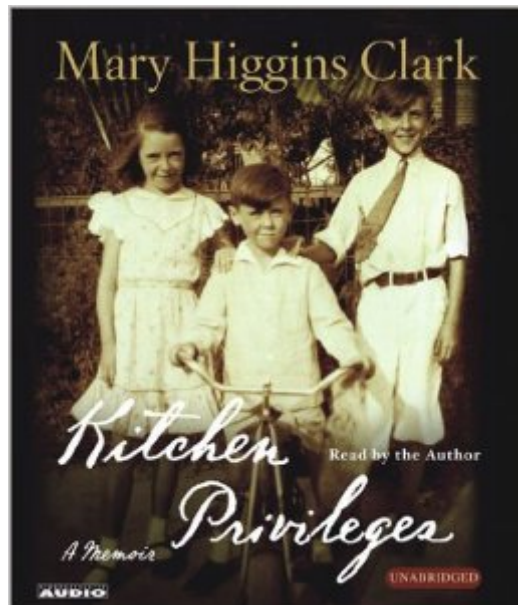


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# Kitchen Privileges: Memoirs Of A Bronx Girlhood



## Synopsis

Even as a young girl, growing up in the Bronx, Mary Higgins Clark knew she wanted to be a writer. The gift of storytelling was a part of her Irish ancestry, so it followed naturally that she would later use her sharp eye, keen intelligence, and inquisitive nature to create stories. Along with all Americans, citizens of the Bronx suffered during the Depression. So when Mary's father died, her mother opened the family home to boarders and placed a discreet sign next to the front door that read, "Furnished Rooms. Kitchen Privileges." The family's struggle to make ends meet; her days as a scholarship student in an exclusive girls academy; the death of her beloved older brother in World War II; her marriage to Warren Clark; writing stories at the kitchen table; finally selling the first one for one hundred dollars, after six years and forty rejections -- all these experiences figure into Kitchen Privileges. Her husband's untimely death left her a widowed mother of five young children. Determined to care for her family and to make a career for herself, she wrote scripts for a radio show. In her spare time she began writing novels. *Where Are The Children?* became an international bestseller and launched her career. When asked if she might consider giving up writing for a life of leisure, Mary has replied, "Never. To be happy for a year, win the lottery. To be happy for life, do what you love."

## Book Information

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,719,164 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \( C \) > Clark, Mary Higgins](#) #2721 in [Books > Books on CD > Biographies &](#)

[Memoirs](#) #5553 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#)

## Customer Reviews

I bought this for my teenage niece. She has worn out the cassette tapes of this book. She has some learning disabilities and this book seems to lessen the stress for her after a hard day at school.

In *Kitchen Privileges*, suspense writer Mary Higgins Clark writes about her formative years and the first half of her adult life. She does this through a series of vignettes and stories, showing the places, people and experiences that influenced her. Her tone is honest, but modest, and often funny. Sometimes it assumes the tone of someone recollecting their favorite scenes from life, scenes which have a lot of meaning to the teller, but not so much to the listener. But Clark's spirit dances throughout the memoir, a spirit that gave her the persistence to continue writing despite years of rejections, to write, work and raise five children, to pursue her interests and values in an era where women were not given much freedom, and to continue to find joy even after the deaths of her parents, husband, brother-in-law, and all siblings. The audio CDs are read by Clark herself, making her story very personal. *Kitchen Privileges* is worthwhile listening (or reading) for Clark fans or for those interested in a woman's life in mid-twentieth century America. For younger listeners, it's an interesting personal account of an era so different from today.

A surprising glimpse into the world of Mary Higgins Clark from her childhood which took a sad turn with the early death of her father. Her mother then was forced to rent out rooms (with kitchen privileges) in order to try to make ends meet. Some of their tenants were interesting to say the least. Before marrying, Ms. Clark was an airline stewardess and she has a few interesting stories about that. She married the man she had had a crush on and was blissfully happy until he suffered a fatal heart attack leaving her with 5 children. She writes about her struggles to become published and also of her fantastic life since. The only thing wrong with the book is that it is so brief. Like I said at the beginning, we only get a glimpse into the life of this fascinating woman.

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