a mandarle cartas amenazadoras. Jean, temerosa de que su hija esté en peligro, también descubrirá que cinco antiguas compañeras de instituto con las que se sentaba a la mesa a la hora de comer han muerto los últimos años en misteriosas circunstancias, y en el mismo orden en el que solían sentarse. Ya solo quedan dos chicas de ese grupo: Laura Wilcox, una actriz de capa caída por la que suspiraban todos los chicos del insti, y la propia Jean.

Escondido en las Sombras me enganchó una barbaridad al principio porque tenía un toque Agatha Christie genial. El misterio de las chicas de la mesa del comedor que han muerto en lo que todo el mundo dio por sentado que eran accidentes, la reunión de antiguos alumnos, la amenaza que planea sobre las cabezas de las dos últimas chicas del grupo, los cinco sospechosos juntos en el mismo lugar, todos medio atrapados en ese

hotel baratucho... Incluso MHC hace una referencia a **Diez Negritos** en algún momento.

Me pareció un punto de partida espectacular, e incluso lo encontré más oscuro de lo habitual, aunque luego, a medida que avanza el libro, la historia ya se va volviendo más parecida a lo que suele escribir esta mujer y perdiendo ese espíritu Christie. Me hubiera gustado que el misterio se hubiera resuelto en lo que es la reunión de ex alumnos, con una resolución explosiva en el mismo hotel, pero se alarga unos pocos días más y aunque la tensión y la intriga persiste, por supuesto, no hay tanta sensación de urgencia.

Escondido en las Sombras ofrece lo que la mayoría de trabajos de Higgins Clark. Tenemos a una protagonista femenina, inteligente y sensata, que se ha labrado una carrera ejemplar pero que no ha sido capaz de superar la muerte de su novio y padre de su hija, a la que tuvo que dar en adopción. Ella es una de los seis homenajeados en la reunión de ex alumnos, seis alumnos que han conseguido el éxito profesional en diferentes ámbitos: tenemos a la actriz, aunque ahora está en horas bajas porque a punto de cumplir los cuarenta no es que sea lo más deseado en Hollywood precisamente y que espera conseguir el favor de alguno de sus antiguos amigos, tenemos al autor teatral que escribe unas obras de lo más oscuras y deprimentes, tenemos al productor de televisión y dueño de varios canales, al humorista que está a punto de estrenar una serie y al médico que tiene un programa en televisión y que parece sentir algo por Jean. Los cuatro hombres, más el organizador de la reunión, estuvieron enamorados de Laura, la actriz, así que cuando esta desaparece, se convierten en los principales sospechosos. Todos ellos fueron bastante fracasados cuando iban al instituto, y todos guardan dentro de sí un inmenso rencor por lo mal que lo pasaron en aquel lugar, un resentimiento que tiene que salir por algún lado.

Pero solo uno de ellos es el Búho, un asesino que no solo ha acabado con la vida de las chicas sentadas a la mesa del comedor, chicas que veinte años atrás se rieron de él y le humillaron, sino que, muy jovencito, descubrió que tenía el poder de arrebatar la vida y desde entonces ha ido asesinado a mujeres y algún hombre al azar. Solo porque puede. El Búho es quien se esconde tras las amenazas a la hija de Jean, y es culpable de varios crímenes que hasta el momento siguen sin resolver... y no va a parar hasta cumplir su objetivo de aniquilarlas a todas.

El libro está narrado bajo el punto de vista de todos los personajes implicados. Jean, Laura, los cinco sospechosos, y todos los demás personajes, como el policía que investiga la desaparición de Laura, una mujer amiga de Jean cuya hija murió asesinada veinte años atrás, un joven periodista que espera conseguir un artículo de primera, la recepcionista del hotel, la propia hija de Jean... Y, por supuesto, el asesino. Son capítulos muy cortos que animan a seguir leyendo y que siempre te dejan con la miel en los labios.

Como es habitual Higgins Clark va metiendo cortinas de humo para que sospechemos de todos, de hecho en un punto pasan de ser cinco sospechosos posibles a seis, y todos actúan de forma suspicaz y parecen tener sus motivos. Eso sí, si uno se conoce los trucos de esta mujer, no es nada complicado descubrir la identidad del asesino. Sí que he de decir que en algunos momentos era un pelín ridículo porque el Búho interactúa con algunas de sus víctimas que obviamente le conocen y les obliga a llamarle Búho en vez de decir su nombre para que este no sea desvelado, y no se sostiene tan bien como debería.

Como siempre, también hay un poco de romance, pero como es también habitual, Higgins Clark le dedica el mínimo de tiempo necesario para centrarse en lo que es el misterio. Sí que me hubiera gustado un poquito más de desarrollo, porque Mark me parecía un buen personaje, y el epílogo realmente sabe a demasiado poco porque ahonda muy poco en algunos personajes o directamente nada en otros.

Escondido en las Sombras es un libro muy entretenido que gustará a los fans de los misterios no excesivamente elaborados y sobre todo a los fans de esta autora, ya que tiene todos sus trucos y manías.

Aunque no es tan bueno como parecían augurar sus primeras páginas a lo Agatha Christie, ni tampoco es de los que más me han gustado de la autora, es una lectura satisfactoria que cumple con lo que promete, que es justamente lo que necesitaba. Por supuesto, seguiré leyendo más trabajos de Higgins Clark.

(3.5)

Rachel says

I needed something to read while we waited for a plane, so I bought this at a bookstore in the airport. Overall, I found the story a bit shallow. The author's efforts to keep the murder's name hidden from the reader, in my opinion, were painfully forced. Her efforts to build suspense up until the final reveal in the end were overwhelmingly blatant, but effective. It was so effective that the reveal seemed like a let down. I think the book would have been much better if she had just revealed the assailant's identity slowly. Then she could have used the question of whether or not the assailant would kill off the major characters to drive the suspense. Her efforts to try to use both even though one was obviously awkward (the hiding of the assailant's identity) irritated me and made the book much less enjoyable.
