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All By Myself, Alone: A Novel



Synopsis

A glamorous cruise on a luxurious ocean liner turns deadly in the latest mystery from the Queen of Suspense and #1 New York Times bestselling author Mary Higgins Clark. Fleeing a disastrous and humiliating arrest of her husband-to-be on the eve of their wedding, Celia Kilbride, a gems and jewelry expert, hopes to escape from public attention by lecturing on a brand-new cruise ship the Queen Charlotte. On board she meets eighty-six-year-old Lady Emily Haywood, Lady Em, as she is known throughout the world. Immensely wealthy, Lady Em is the owner of a priceless emerald necklace that she intends to leave to the Smithsonian after the cruise. Three days out to sea Lady Em is found dead and the necklace is missing. Is it the work of her apparently devoted assistant, Brenda Martin, or her lawyer-executor, Roger Pearson, and his wife, Yvonne, both of whom she had invited to join them on the cruise? Or is it Professor Henry Longworth, an acclaimed Shakespeare scholar who is lecturing on board? Or Alan Davidson, a guest on the ship who is planning to spread his wife's ashes at sea? The list of suspects is large and growing. Celia, with the help of her new friends Willy and Alvira Meehan, who are celebrating their forty-fifth wedding anniversary, sets out to find the killer, not realizing that she has put herself in mortal danger before the ship reaches its final destination. Never, in all her long career as a #1 bestselling suspense novelist, has Mary Higgins Clark been in better form.

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Customer Reviews

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.

All By Myself, Alone 2> The magnificent cruise liner Queen Charlotte was about to leave on her maiden voyage from her berth on the Hudson River. Promised to be the epitome of luxury, she was compared to both the first Queen Mary and even the Titanic, which had been the height of luxury one hundred years earlier. One by one the passengers filed aboard, checked in and were invited to the Grand Lounge, where they were met by white-gloved waiters offering champagne. When the last guest had come aboard, Captain Fairfax gave a speech of welcome. "We promise you the most elegant voyage you have ever or will ever encounter," he said, his British accent adding even more luster to his words. "You will find your suites furnished in the grand tradition of those of the most magnificent ocean liners of yesteryear. Queen Charlotte was constructed to accommodate precisely one hundred guests. Our eighty-five crew members are committed to serving you in every possible way. The entertainment will be worthy of Broadway, Carnegie Hall and the Metropolitan Opera. There will be a wide range of lectures to choose from. Our presenters include celebrity authors, former diplomats, and experts on Shakespeare and gemology. The finest chefs from around the globe will conduct farm-to-table cooking presentations. And we know that cruising is thirsty business. To remedy this hardship, there will be a series of wine tastings hosted by renowned connoisseurs. In keeping with the spirit of this cruise, one day there will be a lecture from the book of Emily Post, the legendary social arbiter of a century ago, illuminating the delightful manners of the past. These are only a few of the many activities you may choose from. In closing, the menus have been chosen from the recipes of the finest chefs the world over. Now, once again, welcome to your new home for the next six days. And now I would like to introduce Gregory Morrison, the owner of the Queen Charlotte. It was his vision that this ship would be perfect in every detail, and that is why you will enjoy the most luxurious cruise you will ever experience."

Gregory Morrison, a stout, ruddy-faced, silver-haired man stepped forward. "I want to welcome all of you aboard. Today is the realization of a young boy's wish that began over fifty years ago. I stood next to my father, a tugboat captain, as he guided the most magnificent cruise ships of his day in and out of New York harbor. Truth be told, while my father was looking forward, toward where we were heading, I was looking back, watching in awe as spectacular cruise liners sliced elegantly through the gray Hudson River water. Even then I knew I wanted someday to build a ship even

more awe-inspiring than the vessels I admired all those years ago. Queen Charlotte in all her majesty is the realization of the dream I dared to dream. Whether you are with us for five days to Southampton or stay with us for ninety days around the world, I hope today marks the beginning of an experience you will never forget.

• Raising his glass, he said, "Anchors away." • There was a smattering of applause, then people turned to their nearest fellow passengers and began to chat. Alvirah and Willy Meehan, celebrating their forty-fifth wedding anniversary, were relishing their great fortune. Before they won the lottery, she had been cleaning houses and he had been repairing overflowing toilets and broken pipes. Thirty-four-year-old Ted Cavanaugh accepted a glass of champagne and looked around. He recognized some of the people on board, the chairmen of General Electric and Goldman Sachs, several Hollywood A-list couples. A voice next to him asked, "By any chance would you be related to the ambassador Mark Cavanaugh? You bear a striking resemblance to him."

• "Yes, I am," Ted smiled. • "I'm his son." • "I knew I couldn't be wrong. Let me introduce myself. I am Charles Chillingsworth." • Ted recognized the name of the retired ambassador to France. "Your father and I were young attachés together," Chillingsworth said. "All the girls in the embassy were in love with your father. I told him no one deserved to be that good-looking. He served as ambassador to Egypt for two different presidents as I recall, then to the Court of St. James's."

• "Yes, he did," Ted confirmed. • "My father was fascinated by Egypt. And I share his passion. I spent many years growing up there. Then we moved to London when he became ambassador to Great Britain." • "Have you followed in his footsteps?" • "No, I am a lawyer, but a good part of my practice is devoted to recovering antiques and artifacts that have been stolen from their countries of origin." • What he did not say was that his specific reason for being on this voyage was to meet Lady Emily Haywood and persuade her to return her famed Cleopatra emerald necklace to its rightful owners, the people of Egypt. Professor Henry Longworth overheard the conversation and leaned in closer to hear the exchanges better, his eyes sparkling with interest. He had been invited aboard as a lecturer. A renowned expert on Shakespeare, his presentations, which always included renditions of passages, never failed to delight his audiences. A medium-sized man in his sixties, with thinning hair, he was a sought-after speaker on cruises and at colleges. Devon Michaelson stood a short distance apart from the other guests. He had no need or desire for the banal small talk that was the inevitable result of strangers meeting for the first time. Like Professor Longworth, he was in his early sixties with no outstanding height or remarkable facial features. Also standing by herself was twenty-eight-year-old Celia Kilbride. Tall, with black hair and sapphire-blue eyes, she did not notice, nor would she have cared about, the admiring glances that were cast at her by her fellow passengers. The first stop on the

round-the-world voyage would be Southampton, England. That was where she would disembark. Like Professor Longworth she was an invited lecturer on the ship. A gemologist, her subject would be the history of famous jewels through the ages. The most excited passenger in the room was fifty-six-year-old divorcee Anna DeMille of Kansas, who had been the grand-prize winner of this trip in a church-sponsored raffle. Her dyed black hair and matching eyebrows were bold against her thin face and body. Her prayer was that this would be her opportunity to meet Mr. Right. Why not? she asked herself. I won the raffle. Maybe this is finally going to be my year. Eighty-six-year-old Lady Emily Haywood, famed for her wealth and philanthropy, was attended by the guests she had invited: Brenda Martin, her assistant and companion over the last twenty years, Roger Pearson, who was both her investment manager and the executor of her estate, and Roger's wife Yvonne. When interviewed about the cruise, Lady Emily had stated that she intended to bring her legendary Cleopatra emerald necklace and wear it in public for the first time. As the passengers began to disperse, wishing each other "Bon voyage," they could not know that at least one of them would not reach Southampton alive. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

A very fast read. There were many characters and in the beginning it was confusing, However, after reading a few chapters, I got to know all the characters!! loved how all the characters came together, and got to know each other. Wonderful book! Very intense. You want to keep reading to see who was the murderer! Loved it

Definitely not one of the best stories but I still never mind spending my money on a Mary Higgins Clark book. I appreciate her compassion and thoughtfulness regarding human nature. One thing sticks with me....Greed only brings sorrow. Ms Clark is definitely a believer in love...both human and divine. I agree with her!

While I enjoyed this book I was surprised that she revealed who the thief was but not the murderer. It was a huge surprise to see who the killer on board was. It was a great book and thoroughly enjoyed reading it. It did have some twists and surprises within the book.

Mary Higgins Clark's mysteries never fail to entertain. She just doesn't write fast enough. I always enjoy Alvirah and Willy in the story. Millionaires don't always act as helpful and friendly as they do but they always go to bat for the innocent person. Good read.

I always read her books when they come out. I love a good mystery. This is ok. Alvira and Willy Meehan are some of her recurring characters, and they are ok, but just ok. This one was a little dull, mostly we pretty much know from the beginning whodunit. I'm glad I read it, but definitely not my favorite.

As usual, Mary Clark Higgins does not disappoint!! Reads like one of those great thrillers of old that one enjoys and cannot put down. Great characters, suspense and a believable ending!! I cannot wait for more from this author! Have read everything and wish for more!

Love. love Mary Higgins Clark. She keeps me guessing always through the entire book. I have read her since I was in high school & she continuously keeps me guessing. No exceptions her. I love her books. She is a great author. No two books alike.

This book is written so well. My goodness! I strongly recommend it if you like suspense/mysteries. All by myself Alone is now in my top twenty books that I have read, and the only reason it is that low is my favorite series of books of all times is Jan Karon's Mitford series. Now I can't wait to buy Mary Higgins Clark books and read them all! Great writing Ms Clark!!!

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