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# Kitchen Privileges



## Synopsis

International best-selling author of suspense Mary Higgins Clark delivers a poignant memoir about her life growing up in the Bronx and how the Depression affected her family. She shares the pain of losing her father and brother, and the joy of marrying the man who she secretly loved for years. In this moving tale, Clark reveals what experiences helped shape her novels and the importance writing has had on her life.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (76 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

When an author achieves the success of Mary Higgins Clark, readers might assume her own personal story came wrapped in a neat package like one of her mysteries. But as all of Mary Higgins Clark's devoted fans know, she was not published till long after she was widowed with five young children. In *KITCHEN PRIVILEGES*, her memoir, she tells her remarkable story. We are often skeptical (and rightly so) about success stories; they can be a little too good to be true. But when confronted with Mary Higgins Clark's resilience, drive and determination, you will want to jump up from your chair --- and cheer her success. Clark's writing here has the same honest, breezy style that makes her books such fun to read. Mary grew up in an Irish neighborhood in the Bronx where family was everything. Her dad died when she was still in grammar school, forcing the family to change its lifestyle quickly. Her mom took in boarders, offering them "Kitchen Privileges," which is where the book got its title. Life in the Bronx for Mary meant hours at the kitchen table listening to her aunts talk about family stories. Many of these became the characters and grist for her later stories. Later in life she moved to New Jersey with her husband and young family. Both the Bronx

and New Jersey have given comedians and jokesters plenty of material. As Mary says, "It has always amused me that I've had to defend the two places where I've spent most of my life, the Bronx and New Jersey." Mary loved to write and she loved to read, and she approached life with a jaunty style that kept her striving for success --- and achieving it. She also loved to act and, for a while, subsidized her family's income with appearances in television commercials.

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