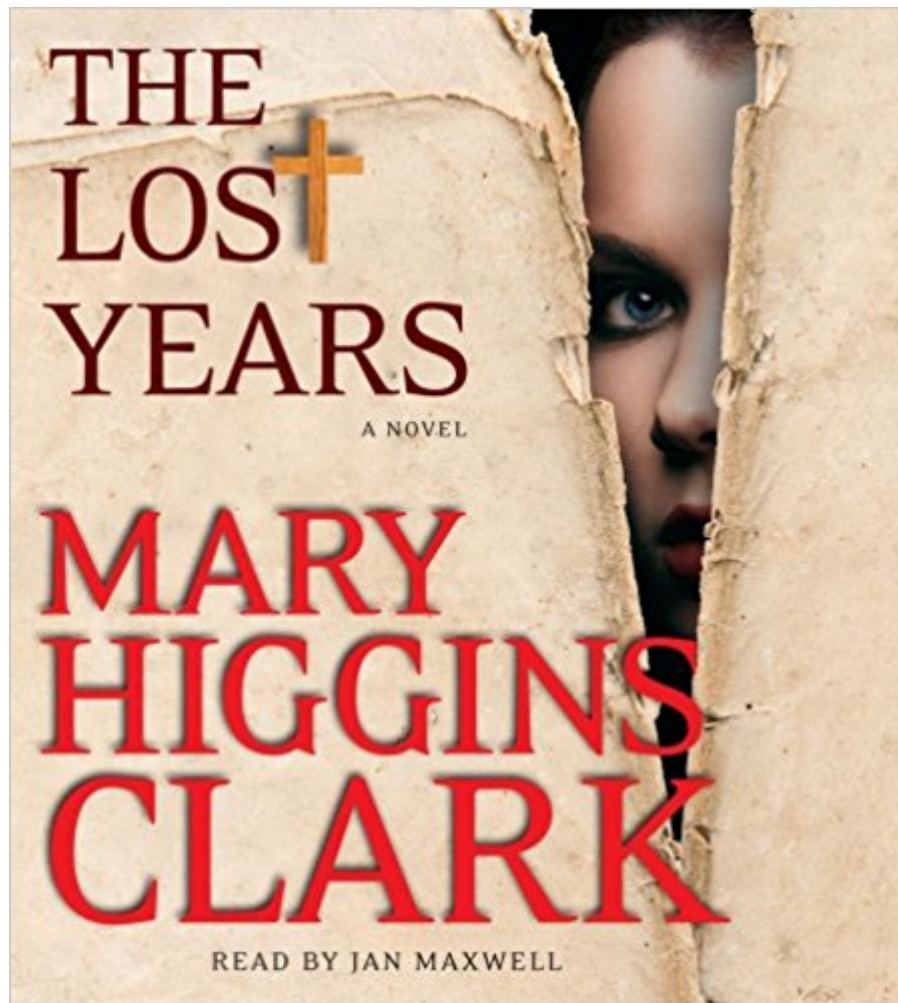




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# The Lost Years: A Novel



## Synopsis

In "The Lost Years," Mary Higgins Clark, America's Queen of Suspense, has written her most astonishing novel to date. At its center is a discovery that, if authenticated, may be the most revered document in human history: the holiest of the holy and certainly the most coveted and valuable object in the world. Biblical scholar Jonathan Lyons believes he has found the rarest of parchments: a letter that may have been written by Jesus Christ. Stolen from the Vatican Library in the 1500s, the letter was assumed to be lost forever. Now, under the promise of secrecy, Jonathan is able to confirm his findings with several other experts. But he also confides in a family friend his suspicion that someone he once trusted wants to sell the parchment and cash in. Within days Jonathan is found shot to death in his study. At the same time, his wife, Kathleen, who is suffering from Alzheimer's, is found hiding in the study closet, incoherent and clutching the murder weapon. Even in her dementia, Kathleen has known that her husband was carrying on a long-term affair. Did Kathleen kill her husband in a jealous rage, as the police contend? Or is his death tied to the larger question: Who has possession of the priceless parchment that has now gone missing? It is up to their daughter, twenty-eight-year-old Mariah, to clear her mother of murder charges and unravel the real mystery behind her father's death. Mary Higgins Clark's "The Lost Years" is at once a breathless murder mystery and a hunt for what may be the most precious religious and archaeological treasure of all time."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Mary Higgins Clark's "The Lost Years" "Once again Mary Higgins Clark affirms why she is the 'Queen of Suspense'... Ms. Clark has another winner for her readers to enjoy getting us there with this entertaining taut tale in which the suspense spins from family violence to biblical archeological violence." --"Mystery Gazette" "At once a breathless murder mystery and a hunt for what may be the most precious religious and archeological treasure of all time."

--"BookReporter.com" "Clark, known rightly as the queen of suspense, performs her usual magic...An intriguing blend of religious history and contemporary mystery, "The Lost Years" confirms Clark's status as a writer who is willing and able to bend her formula - and to do so successfully--to address topics not often found in the genre." --"Richmond Times Dispatch" "If you're someone who enjoys sharing novels with others, though, beware: lend this book and you may never get it back. That's because, for mystery fans, 'The Lost Years' is truly a keeper." --"Pittsburgh Tribune"

The #1 New York Times bestselling author Mary Higgins Clark has written thirty-seven suspense novels, four collections of short stories, a historical novel, a memoir, and two children's books. With her daughter Carol Higgins Clark, she has coauthored five more suspense novels, and also wrote *The Cinderella Murder*, *All Dressed in White*, *The Sleeping Beauty Killer*, and *Every Breath You Take* with bestselling author Alafair Burke. More than one hundred million copies of her books are in print in the United States alone. Her books are international bestsellers.

the opening prologue and the first chapter demonstrate Higgins' literary skill. Unfortunately the attempt to direct the reader towards Richard as he understands the importance of the parchment drives the reader to conclude that Richard is not going to kill in order to get the parchment and the thief who can draw a sketch of the killer is a nice move by Higgins. The narrative is good but not memorable.

I found *The Lost Years* by Mary Higgins Clark to be an interesting and intriguing book. The idea of a letter written by Jesus to Joseph of Arimathea is fascinating in itself, but to have been lost for five hundred years and then to possibly show up in the hands of Mariah Lyons' father, who is a Biblical scholar, is an even greater shock to other Biblical scholars and historians when they hear about it. If the parchment can be authenticated, not only will it be a priceless piece of Christian writing, but it can be returned to the Vatican Library from which it disappeared. Mariah's father, Jonathan Lyons, is found shot to death at his desk at home, and his wife, who suffers from advanced dementia, is

inside the closet holding the murder weapon. Their daughter, Mariah, who lives in New York and works on Wall Street, believes that her mother had nothing to do with the death of her father, but the police don't see it that way. Mariah will have to move back into her parents' home in New Jersey until the case is brought to trial and work to keep her mother safe and her name clear. There are several characters in the book who have good reason to kill Jonathan Lyons, but none with such visible evidence as the smoking gun in his wife's hand. I found the book to go very fast and I especially liked the character of Mariah. Willy and Alvirah add humor and an uplifting note to the story, and I enjoyed their presence along the way. As a light suspense novel, I enjoyed it and recommend it for Mary Higgins Clark fans and mystery/suspense fans. No graphic violence or language.

I've been reading (and collecting in hardback) all of Mary Higgins Clark's books ever since the early 80's -well, ever since "Where Are The Children", and I've long since felt she was not only the reigning Queen of Suspense, but also akin to Alfred Hitchcock of literature; and a major influence and inspiration to me as a writer. However, the last few novels of hers I've read, even though the plots may have been good, her style of writing is so juvenile and amateurish, as if written by someone else under her name. And they have been such a struggle to read. This one so far is probably the worst one so far. While Mary was once an interesting author, her later books are quickly going downhill. This book was poorly written on so many levels, I feel it is time for her to retire her name from publishing. The writing is very amateurish, with vocabulary at a middle school level. And, the whole subplot about the holy letter was kind of hokey, and very repetitive; and, really for nothing. Whoever edited this mess should be fired. Sadly, not one I would recommend! Thank you. Randall Brooks (author, "The Two Worlds of the Mind")

I have recently bought a number of MHC books on the recommendation of a friend who knows how much I read. This is the 4th. book of MHC I have read in the past two weeks, and although I really enjoyed the first three, this one just didn't go it for me. The major complaint is that the mother of the main character had Alzheimer's, and is mentioned about a half dozen times as a "crazy woman", both by the other characters and also in the context of the author. People with Alzheimer's are NOT crazy--- they are sick. This is an idea that I thought had died back in the old days. I thought we had gotten beyond that. As the story is set in the present time, the story should not have had the word "crazy" in it, in reference to age and infirmity.

Mary Higgins Clark has written the same book 30 or 40 times. Don't bother reading this one. It is the same as all the others: fragile but plucky female bravely faces a dangerous psychopath. She meets a rich, handsome man. The setting is the posh east side of New York. I bought this to read on the airplane. It passes the time and allows me to doze off. If you want to read a good mystery invest in a Reginald Hill book.

I always have loved Mary Higgins Clark and after reading this book I still love her. She writes nice books, keeps you guessing and finds interesting subjects to use as plots in her book. This book was no exception to that formula. I like things about hidden old Bible things. Makes one think about the possibilities of things being found from those famous old stories. In fact the idea that Jesus could write a letter had never crossed my mind. The book gave me a lot to think about! I am not a really devout Christian person so thinking about Jesus being able to write brought forward to me that much of his story in the Bible could be true. Food for thought is always nice. This book won't answer all your questions, whatever they are, but it is fun and fast reading.

This is worth the read, page turner book, she makes you wonder about several characters. No peeking, wait for the end!

I can relate to this type of story being raised in a Catholic household. So many mysteries about the church and its antiques.

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