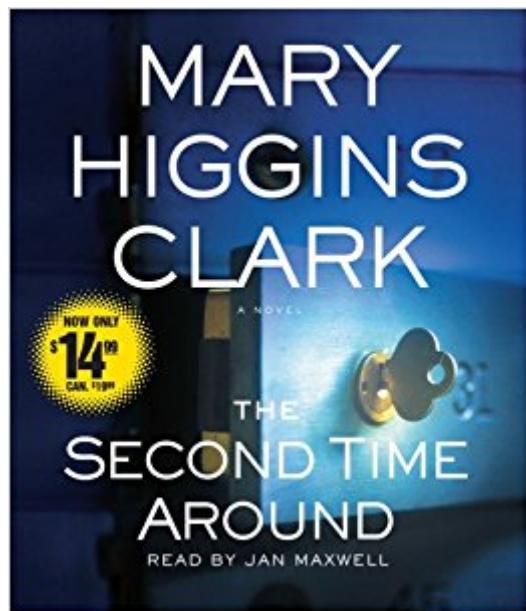


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# The Second Time Around: A Novel



## **Synopsis**

Nicholas Spencer, charismatic head of the medical research company Gen-Stone, involved in the development of an anticancer vaccine, suddenly disappears. Early results of the vaccine seemed highly promising. Yet, coinciding with Spencer's disappearance is news that the FDA is denying approval. Then comes the shocking revelation that Spencer had looted Gen-Stone of huge sums of money. Marcia Carley, a columnist for Wall Street Weekly, is assigned to cover the story. Carley is the stepsister of Spencer's wife, Lynn, an aggressive PR woman and socialite, whom she dislikes and distrusts. As Carley proceeds with her investigation, she is confronted by seemingly impenetrable questions: Is Nicholas Spencer dead or in hiding? Was he guilty or set up? Why the sudden reversal in medical opinion of the vaccine from recognition to condemnation? As the facts unfold, Carley becomes the target of a dangerous group involved in a sinister and fraudulent scheme.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

There's something special about Clark's thrillers, and it's not just the gentleness with which the bestselling writer approaches her often lurid subject matter (in this one, for instance, there are numerous killings, but all occur off-page). Special above all is the compassion she extends to her characters-heroines, villains and supporting cast alike. In this latest effort, she conjures empathy even toward a mass killer, whose murderous spree has been sparked by a corporate crime. The smoothly told tale is narrated partly from the third-person perspective of the killer, and partly from the first-person point of view of Wall Street Weekly correspondent Carley De Carlo. Carley is the

stepsister of Lynn Spencer, whose charismatic husband, Nicholas, dies in the crash of his small plane as he is fleeing arrest for looting the medical company he founded, which had made claims of a cancer cure, now proved false. Myriad investors have lost much, sometimes everything; one is Ned Cooper, whose beloved wife died as a consequence of Nicholas Spencer's thievery, and who determines to take revenge, setting off on a killing spree. Assigned to do a feature about the Spencer case, Carley digs deep, uncovering clues to a conspiracy within Spencer's medical company, as well as to the possibility that the cancer cure worked after all. Can she get to the bottom of the mess before Ned Cooper, or the possible conspirators, take her out? Clark's fans know the answer to that question, but what the novel lacks in suspense it makes up for in grace, charm and solid storytelling. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adult/High School-A feature writer for a newspaper, Carley DeCarlo has been assigned to do an article on the life and death of Nicholas Spencer, an eminent researcher who was on the verge of developing a pharmaceutical cure for cancer. Since millions of specially donated dollars are missing from his firm, his airplane accident may have been a faked suicide, or murder. Occasional chapters feature a disturbed man as he retaliates for the death of his wife, which he blames on Spencer's firm. Carley's portion of the story is written in first person so readers follow her doubts and triumphs as clues are revealed. She is a true sleuth; she often gets a clue that confuses her, but she keeps on investigating. Tension builds gradually as readers see both the heroine and the schizophrenic at work. But is he the only villain? Short chapters help to keep the suspenseful plot moving along. Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I started reading at 3 pm and could not put the book down until I finished reading it entirely at 2 a.m.!!!! I love Mary Higgins Clark and love the way she develops a story with lots of suspense and twists. The previous book where the main character was Elvira? was co-written by her daughter (I'm sure) and I absolutely hated it. I know MHC is now in her 80s and probably does not write as many novels as she used to. I have every one of her books. I even double-checked to make sure I had not read this book previously and had forgotten. If this is the latest book she's written, good for her! Great story...

A very good read. Well-developed characters and a very detailed plot that has an unexpected twist

and surprisingly satisfying ending.

The plot seemed more convoluted than usual. The formula I have come to expect is female fatally threatened who is saved in the final pages and finds a lover in the process.

i love it

She is a great author.

Great Book! MHC never disappoints.

Just another mystery

I like MHC but I don't think this was her best work, maybe I'm burnt out on her. I didn't start reading her until 2013 and then have read almost everything by her since so I guess I might be on overload with her books. They all seem similar in most ways, you can usually tell who the murderer is her books, you just don't always know the why until the end. I'll keep reading MHC books, but only the new releases.

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