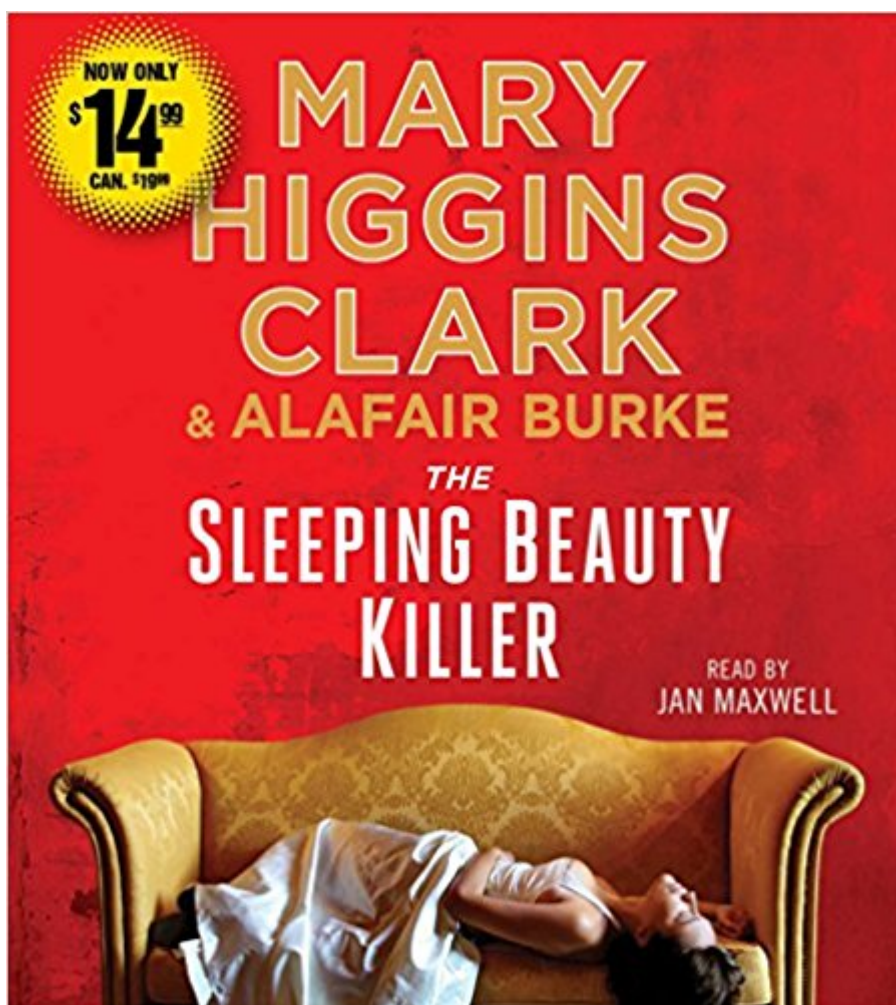


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# The Sleeping Beauty Killer (An Under Suspicion Novel)



## Synopsis

The third thrilling novel in the Under Suspicion series by #1 New York Times bestselling author and "Queen of Suspense" Mary Higgins Clark and Alafair Burke follows television producer Laurie Moran as she tries to help a woman she believes was wrongfully convicted of killing her fiancé.

## Book Information

Series: An Under Suspicion Novel

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## Customer Reviews

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR THE SLEEPING BEAUTY KILLER "A clever plot and a cast of intriguing characters, whose actions and agendas are easily misconstrued The authors keep Laurie and the reader grasping for answers till the end. --Publishers Weekly (starred review) Fleet, conscientious, and utterly true to its carefully wrought formula. --Kirkus Reviews A quick suspense read from two very popular writers and will satisfy plenty of eager readers. --Booklist"

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. Alafair Burke is the New York Times bestselling author of eleven novels, including Long Gone, If You Were Here,

and the latest in the Ellie Hatcher series, *All Day and a Night*. A former prosecutor, she now teaches criminal law and lives in Manhattan.

The *Sleeping Beauty Murder* is a typical Mary Higgins Clark book, and I mean that as a compliment. It is a fast, fun, very interesting read. Laurie Moran is an intelligent, extremely likable heroine, who is an excellent mother to her son, a good daughter to her retired policeman father, and an excellent television producer of *Under Suspicion*, a show which looks at famous unsolved crimes and has an outstanding track record. But she cannot commit to her former program host Alex Buckley yet, although she loves him and he loves her. Casey Carter, who has just been released from prison after serving 15 years for manslaughter for the death of her fiancé, a crime she has always denied committing, has come to Laurie, asking her to reopen her case, which the press has dubbed *The Sleeping Beauty Murder*, calling her Crazy Casey. Although Casey's mother is dead set against it, and her new host, Ryan Nichols is as well, Laurie decides to go ahead with a list of possible killers Casey has provided. Each one, it seems, has a secret to protect. My one problem with the book, and this has happened in several of Mary Higgins Clark's latest books, is that I knew who the killer was early into the book. I read it the way I watched movies like *The Sixth Sense* and *The Usual Suspects* the second time, knowing the big twist. The clues were very fair. I look forward to the next *Under Suspicion* novel and to the new book coming out in April as well. I am disappointed that she has not brought out a Christmas mystery for several years and has not written a book in conjunction with her daughter Carol Higgins Clark as well. Maybe next year.

Katherine Carter (Casey) has just spent fifteen years in prison for killing her fiancé, Hunter Raleigh, III, and even though she was convicted of manslaughter instead of murder, there is nothing that will take away the sting of being found guilty. For Casey has maintained her innocence all along. Now that she is out of prison, Casey's first goal is to find a way to be on Laurie Moran's show, *Under Suspicion*. With the help of her cousin Angela, who has always felt like a sister, she arranges for an interview. Laurie listens, looks at the files, and then pitches the story to her boss, Brett. But both he and the new host of the show, Ryan Nichols, don't think much of the idea, since Casey was convicted. Their show is usually about cold cases—unsolved cases. But Laurie finally persuades them both, and the search begins for people to interview, including alternative individuals who might have killed Hunter. *The Sleeping Beauty Killer* (*Under Suspicion* Book 3) was a fast-paced book with short chapters; the moniker of "sleeping beauty killer" was one the press

had hung on Casey. She had claimed to be sleeping deeply that night, having been drugged, and could not have killed him. Rohypnol was found in her blood, but a bottle of the pills was found in her handbag. Therefore, she could have drugged herself. But why would she hang onto the bottle? More questions arise throughout Laurie R. King's investigation, as she considers other possible killers, such as Hunter's brother, Andrew; the CFO, Mark Templeton; James Raleigh's assistant, Mary Jane Finder; an ex-boyfriend of Casey's who had written a book after her conviction, calling her "crazy"; and any number of other possible individuals, as yet unknown. The media frenzy continues. Who is the informant that seems to be providing insider information to one malicious blogger determined to "try Casey" all over again? Could the same individual have been feeding the media frenzy during the trial as well? What is the meaning of that individual's screen name, RIP\_Hunter? All through the book I began to feel a niggling doubt about one individual, possibly the least likely suspect, whom I will not name due to spoilers. I never trusted that person. So I was pleased when finally the pieces of the puzzle fell into place and I was right! I love when that happens. I couldn't stop reading this book, and even though I figured out who killed Hunter, I still wanted to keep going to discover how the answers would come to the characters who needed to know. 4 stars.

If you read the books previous to this one, you know the baseline story. It's a good, well written plot but I figured out "who done it " halfway through. So, okay, what makes it 5 stars, you ask? Well, all I will tell you is that the ending slays it!!! I would recommend that the series be read in order but this book can be a standalone. That ending though.....

If you are the type of reader who likes a good mystery, but does not care for the gore and strong language some writers use to keep the book flowing.....then this is the book and the authors for you! Clark on her own is wonderful. When you put Clark and Alastair Burke together...no contest. This has such a good story line and it keeps your interest through out the book...page to page. Great work ladies. Can't wait for Under Suspension 4!

Possible spoiler alert\*\* This book was a disappointment. Maybe I have been reading MHC books for too long, but I figured out who the "real killer" was less than ten minutes into the book. I kept hoping the whole time that I was wrong, and there would be some sort of twist or surprise, but nope. It was

honestly just formuliac and phoned in.

I can't wait until under suspicion book 4 is published . I've enjoyed all three of the books they kept me in complete awe of the author's imagination and ability to create suspense that is unmatched in any other author! I highly recommend this highly suspenseful novel it was excellent !

Recommend everybody that likes Mary Higgins Clark read this book.She done it again. Excellent reading the Sleeping Beauty Killer.

While I am a fan of these books and have read many of these stories, I felt this particular one fell below par. The beginning and the ending were good, but I felt the middle was dragging and a bit tedious. The main character, was bogged down with personal decisions and problems. The show she was producing had a different and difficult prospective that was trying to clear a woman of charges that she already was convicted and served time for. Time for a vacation!

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