



## La boîte à musique

*Mary Higgins Clark*

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Lane Harmon, bras droit d'un célèbre architecte d'intérieur, est appelée à redécorer la maison de l'épouse de Parker Bennett, un magnat de la finance porté disparu deux ans plus tôt, après que l'on ait découvert un trou de 5 milliards de dollars dans son entreprise. Touchée par la dignité de madame Bennett, Lane se rapproche de son fils, prêt à tout pour laver l'honneur de son père...

## La boîte à musique Details

Date : Published June 2015 (first published April 7th 2015)

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Author : Mary Higgins Clark

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## **From Reader Review La boîte à musique for online ebook**

### **Emma says**

Was this REALLY written by MHC? Has Mary possibly been taken over by body snatchers?

This is absolutely nothing like the old MHC I've read. It is supposed to be suspense/mystery and instead it reads like romantic fluff garbage. The writing feels totally juvenile.

There is instalove. There is sad, romantic brooding. There is tragedy in everybody's past. There is even a hint at a love triangle.

I seriously almost threw my kindle across the room when at 80% an FBI agent confesses his love for the female main character that he only knows from eavesdropping on her. Seriously.

What utter nonsense. I would have DNFed at that point if I didn't have just 30 minutes to go. When I got to the happily ever after at the end, I wished I had quit anyway.

Do not waste your time.

This is not mystery.

This is not suspense.

This is not good writing.

This is not Mary Higgins Clark.

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### **Patricia Gligor says**

I have long been a fan of Mary Higgins Clark, the Queen of Suspense, a title she so richly deserves. I own every book she has ever written and they are among my most cherished possessions. I even had the distinct honor of meeting her in person at one of her book signings. She's not only a gifted writer but she's a warm and kind person and an inspiration to all mystery/suspense writers.

"The Melody Lingers On" is a wonderful addition to her long list of published novels. As I read some of the other reviews on amazon, I shook my head. How or why anyone would give this novel less than 5 stars, boggles my mind. It was fantastic! Well developed characters I quickly came to care about, an intriguing plot with several twists and a satisfying conclusion. Although I wanted to savor every word, I couldn't turn the pages fast enough because I was so eager to find out what would happen next.

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### **Sara says**

I basically only read Mary Higgins Clark for the nostalgia factor. Her books are nothing special, but she was the first "adult" author I read when I was a child, so I hold a fondness in my heart for her.

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## **Jennifer says**

Good story but by the end I really didn't feel much towards any of the characters so it was a lackluster read for me. Not on the keep shelf and I should have picked it up from the library.

There needed to have been more interaction with the main characters so I cared about them at all. Lane was out on weekly dates with someone but it was just a passing blurb (even that she was seeing the person as much as she did). As a reader I didn't discover any of this by reading about it (did she enjoy it or detest it) A few comments were sprinkled in the story to tell you it happened and what she thought about it. Not sure how to describe that any better but it was a big part of why I didn't enjoy it as much as I could have.

Because of the above the ending was "slightly" surprising but I really didn't care. The wrap up at the end had the same feel - just commented on not in it with them. Sorry - I'm trying not to give any spoilers in this review to give any examples.

This is definitely a one time read for me - Not a keeper.

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## **Amanda says**

I am pretty solidly an MHC fan, and even though all of her books have certain similarities (30-ish beautiful, successful woman as a main character, someone who holds a key to the mystery if only they can remember, etc.) I have really liked her books, and have been sucked into the mystery and suspense, and I was excited to read her latest book. I was underwhelmed by this one though. I had a tough time getting into the story, and, because of how it was set up, I wasn't entirely sure what the mystery was (it seemed like the audience pretty much knew everything). It was more a question of if/when/how a crook would be found out. I did start to get interested in the last 3rd of the book, as a bit more information came to light and the big finale happened, but I had to struggle through a bit of the book before getting there. All in all, this book was okay, but not what I've come to expect from the Queen of Suspense.

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## **Kavita says**

Dear god, this book is so terrible! It doesn't even qualify as a murder mystery for me. Because for one thing, there is no fricking murder in the book in the first place to investigate! The story is a silly and convoluted one of a rich man stealing money from investors and disappearing and then people are trying to catch him while his co-workers and family are under suspicion. Does this sound suspenseful? Well, if it does, it's because I've oversold it!

I don't know what Clark's recent fascination with rich people and their anaemic lifestyles is all about, but I am sick of the poor rich suffering people trope in her recent books. It really doesn't endear me to any of her characters. She used to write about strong female characters. Now it's all about whiny women who can't tie their own shoelaces.

I was enraged when Glady decided to do the designing of Anne's flat for free and charge it to someone else . Why? Was she going to do the same thing to all the poor people who couldn't afford to pay her? Sylvie is claimed to be very smart and clever. Then why is her career 'sleeping with men' and 'marriage'?

(view spoiler) Another stupid thing was the FBI guy spying and stalking Lane and then it's apparently 'love'. Ugh! Then there is the weirdo guy who was insane before his marriage, was normal during her lifetime and became insane again after his wife died. Somehow wife acted as antidepressant? What rot! Also, what was the point of him wanting to kill Lane? And what the heck happened to Anne at the end?

This book is unrealistic, annoying and full of male and class privilege. Also, it has flat characters and a 'plot' that insults the word. Read at peril to your brain cells.

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### **Laurel-Rain says**

A story of an investment banker, Parker Bennett, who deceived his clients; the aftermath for those who were affected; and the mystery of what happened to the supposedly deceased crook, grabbed me from the first page of *The Melody Lingers On*.

Lane Harmon is a young interior designer, an assistant to Glady Harper, famed designer to the rich in Connecticut, Manhattan, and nearby wealthy neighborhoods. A single mom to four-year-old Katie, Lane finds herself unexpectedly drawn to Eric Bennett and his mother Anne, who reside in a downsized condo now being renovated by Lane and Glady.

It is obvious that there is considerable question as to whether or not Parker Bennett is actually dead, and if not, how he pulled it all off. There is also question as to how much, if anything, his wife and son knew of his dealings. Various FBI agents and undercover operatives bring out interesting perspectives.

Typically intense, this page turner kept me going, wondering about the answers to what happened, who knew what and when, and what the mysterious music box in Anne's home had to do with anything.

Of course I had my own guesses about the characters and events, but the author also offers the reader a peek at what went on before the downfall, and we get to watch the mysterious drama unfold. The fun is in wondering just how far the deception went and how much of his family had been privy to his goings-on, as well as who is in danger and who will save the day. 4 stars.

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### **Xana says**

2,5\* seria justo.

MhC é uma das minhas escritoras favoritas, mas estes últimos livros dela desiludiram-me.

Continuam a ser de leitura rápida, mas as tramas deixam mto a desejar..

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## Vi~Inkvotary says

Originally posted on Gone With The Books

Lane and her boss Gladys work on the interior decoration of a house, where Anne Bennett will move in. After her husband Parker betrayed many people of their money and disappeared right after that, she is short of money and needs to move. When Lane meets her son Eric Bennett for the first time, she feels a certain connection to him, and does something she hadn't done in a long time: dating. But not everyone is happy to see them together. Many people believe that he's done his share to help his father betray all those people. And after Lane helped her boss to change the interior decoration of the Countess de la Marco's apartment, things change. Will Lane really get together with Eric?

For every Mary Higgins Clark fan I have to put a warning out: this thriller isn't at all like the thrillers we are used to read from her. There is no psychological finesse, no brilliant writing style and for sure no great characters. I don't know if it's only me, if I am grown out of her way of writing, or whatever. This isn't the first thriller of her I've read – but maybe the last. All her books were great if not fantastic reads for me, and I really had my pleasure with them. But this one? This one was a huge disappointment.

The plot is nice, and could have been developed into a wonderful and entertaining story, but no. *The Melody Lingers On* is an almost boring read, the tone isn't right and the strength and confidence that we're so used to in her female protagonist is nowhere to find.

At some point I felt like, this novel is a huge affront to Mary Higgins Clark. Presented with her name, yes, but without any of her inside. The story was so predictable, there was so less to non tension build and the end was so weak – seriously? What happened to the brilliance in her writing, her clear and powerful words, her way of surprising the reader and giving some twist and unexpected turns to the plot? Where was her fantastic way of describing her characters, of showing how they had to come to terms with whatever happened during the thriller?

Since I know her books, I loved her soft but meaningful style. Her tone was pure fun for me and I always discovered something new on every page. In this thriller you'll find a lot of unnecessary things and I don't know that from her.

The author is well known and famous for her self-confident, independent and well situated female main figures, which have made a nice career, live in a nice surrounding and have at some point in their life been treated very badly by it. Well at least that one is given in this thriller.

Lane lost her husband after only a short year of marriage, and has a little girl who's never seen her father. She loves her work, but her boss is a dragon and when she starts to work on two different projects, she soon discovers how cruel not only life can be but also the press. What I found the most annoying about her was the "I don't know what to do" sentence that I was reading on almost every fourth page.

But I missed the inner strength. Instead Mary Higgins Clark created her figures very pale, unsecure and so

hesitant – it was ... I have no further words ...

This has been the worst thriller by Mary Higgins Clark I've ever read. For some reasons I can't get rid of the feeling, that this one wasn't written by her – at least I have serious doubts. Maybe she's done with her career as a writer, maybe this one was an exception and the next one will be great again, I don't know. All I know is, I can't recommend it. Sorry, but I just can't.

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### **Joanne Freitas says**

Adoro a autora. Adoro o facto de os capítulos serem curtos. Adorei a história.

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### **Sónia says**

Mary Higgins Clark é uma autora a que recorro quando quero ler algo com algum mistério mas sem ter me pensar demasiado. Neste caso, o livro ficou um pouco abaixo das expectativas. O mistério, além de ser pouco, muito fácil de desvendar. Foi dado mais ênfase à componente romance do que à categoria onde estava inserida o livro.

Curiosidade nesta leitura, o que não é hábito nas que eu faço, foi a alguma abordagem, mesmo que indirecta ao golfe... Acabou por "aliviar" um pouco o marasmo decorrente de uma leitura mediana.

Recomendo mas não esperem uma leitura estimulante. Já devem ser reflexos da idade avantajada da autora...

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### **Kristen says**

In Mary Higgins Clark's *The Melody Lingers On*, this startling mystery novel takes a storyline straight from the news that would blow you away. Lane Harmon is a young widow with a 4-year-old daughter named Katie. As an associate to the famous Glady Harper, an interior design, they get to interior design Anne Bennett's townhouse and for the Countess Sylvie De Marco's condo. And that's when she met Eric Bennett, the son of Parker Bennett, the notorious businessmen who ripped people's money off with a fraudulent fund. He had maintained his innocence and his eyes set for Lane and Katie. Meanwhile, the FBI has been looking for Parker Bennett himself, who had assumedly faked his own death and lived in paradise under another name. The people who were closest to him, besides his family, were under suspicion and possibly involved with him. One of them named Ranger Cole is avenging his late wife Judy's death in pure hatred and anguish. Except for Anne, who had a music box that she played music, waiting for Parker to be "alive", the FBI also believed Eric had something to do with it. The closer the FBI dig into his background, the deeper Lane has conflicting feelings for him, they learn about his shocking dark side in the end when things come to a head for Lane and the FBI when he turned the table on them.

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## **Pamela says**

A round of applause for the "Queen of Suspense" for dedicating over forty years of her life as a beloved author, giving readers bountiful hours of suspense thrilling joy. What an amazing accomplishment! I tip my hat to her royal pen.

This particular book, however, didn't have the same level of wow factor and intensity as previous Mary Higgins Clark books I've read. Rather than a suspense thriller, it was more like a lightly seasoned financial crimes cozy, with some interior decorator nuances and romance drama thrown in the mix. Interestingly good, but only just. Still though, I greatly admire Ms. Clark. I can only imagine how hard it must be to think up fresh, cutting edge stories, year after year, trying in earnest to write memorable Top Sellers.

Yes, dearest Queen of Suspense, I tip my hat to you.....

THREE \*\*\* Entertainingly Breezy \*\*\* STARS

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## **Maria says**

MHC always gets a "like" from me. I looked forward to her new book coming out each year. Yes, each one fits a mold, a pattern, a whatever. But she writes so well. It goes down so easily, so smoothly, and ironic-given-the-murderous-theme so sweetly. This one is no different. Very entertaining. Was a perfect beach read. My only complaint is that MHC does indeed have to learn to write more appropriate inner and outer dialog for the female 30-something main character that she favors. For example, 20- or 30-somethings do not call their pants "slacks." It is "pants" or - maybe - "trousers" if they are feeling a bit playful. It can start to sound like dialog from a 1970s TV drama. But, nonetheless, Ms. Clark, I love you. You are indeed the Queen of Suspense.

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## **Julie says**

Although the story is very light, and the plot is a little thin and transparent, the book has its merits. Occasionally, this is just the type of book I need when I can't seem to muster up the energy, or have the attention span, to focus on something too detailed or deep. Also, there are times I want to read something without graphic violence or bad language, which often feels very refreshing for a change.

Although, this book is not quite as absorbing, detailed, or complex as many of Mary's previous books, it's still an enjoyable enough read. I recommend this one for the fans of this esteemed author and for those who enjoy cozy mysteries, or are looking for something light and easy to pass away a lazy afternoon with.

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## **Diane Groom says**

### **Disappointed**

I used to love Mary Higgins Clark. That being said, this book was a major disappointment. Her writing style has become more like her daughter's -- juvenile. I'm just glad I borrowed this from the library and didn't buy it.

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## **Joyce says**

I confess I had given up on Clark after a few titles that I didn't feel up to par. With this one she's back to her old form with a fast-paced story, sympathetic heroine, danger and suspense, plot twists, and just a touch of romance. Nice people put in jeopardy with a few surprises. Quick, satisfying read for her many fans. I find it fascinating that really no one has been able to replicate the Clark formula, and the authors who win the Mary Higgins Clark award each year really don't come close. One of a kind.

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## **Jill says**

I feel like there wasn't a lot of suspense in this one! It was a nice quick read, but definitely not as good as some of her older titles.

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## **Terri Lynn says**

As she has done before, Mary Higgins Clark writes about rich people (like herself). Financier Parker Bennett spent 13 years carefully building up a fund joined by many middle class, working class, and later on, well off people to 5 billion dollars then runs away with it into a new identity he had prepared at the beginning. There are several things I found unbelievable enough to take off a star. Here they are:

(1) He had the money put into a numbered Swiss bank account which was perfectly safe then opened another numbered Swiss bank account at the same bank and moved most of the money into that. Why? The original account was safe and changing to another account would draw attention. Clark seems unaware that Swiss banks now share info on private accounts with US officials.

(2) He wrote the old and new account numbers on a piece of scrap paper and taped it on the bottom of his wife's music box which she plays every day and when he left, he copied down the number to the old account instead of the new and left the paper taped to the bottom of the music box. Come on! No financier able to pull a careful 5 billion dollar theft would EVER put the bank codes on paper on the bottom of someone's music box and then leave it there to be found. He would know when he faked his death and the money was found to be gone, government authorities would search the house. He'd have that info locked up in a safe somewhere.

(3) He was carrying around his new ID and info on where he was going in his pocket and both his lover and his secretary managed to see it. Again, he would not carry this around for 13 years in his pocket. This would be locked in a safe or deposit box.

(4) He only changed his hair color and did nothing to change his looks so people on the island who read American papers could see his photo when stories run about the money.

Mary is getting a little lazy here with the plotting. The story follows the search for him and the money (no one believes he drowned in a boating accident he staged) and includes all sorts of rich, sleazy people and some of the poorer people who lost everything because of him-and might kill his family because of it.

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### **Angie says**

3-3.5 stars... This is written like MHC's last 5-7 books have been. Easy, light, nothing special. I enjoy these for what they are, and know now not to expect the exciting thrillers she used to write in the 80's. It's a bit predictable, as her later books are, and formulaic. I would classify this more of a suspense type than a mystery. There's not much mystery here. A little bit. I liked the main character and found it a good audiobook that I didn't have to strain my attention on when listening.

Recommend to her die hard fans and those who like clean, easy mysteries.

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