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All Through The Night: A Suspense Story



Synopsis

Two of Mary Higgins Clark's most beloved characters, Alvira, the lottery winner turned amateur sleuth, and her husband Willy, get caught up in a Christmas mystery that calls on all of Alvira's deductive powers, as well as Willy's world-class common sense. When the story begins, Willy is looking forward to playing Santa Clause at the after-school center his sister Cordelia has established to care for the children of working parents on New York's upper West Side, while Alvira is busy with rehearsals for the Christmas pageant. But suddenly a pall falls upon the Christmas cheer. The center itself is threatened with being closed down, a substitute that has been promised is withdrawn, a desperate young woman appears who begs for Alvira's help in finding the baby she abandoned seven years earlier, and -- the final blow -- the little girl who is to play the Blessed Mother in the Christmas pageant vanishes. Alvira is soon on the trail of the truth, which must be found before Christmas, which leads to the theft of a valued chalice that is somehow at the heart of the mystery. A missing chalice. A missing child. A desperate mother. Who but Alvira can sort it out in time for Christmas?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fans of Mary Higgins Clark and cozy mysteries will relish this Christmas confection. Unlike her previous holiday novel, *Silent Night*, *All Through the Night* is virtually free of life-and-death crime. Rather, it is a Dickensian tale of good deeds rewarded and crimes punished. The wintry story begins on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with 18-year-old Sondra Lewis, an aspiring violinist, tearfully leaving her baby on the steps of St. Clement's Church. Unbeknownst to her, Lenny Centino

is robbing that same church on the same night, with his attention particularly on the Church's diamond inlaid chalice. He finds a buggy outside the church and uses it for cover as he flees. Only later does he realize that his take for the night includes the infant Stellina (Italian for star). The narrative then abruptly moves ahead seven years. Clark's lottery-winning protagonists, Alvira and her husband Willy (introduced in *Weep No More, My Lady*) return for some amateur sleuthing. Sister Cordelia's thrift shop doubles as an after-school recreation place for neighborhood children (including a shy little girl named Star), but the building has been condemned. Bessie Maher had vowed she was leaving the house to the nun and her children. Now that she is gone, the will indicates that the tenants of the house, Vic and Linda Baker, are the true heirs. As December rushes on towards Christmas, Alvira struggles to put things right before the children are left in the cold. Like the best holiday stories, *All Through the Night* steers toward sentimentality, but it veers back on course with narrative wit and Alvira's charm. Clark's prose is lean and her plotting is brisk. This is a mystery that would be a pleasure to share aloud with a family gathered at the fireplace for some holiday cheer. --Patrick O'Kelley --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Following *Silent Night* (S. & S., 1995), Clark's second holiday tale of suspense and sentiment opens with a young unmarried woman leaving her newborn baby on the steps of a church on Manhattan's Upper West Side. At the same time, a young man steals the church's precious chalice. Both the child and the chalice then disappear, and it's up to Alvira, Clark's lottery winner turned sleuth, and husband Willy to solve the mystery. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Five stars well deserved. I enjoyed reading this book completely, it held my attention throughout. I've been a fan of Mary Higgins Clark for as long as I can remember. I've read all of her previous books and loved them all. I'm currently reading her most recent books right now. Keep them coming. I recommend this book to everyone.

loose ends. no mention of nonna at the end. The plot was way too far fetched, even for MHC. This won't stop me from reading her though, I still love her work, her characters and most of all her constant drive to keep her writing clean, never needing to use profanity.

It is a good Christmas story. It is also pretty cliché - bad guy, abandoned baby, good-hearted aunt,

great detective, and Christmas magic. We all know the plot and ending before the end of the first chapter. Mary Higgins Clark is a great author and she did a good job, but I was hoping for something with a little more twist and suspense.

Glad the good guys won again but I had no doubts since Alvira is a force to be reckoned with! I expect happy endings from her stories and so could enjoy this little thriller during the happy peaceful Christmas season.

Lovely story of faith, hope, and love. I recommend this as a great Christmas read. It is truly heartwarming and good for a book club to consider.

Her books are very easy to not put them down

A breath taking story full of love and faith... exactly the right novel to read in the days preceding Christmas!

Awesome

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