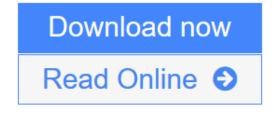


Stillwatch

Mary Higgins Clark



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"I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME..."

Slipped under the door of her Georgetown home, the note was an ominous reminder of Pat Traymore's past. The beautiful young television journalist had come to glamorous, high-powered Washington to produce a TV series. Her subject: Senator Abigail Jennings, slated for nomination as the first woman vice president of the United States.

With the help of an old flame, Congresman Sam Kingsley, Pat delves into Abigail's life, only to turn up horrifying facts that threaten to destroy senator's reputation and her career. Worse still, sinister connections to Pat's own childhood and the nightmare secrets hidden within are surfacing -- secrets waiting to destroy her.

Stillwatch Details

Date : Published (first published 1984) ISBN : Author : Mary Higgins Clark Format : Kindle Edition 356 pages

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

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From Reader Review Stillwatch for online ebook

Laurie D'ghent says

A perfect example of why I love Mary Higgins Clark--no sex, very little swearing, an intriguing plot line without being evil or mess-your-pants material, antagonists that you can actually see a little of yourself in. Perfect.

Maurean says

I found this to be an entertaining mystery, and it has convinced me to try other MHC books in the future, but I don't know - based on this one novel - if I would classify her as the QUEEN of suspense (there are other contemporaries of hers that I enjoy just as much, certainly, if not more - Sandra Brown, Linda Fairstein, Heather Graham; all come immediately to mind). But, that's being really nit-picky, isn't it?! The storyline was intriguing, the characters were sympathetic, and it kept me turning pages until well past my intended bedtime, so overall, it was an enjoyable thriller, and I will try to read others by the author (Lord knows! There are a million of them out there...); What more could a reader want?

Connie says

This was about Pat Traymore and how she was doing an expose on Abigail Jennings a Senator who was looking to be vice-president. Pat had something from her past that she was trying to remember and it was related to what She was doing the expose on. It was not hard to figure out who the bad guy was, but I really enjoyed this book.

Eve Nolon says

This is my favorite of Mary Higgins Clark's books, possible tied with A CRY IN THE NIGHT, but where STILLWATCH shines is the politics of Washington, DC and all of the small town deals and double-crosses. Where most of Clark's characters are not all that memorable, Pat Traymore is the exception. I loved Pat's panache and grace, her vulnerability and strength. She's an interesting character because she has so much stake in the intrigue, even when she doesn't know it. The first time I read this one, I had no idea who did what and I was surprised by the resolutions several times over. On this read, I knew what was going to happen so I enjoyed the "scenery" more and it was just as fun.

For those looking for an MHC novel to start with, I definitely recommend STILLWATCH. It works perfectly as a historical novel (firmly situated in 1979/1980 politics), mystery, suspense with just a tiny touch of romance.

Art the Turtle of Amazing Girth says

One of Clark's better efforts from her early days.

It's a better whodunit for the most part, and the intensity of the ending is better than she's written yet, since I'm going straight down her book list from the earliest on up.

Pat is at least a stronger female lead than those that have come before her. She does fawn over a man wayyy yonder too much, but she also sticks to her guns in her project and doesn't seem to quail in the face of abject terror.

Clark is getting better, for my list purposes, and I'll keep going.

Walt says

My wife and a friend, Janice, from our third-Monday book club (we meet at Barnes and Noble) went to see Mary Higgins Clark and her daughter, Carol, speak at the high school recently. Subsequently, my wife bought this to read on her Kindle, so I decided to read it, too. I don't think I had ever read Mary Higgins Clark before. I probably won't read her again.

Pat Traymore is the protagonist, a newswoman with a new job in Washington D.C. Her parents had died violent deaths there when she was a child--ostensibly, a murder-suicide. Well, right off, as a reader of a mystery writer you are suspicious of that notion of loving parents involved in something so horrendous, right? Well, the plot moves with a steady pace as Pat is assigned to make a documentary on one Senator Abigail Jennings, a prospect to fill a vacancy as Vice President of the U.S.

Several convenient coincidences in the story show that at this early stage of her writing career, Clark, as a writer, hadn't learned to avoid obvious and manipulative deus ex machina. Furthermore, I saw several grammatical errors in the book that were distracting and put me off.

Edith says

Things I Learned: Nothing I can think of ...

Comments: Second book in a week with a religious fanatic at its center. Dan Brown's religious fanatic was easier to understand. This one's motives were murkier. I don't really know where the religiosity came from. Also, it was very sensationalistic in its portrayal of a HOMICIDAL MANIAC!!! Yes, she actually used those words. Apparently, everyone who commits murder has to be insane, with murky motives - no one is simply a cold-blooded killer. Are all killers crazy and does that make all crazy people killers? I have to wonder if this is the general public's view of folks with a psychiatric diagnosis - that we're all potential ax murderers. But this book was written back in 1984, so hopefully, people are more enlightened these days.

That aside, it was a page-turning read. The girl gets her guy in the end. MHC earned her title, "Queen of Suspense."

Sharol says

All of her stories blur together over time. I can't recall what most of these are even about because they're all so similar. :)

Ashley says

I would rate this book at **3.5 stars.** Mary Higgins Clark is quickly becoming my favorite author and Stillwatch doesn't disappoint.

Pat Traymore's career is at a high point with Emmy nominations and growing acclaim in Boston which helps land her a high profile job in Washington D.C. The job, producing the first episode of a new series "Women in Government," will have her working closely with Senator Abigail Jennings. Jennings is believed to be the favorite to become the first female Vice President.

Luckily (or maybe on so luckily) for Pat her biological parents left her a house in Georgetown that her aunt/adopted mother had been renting out for her. The house was the sight of her parents death when she was very young and Pat hoped that staying there would help her regain some of her childhood memories, including memories of that horrible night.

The book follows Pat as she works with the reluctant Senator and begins to discover that there are a lot of damaging secrets in the Senator's past that could ruin her career. While she works with the Senator her own past and family secrets come back to haunt her – she is being stalked and threatened by an unknown person.

It is a solid story, engaging and well written. There are, however, two elements that weaken the story, which is why this book only merits a rating of **3.5 stars.** (view spoiler)

However, Stillwatch is a solid and engaging story with only a few weak elements that make it a 3.5 star novel that is still worth the read.

Kim says

2.5 rounded up. I'm not sure why I used to like MHC so much in high school and college.

Xana says

Merece aa 3,5* Gosto de MHC. É daquelas autoras "conforto", onde volto sempre com a certeza que vou apreciar. Este é um dos velhinhos, com uma história que me agarrou nas primeiras páginas. Gosto sempre das personagens dela, mulheres fortes, e Pat não foi excepção. Gostei bastante. Boa maneira de terminar o ano :)

Enrique says

Después de haber escuchado multitud de elogios a Mary Higgins Clark, quien no en vano es nombrada a menudo con el pomposo epíteto comercial de "la reina del misterio", tenía muchas ganas de leer un libro suyo. El elegido resultó ser El ojo avizor, el cual compré de saldo por apenas 1 euro en una tienda de venta de artículos antiguos.

Patricia Traymore, una joven reportera de una cadena de televisión de Boston, acepta un nuevo trabajo en Washington para hacer una serie de reportajes sobre mujeres en el gobierno. El primero estará dedicado a la figura de Abigail Jennings, una importante senadora con un pasado más que turbio. Instalada en la antigua casa de sus padres, se propondrá hallar también la verdad sobre la muerte de ambos, que tuvo lugar allí mismo en extrañas circunstancias hace veinticuatro años. Además, tratará de reanudar su relación con Sam Kingsley, congresista con el que tuvo un breve e intenso romance tiempo atrás. Por si fuera poco, nada más empezar el reportaje, comienza a recibir amenazas anónimas por correo y teléfono, advirtiéndole del peligro que corre si continúa con el trabajo sobre la senadora Jennings.

El ojo avizor es un libro entretenido que engancha debido a lo bien construida que está la trama. Sin embargo la historia en sí no es gran cosa. El misterio que rodea a la protagonista me resultó bastante flojo. Conforme se van desvelando detalles clave, lo ves venir a la legua. Lo mismo he de decir de los antagonistas, predecibles e insulsos a más no poder. El personaje principal, Pat Traymore, por el contrario sí está muy logrado, con una biografía sólida y una motivación clara. De hecho sus escenas son siempre las más interesantes. Te implicas tanto con ella que deseas saber lo que le va a ocurrir a continuación, enlazando un capítulo tras otro. Es una mujer resuelta e independiente que debe luchar sola en un mundo de hombres (como era el ambiente de la televisión a comienzos de los años ochenta). El personaje de Abigail Jennings es otro de mis favoritos. Posee al igual que Pat muchos de estos atributos, aunque tiene un perfil más secundario. Es curioso, pero me dio la impresión de que Mary Higgins Clark sabe crear personajes femeninos muy potentes, pero los hombres que aparecen en sus historias son más planos que mi marcapáginas.

Por ello, las escenas de los enemigos de Pat resultan algo tediosas. Por suerte no hay demasiadas, lo que lastraría aún más la novela. La historia de amor entre Pat y Sam es totalmente descafeinada. Hasta casi al final no ocurre nada entre ambos. Pienso que si ese romance se hubiera cerrado antes, con más chicha de por medio, habría ganado varios enteros. No hablo de sexo salvaje, solo que haya algo más de tensión entre ambos, y no el quiero y no puedo constante que se ve.

Lo que más me ha gustado del libro es la arquitectura de la historia. Para un aspirante a escritor como yo, leer y detectar donde la autora ha situado las escenas claves, así como la forma en que dosifica la intriga, es oro puro. En este aspecto la novela gana mucho. Su trama principal está diseñada con ojo clínico (aunque supongo que también será mérito de los editores), equilibrada de una manera tal que hace que pese a que la historia no sea nada del otro mundo, quieras seguir leyendo sin parar. A ello ayuda bastante el estilo narrativo de Mary Higgins Clark, fluido y sencillo, con frases cortas y un lenguaje sin recargos innecesarios. Las descripciones son también ligeras y muy visuales, con unos pocos detalles bien escogidos para que te hagas una buena idea en tu cabeza.

Mi conclusión general sobre El ojo avizor es que es otra novela comercial de misterio más, un género sobresaturado hoy en día. Si te van este tipo de historias dale una oportunidad. No perderás mucho tiempo en leerla (yo la terminé en apenas seis días) si consigue engancharte tanto como a mí, aunque desde luego no quedará en el recuerdo como una de las mejores. Es ideal para leer en vacaciones, pues su escasa complejidad hace que desconectes con facilidad. Haciendo un símil gastronómico, yo la veo como la típica hamburguesa de un euro del Burger King o del McDonalds. ¿Está rica? Sí. ¿Vale lo que cuesta? Sí, si la encuentras barata como me ocurrió a mí. ¿Te la comes en apenas un santiamén? También. ¿Se puede comparar con las lentejas de tu madre o ese plato que te gusta tanto de tu restaurante favorito? Ni mucho menos.

Reema says

I love MHC's writing and have read most of her books. But this books lacks suspense or conviction. The characters are vague and weak. the story is quite predictable. Pat Traymore is about to find all she can about the possible candidate who is set to become the first female Vice President of United States of America. But during the course of the research she comes across more than she could ask for. In the mean time she has to deal with her childhood memories which are rather vague and distant. Finding answers to the mystery surrounding herself and the possible future Vice President Abigale Jennings becomes a game that might cost Pat Traymore her life. The novel could have been better if it would not have been not too rushed and if the characters were portrayed in a much stronger light.

Bensaada says

Un choix fortuit qui s'est avéré être une véritable révélation. Mary Higgins Clark a une bonne plume. Son texte est imagée, détaillée juste assez pour te garder attentif et titiller ta curiosité. Le livre est bien construit avec dans presque chaque chapitre et surtout les derniers une narration selon le point de vue de plusieurs personnages.Une même journée racontée sous divers angles augmente le suspense et maintient le doute tout au long de l'histoire. le personnage principal après le meurtre de ses parents revient à la maison où elle a grandi et tente de retrouver la vérité en assemblant de simples impressions, des flashs très courts, des bruits, etc. Elle est intelligente, intrépide et déterminée, elle se pose beaucoup de questions (au même temps c'est normal elle est journaliste) et l'histoire suit un raisonnement et une logique mais je regrette qu'elle n'ait pas été plus âgé au moment de l'incident de ses parents on aurait eu le droit à plus de souvenirs de famille pour avoir un personnage de caractère plus complet. En tout cas je lui lirai d'autres livres Cette Mary

Fuglsang says

Not quite bad but not quite good either. Sure, it was a fun read, at least the last third of it, but it just lacked something. Come to think of it - that's pretty much how all Clark's books are.

The characters lack some quirks and some spirit. They're not really that unique and they're certainly not gonna stay with me for a very long time, as is the case with all her books. I'm pretty certain I'm gonna forget what the book was all about in a while. Also, calling Clark's 'The Queen of Suspense' seems wrong to me - suspense is when I don't know and I really want to know. Well, I didn't want to know. The language is also quite boring, not brilliant but not very bad either. I really hated how almost every paragraph had to start with boring 'he/she did this and that all day, then changed into a black, expensive jacket which made him/her look even more serious and cool'. Stop it, Clark, please. Every character either has something special in their air or they're really beautiful or both and it's annoying to have to read basically the same thing about every single person. It's boring and it's not very original.

Most of the time the pace was really slow and I didn't feel like reading it (which explains the gap between starting in... April and ending now in February) but it picked up the pace nice enough and at some point I could barely put it down. The story is quite interesting, even if it is a tad predictable for crime story fans. Basically, Clark is the written word's answer to Céline Dion - it's nice enough when you don't feel like thinking, but you're not in for a great surprise and the story is easily forgotten.