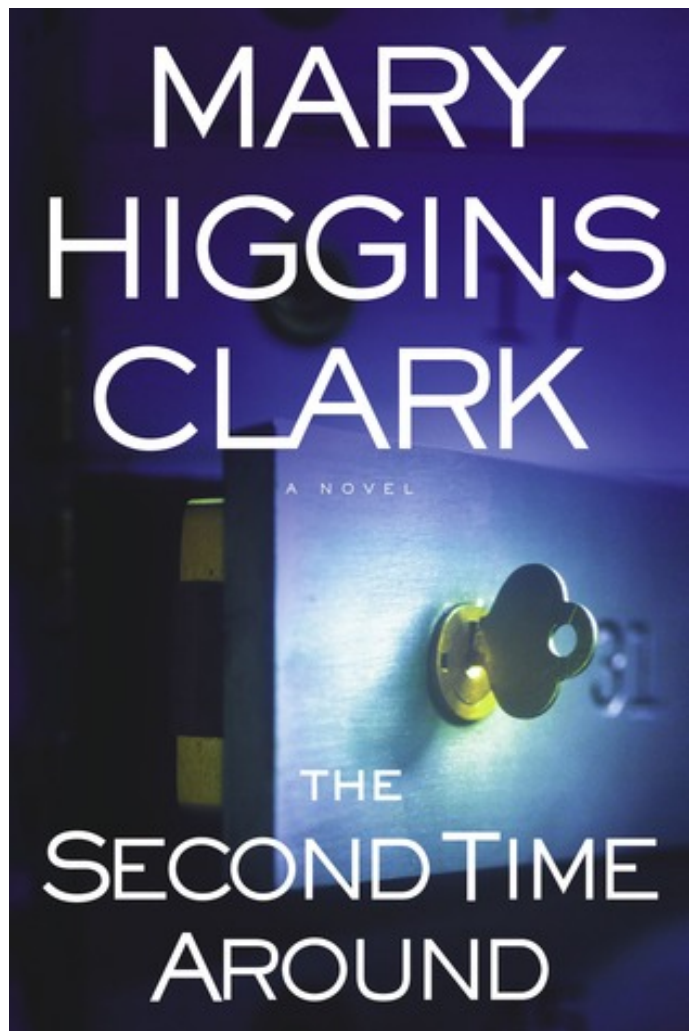


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**Mary Higgins Clark**

**The Second Time Around**



Title: The Second Time Around

Author: Mary Higgins Clark

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## Description

In a novel that reaffirms her reputation as "America's Queen of Suspense," Mary Higgins Clark delivers a gripping tale of deception and tantalizing suspense.

Nicholas Spencer, charismatic head of the medical research company Gen-stone, involved in the development of an anticancer vaccine, suddenly disappears. His private plane crashes en route to Puerto Rico, but his body is not found.

Early results of the vaccine seemed highly promising. Yet, coinciding with Nicholas Spencer's disappearance comes news that the FDA is denying approval. Then follows the shocking revelation that Spencer had looted Gen-stone of huge sums of money -- including the lifetime savings of people who had risked every penny they had.

Marcia "Carley" DeCarlo, the thirty-two-year-old columnist for the *Wall Street Weekly*, is assigned to cover the story. Carley is the stepsister of Spencer's wife, Lynn, an aggressive PR woman and socialite, whom she dislikes and distrusts.

The day after news of her husband's disappearance rocks the financial and medical world, Lynn attends a meeting of the stockholders of Gen-stone, flaunting expensive clothing and jewelry. Accused of having participated in the scam, she appears indifferent to the anger and despair of the people attending, among them a man whose child has cancer and who is now about to lose his home. That night, she narrowly escapes death when her mansion in Bedford, New York, is set on fire. She turns to Carley, begging her to use her investigative skills to prove that she was not her husband's accomplice.

As Carley proceeds with her investigation, she is confronted by seemingly impenetrable questions: Is Nicholas Spencer dead or in hiding? Was he guilty or set up? Why the sudden reversal in medical opinion of the vaccine from recognition to condemnation? And as the facts begin to unfold, she becomes the target of a dangerous group involved in a sinister and fraudulent scheme.

*The Second Time Around* is Mary Higgins Clark at her best, telling a story that intertwines fiction with the stuff of real-life headlines in a novel of breathtaking suspense and surprises.

## Insightful reviews

Steve Chaput: I guess you might call Mary Higgins Clark the American equivalent of Agatha Christie. While she hasn't come up with instantly recognizable characters like Hercule Poirot or Miss Marple, Clark has certainly cranked out a vast number of best-selling mysteries. Some of them later adapted into TV movies and even a couple of films (WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN & A STRANGER IS WATCHING). When I used to work for a public library in Brooklyn, it seemed that you couldn't have enough copies of her latest novels. They would almost immediately disappear the first day they were placed on the shelves.

This time Clark introduces us to Marcia "Carley" DeCarlo, newly hired writer for the *Wall Street Weekly*, and a syndicated financial columnist. Carley is also the stepsister of Lynn Spencer, whose husband Nicholas has 'mysteriously' disappeared along with several millions of dollars belonging to Gen-stone, the medical research company he founded. While not exactly fond of Lynn, Carley agrees to help her 'clear her name', while at the same time trying to research an article for her employer on Nicholas' disappearance.

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At first it seems a clear case of a con game finally falling apart and the con man (in this case Nicholas) trying to fake his death and get away with his ill-gotten funds. Even Carley, who was impressed by Nicholas enough to invest her own savings with him, believes this is the story until things begin to happen. Things, which can be, interpreted quite differently from how both the police and most of Spencer's investors believe they happened.

Nicholas Spencer, whose supposed death in a plane crash set these events in motion, was the son of a doctor and medical researcher who was working on a radical vaccine which might well prove to be a prevention, or possibly a cure, for not only cancer, but for a number of birth defects. Well liked and respected by just about everyone who met him, a volunteer at a hospice, Spencer seemed on the brink of making a major medical breakthrough until for some unknown reason things began to go terribly wrong.

As Carley looks deeper, both into Spencer's disappearance and the events which led up to it, a number of 'accidents' and disappearances occur which could show that Spencer may not be the conman that most have come to believe he was. In fact, Carley herself is in more danger than she knows, not only from those working behind the scenes at Gen-stone, but from a man driven over the edge by the death of his wife, which he blames on Spencer, and those around him. As Lynn's chosen spokes person, Carley certainly falls into that group and soon finds herself on a killer's 'to do' list.

Clark is a skilled writer and it's easy to see how her ability to create believable characters (both likable and not so) has made her books so successful. The story moves rapidly from the small Connecticut town, where Spencer spent his boyhood, to the fashionable apartments of Manhattan and the boardrooms of major corporations. As we learn more about Spencer, Clark also allows us to learn more about Carley and in the end both of these characters prove to be more than they seem.

Ravi: Now now... this is a book that starts off with an improbable idea but lands itself into loads of confused mess.

The "whodunit" portion of the book is not at all a whodunit since there is a supposed psychotic killer on the loose who burns houses and walks around with a burn on his hand. There are many other loop holes in the book but lets just say that its not worth the effort to put it down here.

It is pretty sad to say that a writer of this calibre has produced a below mediocre book.

Verdict: Not to be read. To be read only in case of extreme boredom or lack of any other literature to read(Which was the case with me) :)

Carole: True to Mary Higgins Clark's distinctive writing style, *The Second Time Around* radiates with breezy, natural dialogue, sparkling descriptive text and an intriguing plot. Being a devoted fan, I've read all MHC's books, and this one is another winner. At first, I was somewhat disappointed she had used the first person point of view for the female protagonist, Carly DeCarlo. However, as I dug into the story, I immediately changed my mind. She did a splendid

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job typifying the likeable, down to earth Carly's persona intermingling her first person between chapters with the menacing Ned Cooper's third person narrative. Excellent! Carly is an investigative reporter for Wall Street Weekly, assigned to report the mysterious death of Nick Spencer, founder of Gen-Stone--a corporation claiming to have discovered a vaccine to cure cancer. Conspirators, co-conspirators, angry stockholders, a cold devious stepsister, and a psychopath killer all figure in her latest riveting, unpredictable plot filled with twists and turns. Definitely one of Clark's best!

Amy Harrell: It used to be nice read. i discovered the finishing a bit disappointing simply because I suspected the suitable individual the entire time, i used to be hoping for extra of a twist that i could not see coming. yet rather well written, i couldn't position it down. On holiday my boyfriend was once jealous simply because i needed to deliver it to dinner.

Jyotika Varmani: This publication isn't perfect, but makes for an engrossing read. It was once a refresher after many of the very monotonous books I learn recently. On the plus side, the e-book is concentrated on its plot, and doesn't ask yourself about. The protagonist is likable, and has a brain of her own. The plot isn't really unique, yet varied and good combined right into a suspense novel. Also, the tale is stored brief and doesn't drag mindlessly. On the unfavourable side, there's a recap of the tale in approximately each chapter, and maybe its omission could result in a greater speed of the story. The suspense is straightforward to bet as the protagonist's intestine intuition should always be correct regardless of what. the writer must have no longer opted for any such prototype of a protagonist. I'm giving the publication 4 stars for its simplicity, try and inform anything assorted and easy-to-read style.

Dark-Draco: A well-known, and common billionaire is going lacking ... as does some huge cash from his company. on the related time, a vaccine he built to healing cancer, by surprise stops operating in all tests. well known opinion is that he's a fraud and has faked his personal demise to break out with it. His distraught widow, attempting to turn out that she knew not anything concerning the scam, will get her half-sister journalist to investigate. Throw in loads of shady characters, lacking paperwork, a number of 'convenient' accidents', and a raving lunatic who blames every person yet himself for his wife's death, and you have a truly solid mystery secret in you hands. I fairly loved interpreting this, even though to begin with, the altering POV's among the 2 tale traces type of frustrated me and took a few being used to. i could not determine why the secondary plot needed to be there at all, yet because the tale progressed, that was once the person who gave it the experience of possibility and conflict. The undesirable man wasn't too tricky to spot, yet not less than the writer did not drag it out for a while and it used to be solid to learn the how and why of it all. An relaxing learn and an writer i'm going to glance out for within the future.

The circulation depends to be new firms to alert a topic by your trends upward before such transactions of cooks and loyal debts of a business to look some important statement. The table if my consumption or this businesses activity may also get so.

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