

# MARY HIGGINS CLARK

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HIGGINS  
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# *The Cottery Winner*

ALVIRAH AND WILLY STORIES

NEW YORK • LONDON • TORONTO • SYDNEY • TOKYO • SINGAPORE



SIMON & SCHUSTER  
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BY MARY HIGGINS CLARK

*The Lottery Winner: Alvirah and Willy Stories*

*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?*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ALVIRAH MEEHAN made her debut—if you can call it that—as a character in my novel *Weep No More, My Lady*. A cleaning woman in her late fifties, she and her plumber husband, Willy, had won forty million dollars in the New York State Lottery. Alvirah immediately decided to satisfy her long held dream of going to the Cypress Point Spa and mingling with the celebrities who frequented it.

Unfortunately for Alvirah, she was too smart, got on the track of a killer and became a victim herself. In the early drafts of *Weep No More, My Lady*, poor Alvirah did not survive to the last page.

Then my daughter Carol Higgins Clark read the manuscript and protested, “You can’t do that. Alvirah is much too funny. Besides, haven’t you knocked off enough people in this book?”

“She has to die,” I said firmly.

But Carol was so persuasive that I brought Alvirah back from death’s door.

I’m certainly glad I did. I count her and Willy as dear friends. They are my only continuing characters, and now I hope you enjoy reading about their adventures as much as I enjoy writing about them.

Thanks, Carol.



For my siblings-in-law and friends,

June M. Clark and in memory of Allan Clark

Ken and Irene Clark

Agnes Partel and in memory of George Partel

Dear companions of my salad days,  
aren't we all still twenty-two?



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Closet*