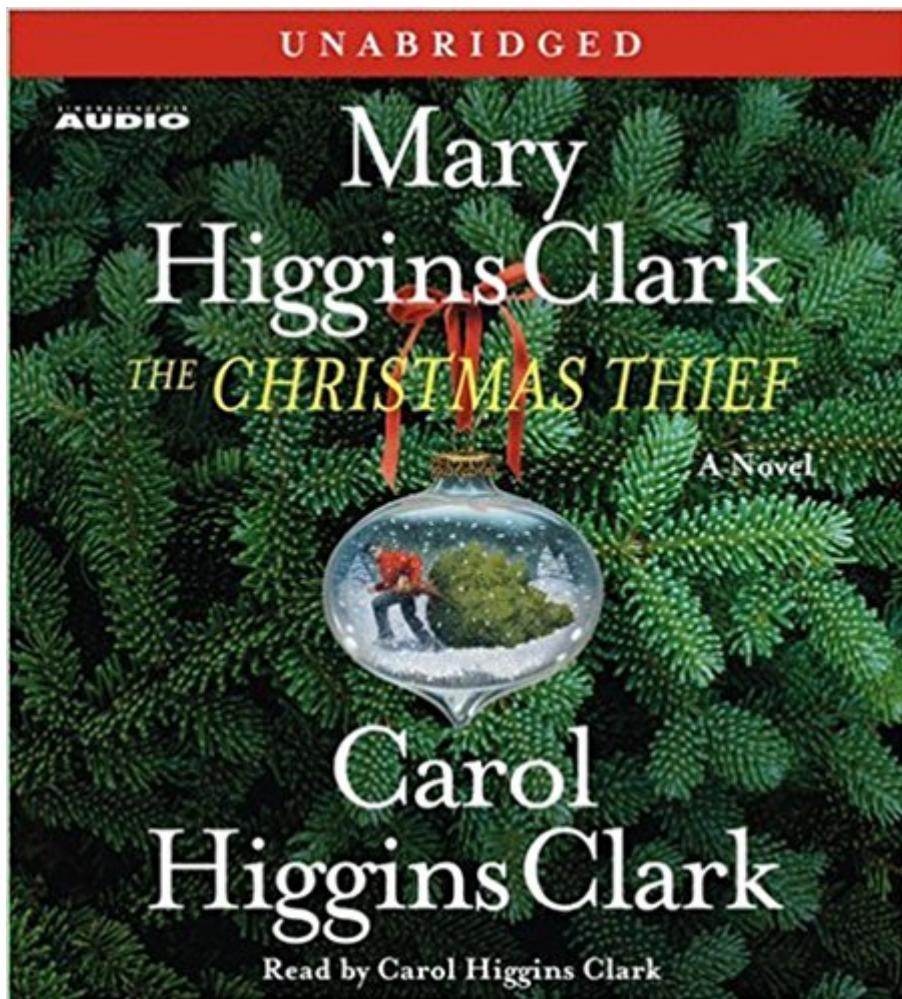


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# The Christmas Thief: A Novel



## **Synopsis**

A New York Times Bestseller Mary Higgins Clark, America's Queen of Suspense, and her daughter, bestselling mystery writer Carol Higgins Clark, have again joined forces to create a suspenseful and humorous holiday tale. Filled with intrigue, comic characters, and holiday cheer, The Christmas Thief is sure to delight its readers. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

Audio CD

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Unabridged edition (November 9, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 074354062X

ISBN-13: 978-0743540629

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 116 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,976,311 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( C ) > Clark, Mary Higgins #3117 in Books > Books on CD > General #3320 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

## **Customer Reviews**

Mother and daughter Clark, each a bestseller in her own right, have produced a singularly slight and unmemorable tale with their third holiday suspense novel (after 2001's *He Sees You When You're Sleeping*). This time the villainy centers on an 80-foot Vermont spruce earmarked for the traditional Christmas tree lighting at Rockefeller Center. Unbeknownst to the tree's owners, its branches contain millions of dollars' worth of diamonds, secreted there more than a decade earlier by con man Packy Noonan to conceal the proceeds of an investment scam. One of the scam's victims happens to be vacationing near the site of the planned tree-cutting, along with Alvirah and Willy Meehan, who successfully resolved a kidnapping in their previous caper. When Packy is finally paroled, he heads straight for the treasure, enmeshing him, his confederates, the Meehans and a bevy of other characters in vandalism, abduction and other crimes. Unfortunately, there's no mystery concerning who's doing what or why and little sense of menace or suspense. Classic mystery fans may be amused by the contemporary take on Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes story "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons," but many readers, including those devoted to the Clarks'

solo efforts, will be disappointed. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mary Higgins Clark's books are world-wide bestsellers. In the U.S. alone, her books have sold over 85 million copies. She is the author of twenty-seven previous suspense novels. Her first book, a biographical novel about George Washington, was re-issued with the title, Mount Vernon Love Story, in June 2002. Her memoir, Kitchen Privileges, was published by Simon & Schuster in November 2002. Her first children's book, Ghost Ship, illustrated by Wendell Minor, was published in April 2007 as a Paula Wiseman Book/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. She is co-author, with her daughter Carol Higgins Clark, of four holiday suspense novels Deck the Halls (2000), He Sees You When You're Sleeping (2001), The Christmas Thief (2004) and Santa Cruise (2006). Mary Higgins Clark was chosen by Mystery Writers of America as Grand Master of the 2000 Edgar Awards. An annual Mary Higgins Clark Award sponsored by Simon & Schuster, to be given to authors of suspense fiction writing in the Mary Higgins Clark tradition, was launched by Mystery Writers of America during Edgars week in April 2001. She was the 1987 president of Mystery Writers of America and, for many years, served on their Board of Directors. In May 1988, she was Chairman of the International Crime Congress. Carol Higgins Clark is the author of nine previous bestselling Regan Reilly mysteries. She is coauthor, along with her mother, Mary Higgins Clark, of a bestselling holiday mystery series. Also an actress, Carol Higgins Clark studied at the Beverly Hills Playhouse and has recorded several of her mother's works as well as her own novels. She received AudioFile's Earphones Award of Excellence for her reading of Jinxed. She lives in New York City. Her website is [www.carolhigginsclark.com](http://www.carolhigginsclark.com).

Christmas in Vermont. A great way to see the mountains and snow. A great story for a young person to read and enjoy.

This author has written novels that kept you trying to figure out things. Her great. (Although somewhat of a cliche) had always been the big twist towards the end. But this silly story, concocted for holiday sales does not have a bit of imagination, nor does it have any twists. It is all a silly story, predictable and with vacuum characters. You don't get to really know the characters, and it ends without glory. A very disappointing story. No brains, no subtleties....like the ode to the fruitfly

I've read most books by Mary Higgins Clark.

As with the other Christmas novels that Mary Higgins Clark & Carol Higgins Clark have written, this was a fun heartwarming Christmas story. I love all the books that pair Alvirah & Regan Reilly. I highly recommend this and all the other Christmas novels they've written together. If you are a fan of Alvirah Meehan and/or Regan Reilly, I'm sure you'll want to add this book to your reading list. I recommend that you take a little time around the Holidays to relax and read this book.

The Christmas Thief, Mary & Carol Higgins Clark's annual Christmas fluff, is, as usual, as fast and easy read. It is, however, quite forgettable once you've done reading. Alvirah Meehan, the former cleaning lady whose life was changed when she won the lottery, and her husband Willy are heading to Stowe, Vermont, for a long weekend with their friends Nora Reagan Reilly, the detective novelist, her funeral director husband, their detective daughter Reagan Reilly, and her fiancee Jack (no relation) Reilly. Alvirah invites her friend Opal, a lottery winner who gave her money to a con man and lost it all. Besides skiing, they are looking forward to watching the cutting down of the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree. Packy, the con man who has been in jail for the last twelve years, and his two henchmen Benny and JoJo are also heading there to retrieve a flask of diamonds, his ill-gotten gains from his scam, from the giant blue spruce where he hid it before he was apprehended and sent to prison. Naturally their paths cross and, of course, Alvirah, Reagan, and their families save the day. This is a short book, which isn't bad for an evening if there are no good programs on television or a brief car trip. I was not happy that we didn't see much of the Meehans or the Reillys. Opal is a sympathetic character, as is Milo, the "poet" who helped Packy and his gang but didn't know he was doing anything illegal. Packy is rather nasty, so it's good to see him get his comeuppance. And the tree's owners are too obsessive about the tree and its fate. That just doesn't ring true. I'm not sorry I bought the book, and the price was right, but it's nothing that will stick with me over the long run.

This is a story about a man who stole some diamonds when he was very young and hides them in a tree. He went to prison and when he got out he went to retrieve them. But the tree was suppose to become the famous tree in Rockefeller Square for Christmas. The crooks steal the tree and the story goes on from that point. Another very good book by Mary Higgins Clark.

Felt like I was a stranger invited into a family party. There were all these people who I didn't know and though references were made about them I finally just couldn't care enough to figure everyone

out. If you've read the entire series it might be o.k. just not my type of story.

I wonderful story and a mystery surrounding the Christmas tree for Rockefeller Center. How one tree almost didn't get there.

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