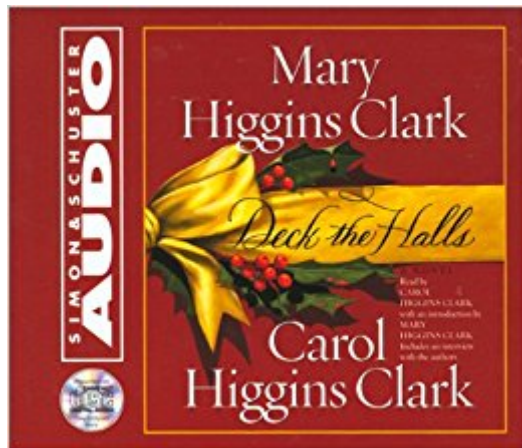


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# Deck The Halls



## Synopsis

Mary Higgins Clark, America's Queen of Suspense, and her daughter bestselling author Carol Higgins Clark, have joined forces for the first time to create a brilliant and exciting story of high-stakes intrigue and detection with a kidnapping laid out against a holiday setting. Three days before Christmas, Regan Reilly, the dynamic young sleuth featured in the novels of Carol Higgins Clark, meets Alvira Meehan, the famous lottery winner and amateur detective who has appeared in several books by Mary Higgins Clark, at a New Jersey dentist's office. Alvira is to accompany her husband home after a particularly grueling session, while Regan is there in hopes of connecting with her busy father, who is scheduled for a routine visit. Once it becomes apparent that Luke Reilly is not going to keep his appointment, Alvira offers the deeply troubled Regan a lift home. When a call comes through on Regan's cell phone telling her that her father and his driver, Rosita Gonzalez, are being held for \$1,000,000 ransom, Alvira insists that Regan allow her to lend a hand in trying to gain their release because Alvira has many valuable contacts in New York's law enforcement community. Jack Reilly, head of the NYPD Major Case Squad, is called back from his Christmas holiday to lead the investigation, after the laughably inept pair of kidnapers make known their demands. Deck the Halls is a heartwarming story filled with twists and turns, intrigue and danger, as well as a hearty dose of holiday cheer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

On her own, each Clark has written reliably entertaining mystery/thrillers that occasionally exhibit storytelling magic. The authors' first collaborationDwhich also sees a collaboration by their

respective publishers, as well as the teaming of two of their best-known sleuths. Dis only middling, however, though it will please their many fans. Three days before Christmas, Luke Reilly, who owns a string of funeral homes, and his young female driver, Rosita Gonzalez, are kidnapped for ransom. Luke is the husband of Nora Regan Reilly, a bestselling mystery writer based somewhat on Mary Higgins Clark; both are parents to Regan Reilly, Carol Higgins Clark's series detective (Twanged, etc.). Regan gets on the case at once, but she doesn't make much headway until she pairs up with Alvira Meegan, the cleaning woman who turned private eye after winning a \$40-million lottery in Mary Higgins Clark's *Weep No More My Lady*. (Here, Regan and Alvira make each other's acquaintance at a dentist's office.) Meanwhile, Luke and Rosita remain chained on a small boat offshore from New Jersey as their two bumbling kidnapers plan, execute and bobble a ransom run. The boat starts to sink. Will Luke and Rosita drown? There's probably not a reader alive who thinks they will, and it'll surprise no one when Regan and Alvira trip over clues as big as Christmas trees to save the day. But if the novel generates little suspense, it does go down like roasted chestnuts, and fans will greatly enjoy the pairing of two favorite detectives. Dand two popular writers. Din a lightweight but amiably lighthearted Christmas ornament of a book. (Nov. 1) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's Christmas time, but C. B. Dingle has no Christmas spirit. His departed Uncle Goodloe left his fortune to the Sod, Plant, Bloom, and Blossom Society, and Dingle is distraught. He's so upset, in fact, that he's bent on revenge. The plan is to kidnap Luke Reilly, owner of the funeral home that set dear old Uncle on the garden path. But Dingle's partner, Petey, accidentally drops the ransom in the drink (the East River, to be exact), which gives the assorted investigative types--including Reilly's daughter, the PI star of several Carol Higgins Clark novels, and Alvira Meehan, the amateur detective featured in a few Mary Higgins Clark books--a second chance to find dear Dad, which they do just in time. Happy Christmas to all. This first collaboration by the mother-daughter team is a lightweight bit of fluff that readers will speed through in no time. The writing styles mesh seamlessly, but the goofy goings-on and the coincidences (a detective name Jack Reilly--no relation!) add a layer of comedy that isn't quite in tune with the suspense, leaving readers to wonder if it's all supposed to be a big joke. No matter. Clark, the prolific mom, and Clark, the daughter, who now has several books to her credit, have enough loyal fans between them to gather a hefty readership, even if the product is a bit thin. Stephanie Zvirin Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As one who looks forward to any new Mary Higgins Clark book, I have to sadly admit that this was a disappointment. Being a lover of mysteries set at Christmas, I was totally captivated by her previous Christmas novella, "All Through The Night." This current one, while starting out on an interesting note (loved having Alvira connect with Regan Reilly), falls flat quickly due to the lack of suspense. Is there any reader who does not know from early into the book how this is going to turn out? The suspense is virtually non-existent. Also, Mary has gone to the kidnapping at Christmas plot once too often. It worked so well in "All Through the Night" because the reader was caught up in the suspense of the helpless infant being the victim. It's hard to muster the same level of concern for two adults who seem far wiser than their inept kidnapers. I've read all of MHC's books and this one goes on the bottom of my list when ranking favorites. But I hope she does another Christmas one in 2001; just want her to be more imaginative and suspenseful.

I have read several novels by Mary Higgins Clark, but none by her daughter Carol. They team up to write "Deck the Halls", which has Carol's series character, Regan Reilly, and Mary's character, Alvira Meehan, who has appeared in several of her novels. The novel centers around the kidnapping of Regan's father, Luke Reilly, and his driver just days before Christmas. Regan and Alvira team up to help solve the crime. The kidnapers follow a plot used by Regan's mother, Nora, who is a mystery writer. This is an enjoyable read, and is recommended for 3-4 hours of holiday fun.

I have been a fan of Mary HC for some time and believe I can always count on having a good read. She researches her stories well and is able to draw you into the plots and keep you interested until the very end. .

it so much better to listen to a story- I get so much more out of it- thanks so much,

Fun, light read.

As always mother and daughter work well together. It was a Christmas tale with drama.

I received this book in a prompt way and in very good condition. I haven't finished reading it yet but am enjoying it.

Great writer, good reading, great mystery story, and audio format is great for people like me who are sight impaired, or for riding in an auto,

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