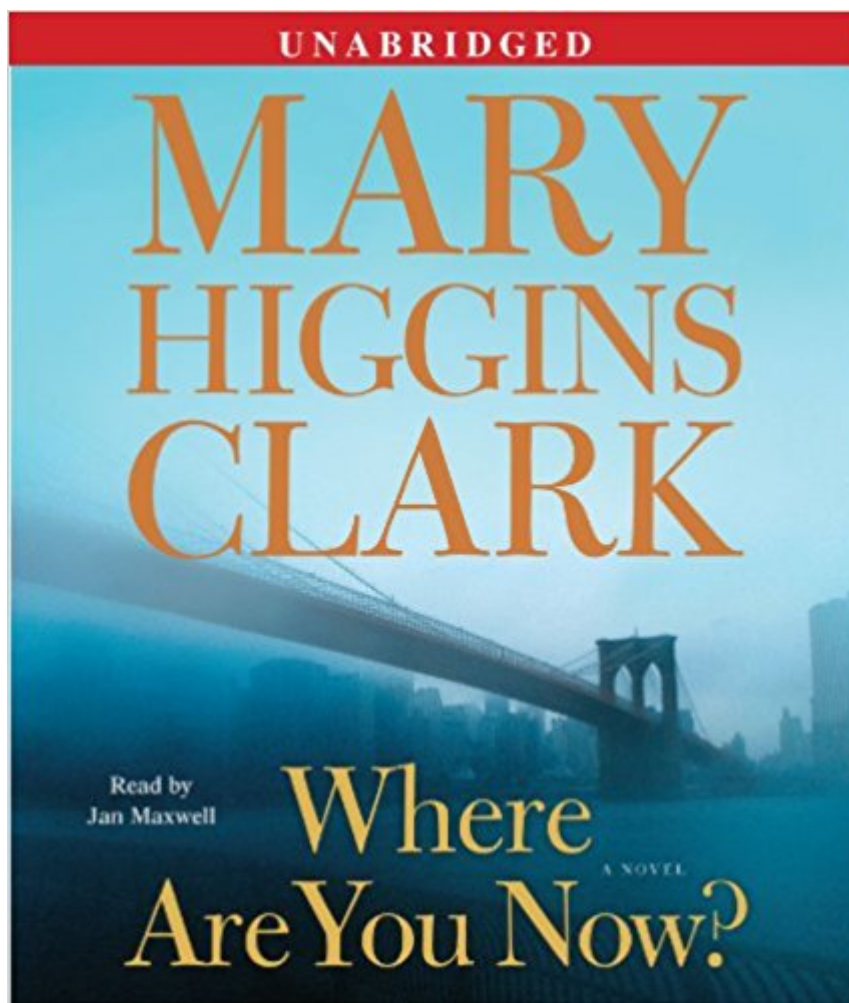




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Where Are You Now?: A Novel



Synopsis

It has been ten years since 21-year-old Kevin MacKenzie, Jr. ("Mac"), has been missing. A Columbia University senior, about to graduate and already enrolled in Duke University Law School, he walked out of his room in Manhattan's Upper West Side without a word to his college roommate and has never been seen again. However, he does make three ritual phone calls to his mother every year: on her birthday, on his birthday, and on Mother's Day. Each time, he assures her he is fine, refuses to answer her frantic questions, then hangs up. Even the death of his father, a corporate lawyer, on 9/11 does not bring him home, or break the pattern of his calls. Mac's sister Carolyn is now 26, a law school graduate, and has just been hired as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan. She has endured two family tragedies -- her brother's inexplicable disappearance, and the loss of her father. Realizing that neither she nor her mother will ever be able to have closure and get on with their lives until they find her brother, she sets out to discover what happened to Mac, and why he has found it necessary to hide from them. Her journey into the world of people who willingly disappear from their own lives leads her to learn about others who may or may not still be alive, and ultimately to a deadly confrontation with someone close to her who suddenly becomes an enemy -- and cannot allow her to disclose his secret...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mary Higgins Clark's latest novel is a well-paced thriller sure to please longtime fans. However, Jan Maxwell's reading is uninspired and sluggish. Her voice rarely diverts from the monotone droning that dominates most of this tale. There is little attempt to relate the underlying tension that Clark has

layered throughout the story, and Maxwell offers little in the way of character development. The result is disappointing; an unenthused experience that will turn many listeners away thanks to a nuance-free performance from this Broadway star. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"An imaginative tale of murder and deceit...will keep readers guessing to the nail-biting conclusion."
-- "Publishers Weekly"

I love all of Mary Higgins Clark books and have pretty much, her whole collection. She writes very well and grips you early on to keep you reading! She is such a good writer with always a very good plot, that she does not have to use profanity or the like to keep you intrigued. Her books can be read by any one in the family without any parental discretion.

In the book *Where Are You Now*, we are introduced to numerous characters, all playing various degrees of importance in the story. As is common with many of her books, Clark likes to write with multiple points of view. She has many chapters in the book, each chapter jumping from one character to another. She will even jump into the mind of the villain. Clark is very careful with this though. You have to pay attention and read the villain parts, quick as they are, to even be able to guess who it is. Clark does an outstanding job of keeping readers guessing until the very end. No wonder she is called the Queen of Suspense. *Where Are You Now?* starts out with Carolyn and her mother waiting on Mother's Day for the yearly call from Mack, Carolyn's older brother who disappeared ten years ago and only calls once every year, on Mother's Day. He never stays on the phone for longer than one minute. One day, Carolyn gets tired of the calls and on the yearly Mother's Day call, she yells to him that she will find him and put an end to the misery her and her mother have dealt with the past ten years. Carolyn's father, who was alive when Mack went missing, died in 9/11 and the coping of two lost individuals is becoming too much for both mother and daughter to bear. During the Sunday Mass, there is a note left in the basket for Carolyn's uncle that warns Carolyn to not come looking for him. This does nothing to deter Carolyn, but it does finally put Carolyn's mother to rest about worrying for Mack. When Carolyn's mother leaves on a cruise, Carolyn takes it upon herself to reopen the investigation. But, in doing so, she reopens the cases of 3 other missing women from the past 10 years, including the murder of Mack's acting teacher. Then, another young woman goes missing, Leesey Andrews. With Carolyn's own searching, she has caught not only police attention, but the love interest again of Mack's friend Nick, who has his own

reasons for not wanting police attention and using her to deter it. Carolyn begins to play detective and speaks with the building superintendents where Mack lived with two roommates when he did disappear and learns that all is not as it seems there. The building manager, Bruce Galbraith, wants nothing to do with the investigation for fear of a ruined reputation of not only that building, but all the other properties he owns as well. Bruce has to deal with his nephew, who he feels is incompetent and his assistant, Howard Altman. Elliot Wallace becomes her mom's new love interest and also the executor of Carolyn's and Mack's trust funds from her mom's inheritance. As Carolyn searches, she uncovers secrets about Mack that many people never knew. Before she knows it, Mack has been framed with the murder of the three women, as well as the abduction of Leesey Andrews, who now promises Mack's pattern of calling every mother's day. Carolyn races to stop the accusations against Mack and to clear his name. Will she get the help she needs, or will the detectives stop at nothing to tarnish Mack's name, and hers in the process? Or will she become another victim in a madman's quest to end the game forever?

Impressive! I read this book in a day and a half. It was hard to put down. I didn't figure out who the villain was until near the end. It was a bit disappointing that so many people died. The only negative aspect for me was that I had trouble keeping the characters straight. The plot was exciting and kept me interested throughout the book.

Ten years ago, Charles MacKenzie, Jr., (Mack) disappeared suddenly, and for no apparent reason. But every year on Mother's Day, he calls to report that he is all right. Except in this last call, his sister Carolyn, a young lawyer, takes the phone and says that she is determined to find him. The next day, a note, supposedly from Mack, is placed in the offering basket at the neighborhood church, urging Carolyn not to look for him. As Carolyn begins searching in earnest, a young woman goes missing after leaving a club in the Village called The Woodshed, owned by Nick DeMarco, who was one of Mack's college roommates. Suddenly police are starting to look more closely at other disappearances, and soon both Nick, and possibly even Mack, are under suspicion. *Where Are You Now?: A Novel* is a page-turning mystery that had me guessing all the way through. I had my suspicions about some of the characters, but it wasn't until nearly the end that I realized who was behind everything that had happened. Carolyn was a likeable character, and I even warmed up to her friend Nick, despite the suspicions of the police. At one point, they were even suspicious of Carolyn. I enjoy books that surprise me with twists and turns, and this one did that. There were a few predictable elements, but I enjoyed the book enough to award 4.0 stars.

It's been a while since I read any MHC books, due to cost only ... I have always enjoyed her mysteries and this was no exception. Calls only on Mother's day is the tension builder ... it seems that a beloved brother and son has gone missing but calls once a year to let the family know he is still alive in this world. This leads his sister to dig deeper finally after 10 years of watching her family struggle and hinge their lives on this once a year occurrence. Ms Clark weaves her story with intrigue and suspense that culminates in a spectacular twist. A Must Read!

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