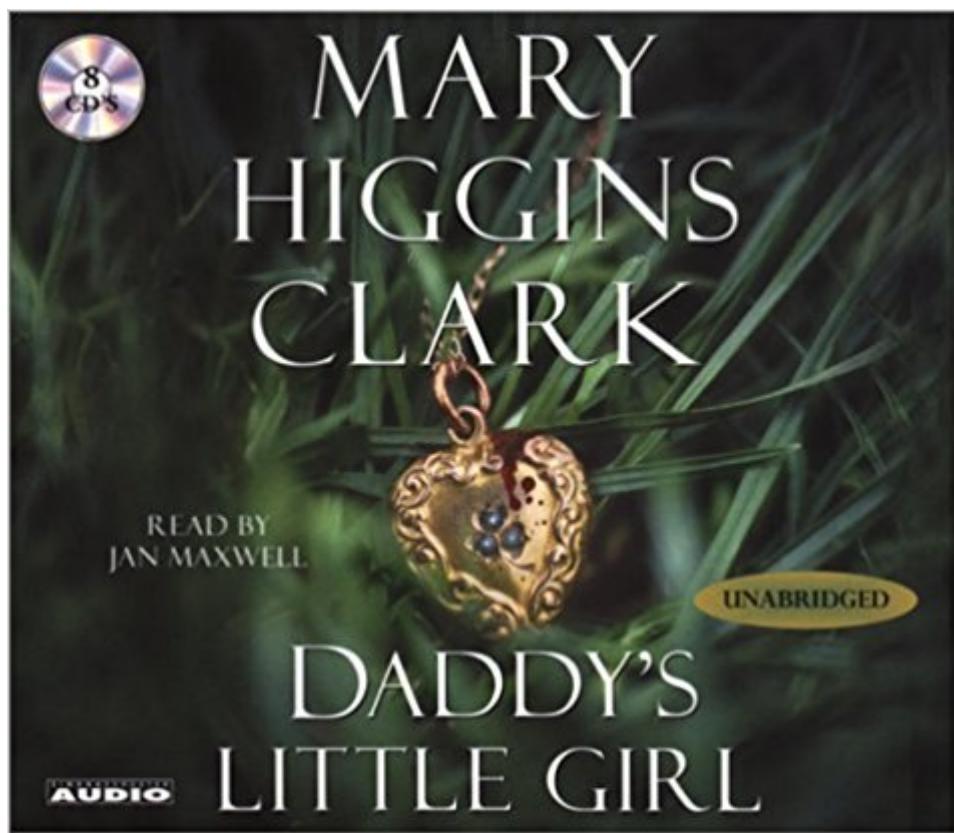


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## Daddy's Little Girl



## **Synopsis**

Ellie Cavanaugh was only seven years old when her fifteen-year-old sister, Andrea, was murdered near their home in a rural village in New York's Westchester County. There were three suspects: Rob Westerfield, nineteen-year-old scion of a wealthy, prominent family whom Andrea has been secretly dating; Paul Stroebel, a sixteen-year-old schoolmate, who had a crush on Andrea, and Will Nebels, a local handyman in his 40s. It was Ellie who had led her parents to a hideout in which Andrea's body was found -- a secret hideaway where she met her friends. And it was Ellie who was blamed by her parents for her sister's death for not telling them about this place the night Andrea was missing. Ellie's testimony eventually led to the conviction of the man she was convinced was the killer. Steadfastly denying his guilt, he spent the next twenty-two years in prison. When he comes up for parole, Ellie, now an investigative reporter for an Atlanta newspaper, protests his release. Nonetheless, the convicted killer is set free and returns to Oldham. Determined to thwart his attempts to whitewash his reputation, Ellie also returns to Oldham, intent on creating a Website and writing a book that will conclusively prove his guilt. As she delves deeper into her research, she uncovers horrifying and unknown facts that shed new light on her sister's murder. With each discovery, she comes closer to a confrontation with a desperate killer.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Writing in the first person a rarity for this veteran author has inspired and energized Clark. Her 21st novel of intrigue is her best in years, a tightly woven, emotionally potent tale of suspense and revenge. Clark's new heroine is Atlanta investigative journalist Ellie Cavanaugh, who was seven

when her sister, Andrea, 15, was beaten to death by 20-year-old Rob Westerfield, scion of the wealthiest family in a small Westchester town. Now Westerfield is up for parole, so Ellie, now 30, returns home to speak out against him. When Westerfield is released, Ellie begins to write a book aimed at re-proving his guilt. Digging for evidence, she uncovers clues that Westerfield may have committed another murder as a youth, but that digging also enrages the Westerfields and other town members who think the man was railroaded. Before long, Ellie's life is in danger, as someone breaks into the house she's staying in, then later sets fire to it, nearly killing her, and as Westerfield himself begins to shadow her moves. What makes this novel work isn't only the considerable tension Clark teases from Ellie's precarious position, but the thoughtful backgrounding to the action. Ellie is cast as a lonely woman, without a lover and estranged from her father and half-brother: will she accept one or the other into her guarded life?; and she carries a heavy load of guilt for her sister's death, wondering at times if she is blinded by her thirst for vengeance. With its textured plot, well-sketched secondary characters, strong pacing and appealing heroine, this is Clark at her most winning. (On sale, Apr. 16)Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

At the parole hearing for Donald Waring, Trish Duncan begins to wonder whether he was wrongly convicted of killing her sister 20 years ago. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Don't buy the kindle edition if you want to find out what happens in the end. The last chapter (epilogue I believe) is missing! I thought it ended rather abruptly until I read the other reviews and realized I was definitely missing something. Rip off.

I haven't read one of Mary's books in awhile. I had forgotten how well written her books are! I loved the story and wanted to read all the time! I couldn't put it down! You will absolutely love this one!

I've read every book Mary Higgins Clark has written. The last few I haven't really enjoyed including this one. The other reviewers have detailed the plot. This book didn't make sense to me. Why would the villain, Rob, after just being released from prison put himself in the position to land back in prison? He was aware of the other murder he committed. It seems to me he would have tried to live his life as quietly as possible. The premise is he wanted a new trial, even though he served all his required time, to clear his name. Clearing his name was important to him because it would allow him

to be reinstated in his wealthy grandmother's will. Great, but Rob WAS guilty of this murder as well as another murder that he was never even suspected of. Ellie, the heroine, became obsessed with PROVING his guilt only after Rob announced his desire for a new trial. Ellie's probing into Rob's background opened a can of worms. She discovered he committed another similar murder as well as attempted murder. Rob's purpose for wanting a new trial was to receive a \$100.000 inheritance from his grandmother. He was already wealthy. His parents were wealthy. He risked his guilty neck for another \$100,000. It doesn't make sense. He had much more to lose than to gain. I didn't like Ellie. She was very closed minded. Unfortunately, since the entire book was written from her perspective I couldn't like the book because I didn't like her. Finally, there was no suspense. You know early on Rob killed her sister. The rest of the book is Ellie digging up ever rotten thing Rob did as a teenager. The climax was a dud. Rob could have succeeded in hitting Ellie over the head with the tire iron and I could have cared less. Mary Higgins Clark has written some superior suspense novels. I would recommend any one of them up until she wrote "You Belong to ME" I've found in some of her recent novels I have actually liked the "bad guy", and hated to see him get caught. I'm sure that's not what the author intended.

Ellie Cavanaugh is an investigative reporter for an Atlanta newspaper. When she was just seven years old, her sister Andrea was brutally murdered by Rob Westerfield of the prominent Westerfield family in Westchester, New York. She was the one who found her sister's body and gave testimony to send Westerfield to prison. Twenty-two years have passed and Rob Westerfield is about to be paroled. During the original murder investigation, there were two additional suspects in Andrea's murder. Westerfield is now determined to clear his name and pin the murder on one of the two other suspects. Returning to Westchester, Ellie Cavanaugh creates a website and begins writing a book that will once again clearly define Westerfield's guilt and also prove he was the one and only true suspect. During her quest for answers, she places herself in harm's way and begins to uncover hidden information and dark secrets that tie in to her sister's murder. As the pieces of the puzzle fall into place and Ellie gets ever closer to cornering the killer, it leads to an intense and inevitable showdown. Being a fan of Mary Higgins Clark and having read almost all of her novels, I was a little surprised at her writing *Daddy's Little Girl* in the first person. I'd never seen this before in her other books. In my opinion, this writing style worked well here. Identifying with main characters went a little deeper than usual and the plot seemed to move at a faster and more involved pace. This might not be one of her best novels, but it's still a good read and Mary Higgins Clark shows she still has the formula for producing a suspenseful and entertaining mystery novel.

It doesn't matter how much money you have, you can't hide from your crimes. You will be found out and you will pay. I love the heroine, she never gave up the fight in proving who murdered her sister. Perseverance is everything.

This is book you will find hard to put down. A young child found her murdered sister in the neighbors garage. It goes on to tell the life of her sister and her life of danger as she is growing up. She knew who killed her sister and that puts her in danger and everyone who she stays with to put her sister's real killer behind bars for good.

I've only just rediscovered Mary Higgins Clark's superb suspense novels and I'm glad that I did. "Daddy's Little Girl" kept me guessing until the end of the book. You'll want to read this one in one or two sittings so that you can feel the tension building to an unbearable climax. I went back to the App and purchased two more of her novels immediately upon finishing "Daddy's Little Girl". I didn't want to go into Clark withdrawal. Read this book and I'm sure that you'll agree that her style and flair for suspense is addicting.

This book was, in my opinion, poorly written. Especially when you consider that this author has written dozens of books. She describes in minute detail every single action of the main character yet there is something missing. The characters don't seem to have any depth to them at all. She takes you through the story with all these details then suddenly and abruptly the story ends! No real closure to a lot of the details of the story. I don't know if I can recommend wasting your time reading this particular book from this author.

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