

AARY HIGGINS CLARK

Voices from the dead ...
Secrets from the past ...



BEFORE I SAY GOODBYE



YOU BELONG TO ME MARY HIGGINS-CLARK

Regina Clausen was forty-three, successful in her career but insecure and unfulfilled in her personal life. Travelling alone on the luxury liner Gabielle, she disembarked in Hong Kong saying she would rejoin the ship when it docked in Japan. She was never seen again...

Five years later, radio presenter Susan Chandler does a series about vanishing women on her radio talk show. When a caller, who refuses to identify herself, tells of meeting a man on a cruise who gave her a ring inscribed 'You Belong to Me', but then disappeared when she refused to leave the ship with him, she thinks little of it. But then Regina's mother appears at Susan's office with a ring bearing the same inscription which was found amongst her daughter's belongings, and Susan begins to suspect that they are on the trail of something dangerously sinister . . .

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WE'LL MEET AGAIN MARY HIGGINS-CLARK

Dr Gary Lasch is found dead at his desk and his beautiful young wife, Molly, is arrested and charged with his murder

Six years later, on Molly's release from prison, she reasserts her innnocence in front of reporters, gathered at the prison gates, a group that includes investigative reporter Fran Simmons. Determined to prove her innocence, Molly convinces Fran to research and produce a programme on Gary's death.

But Fran soon finds herself enmeshed in a tangled web of intrigue and menace and, as her investigation proceeds, there are those who know they must make a choice: face ruin, or eliminate Fran.

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Before I Say Goodbye

MARY HIGGINS CLARK



ET CONTRACTOR

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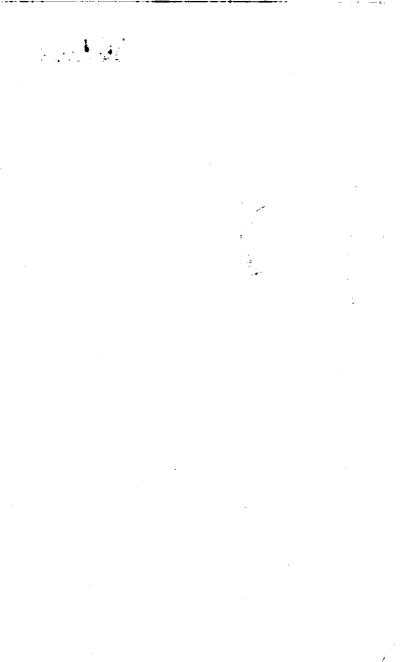
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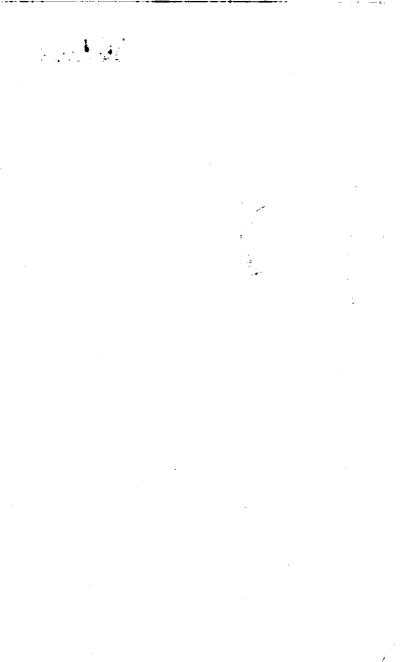
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Typeset by SX Composing DTP, Rayleigh, Essex Printed and bound in Great Britain by Omnia Books Ltd. Mary Higgins Clark is the author of twenty-two international bestsellers. She lives with her husband, John Conheeney, in Saddle River, New Jersey.



By Mary Higgins Clark

Before I Say Goodbye We'll Meet Again All Through the Night : You Belong to Me Pretend You Don't See Her My Gal Sunday Moonlight Becomes You Silent Night Let Me Call You Sweetheart The Lottery Winner Remember Me I'll Be Seeing You All Around the Town Loves Music, Loves to Dance The Anastasia Syndrome and Other Stories While My Pretty One Sleeps Weep No More, My Lady Stillwatch A Cry in the Night The Cradle Will Fall A Stranger Is Watching Where Are the Children?



Acknowledgments ₋

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Once again I joyfully quote the fifteenth-century monk. "The book is finished. Let the writer play."

P.S. To my friends—I'm available for dinner.

For Michael Korda
Dear Friend
and
Magnificent Editor
with
Many thanks for 25 wonderful years



Before I Say

Goodbye



Prologue.

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Nell MacDermott turned and began the swim back to shore. Her body tingled with youthful exhilaration as she looked about, taking in the glorious combination of the sun in the cloudless sky, the light, fresh breeze, the salty, foaming whitecaps breaking around her. She had been in Maui only an hour but already had decided that she liked it better than the Caribbean, which for the past several years was where her grandfather had taken the family for their annual post-Christmas vacation.

Actually, "family" seemed something of an exaggeration. This was the fourth year that their family had consisted of just her grandfather and herself. It had been five years ago when Cornelius MacDermott, legendary congressman from New York, had been called off the floor of the House of Representatives to be given the news that his son and daughter-in-law, both anthropologists on an expedition in the Brazilian jungle, had died in the crash of their small chartered plane.

He immediately had rushed to New York to pick up Nell at school. It was news that she had to hear from him. He arrived to find his granddaughter in the nurse's office, weeping.