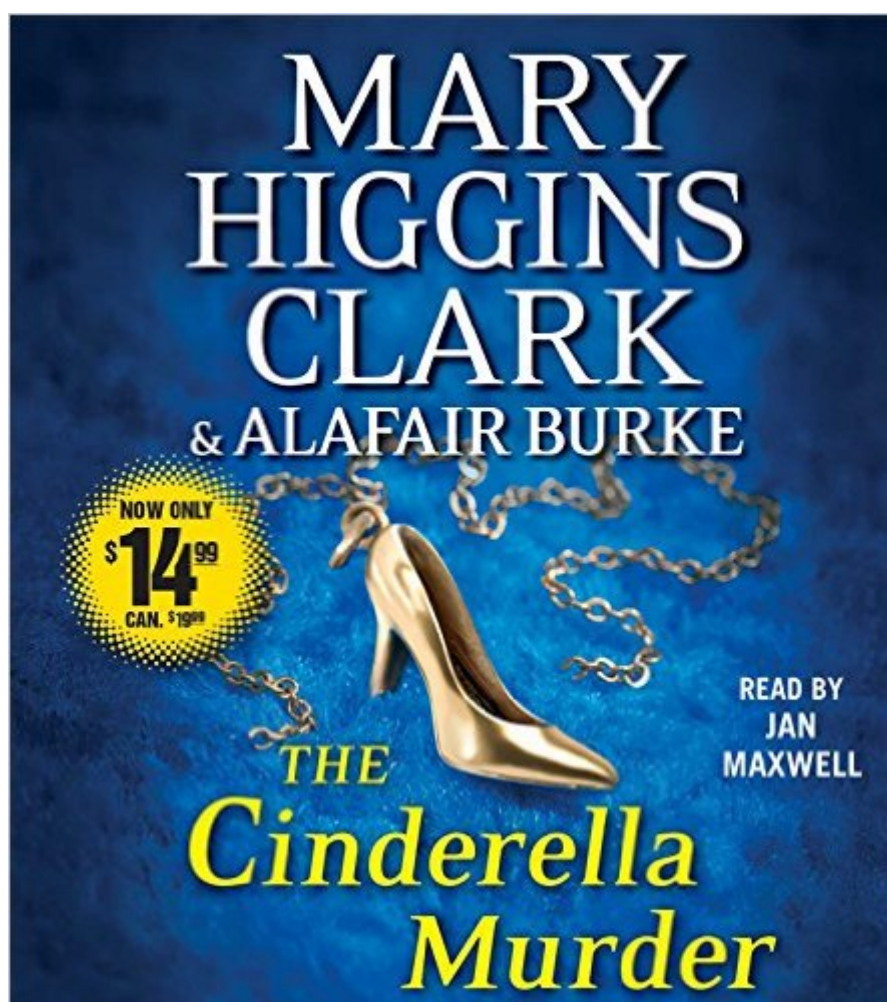


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The Cinderella Murder



Synopsis

This collaboration between the "Queen of Suspense" Mary Higgins Clark and bestselling author Alafair Burke, which Booklist says has "a snappy pace, layered characters, and many plot surprises will keep [listeners] guessing," is now available from Encore for a great value! Television producer Laurie Moran is delighted when the pilot for her reality drama, *Under Suspicion*, is a success. Even more, the program "a cold case series that revisits unsolved crimes by recreating them with those affected" is off to a fantastic start when it helps solve an infamous murder in the very first episode. Now Laurie has the ideal case to feature in the next episode of *Under Suspicion*: the Cinderella Murder. When Susan Dempsey, a beautiful and multi-talented UCLA student, was found dead, her murder raised numerous questions. Why was her car parked miles from her body? Had she ever shown up for the acting audition she was due to attend at the home of an up-and-coming director? Why does Susan's boyfriend want to avoid questions about their relationship? Was her disappearance connected to a controversial church? Was she close to her computer science professor because of her technological brilliance, or something more? And why was Susan missing one of her shoes when her body was discovered? With the help of *Under Suspicion* host Alex Buckley, Laurie knows the case will attract great ratings, especially when the former suspects include Hollywood's elite and tech billionaires. The suspense and drama are perfect for the silver screen—but is Cinderella's murderer ready for a close-up? Together Mary Higgins Clark and Alafair Burke deliver "a plenty of intrigue and excitement" (Publishers Weekly) in this exciting start to a new series that will keep you guessing until the final moment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a Mary Higgins Clark fan for decades, I found this book very disappointing. Perhaps MHC has lost her edge - or perhaps this was a collaboration that shouldn't have happened. I know nothing about the work of Alafair Burke, and I have no idea why MHC felt it necessary to collaborate on this book, but... it didn't work. What makes a Mary Higgins Clark book (typically) so un-put-downable is the suspense that is built up from the very earliest chapters. The tension keeps ratcheting up as the book progresses. But what is it that contributes to such suspense? First, there is a clearly defined potential victim. The heroine of a MHC book is always clearly defined from the beginning as "lady in jeopardy." Often, she doesn't know her peril, but the readers see it unfold. It's very clear, from the beginning, to whom the threat is aimed. Second, there is a clearly defined (though unidentified) villain. Part of the tension lies in seeing the plot progress from the villain's standpoint, as he comes closer to achieving his goal. We don't know who he is, of course, so we're left to guess amongst several possible suspects. But the dance between villain and victim keeps the tension going throughout the book, until we cannot imagine how our heroine will escape. In this book, it's never clear (until the end) just WHO the "victim" or person in jeopardy is. We can assume, just from the novel structure, that it must be Laurie, who is hosting the Under Suspicion show. But there is no reason to believe Laurie is in jeopardy (other than that she is the central character), and there is no "hidden" villain clearly watching Laurie, stalking Laurie, or otherwise signaling to the reader that Laurie is in peril.

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