



The Girl with a Clock for a Heart: A Novel

By Peter Swanson

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Already optioned for film, *The Girl with a Clock for a Heart* is Peter Swanson's electrifying tale of romantic noir, with shades of Hitchcock and reminiscent of the classic movie *Body Heat*. It is the story of a man swept into a vortex of irresistible passion and murder when an old love mysteriously reappears.

On an ordinary Friday evening at his favorite Boston tavern, George Foss's comfortable, predictable life is shattered when a beautiful woman sits down at the bar, a woman who vanished without a trace twenty years ago.

Liana Dector isn't just an ex-girlfriend, the first love George couldn't quite forget. She's also a dangerous enigma and quite possibly a cold-blooded killer wanted by the police. Suddenly, she's back—and she needs George's help. Ruthless men believe she stole some money . . . and they will do whatever it takes to get it back.

George knows Liana is trouble. But he can't say no—he never could—so he makes a choice that will plunge him into a terrifying whirlpool of lies, secrets, betrayal, and murder from which there is no sure escape.

Bold and masterful, full of malicious foreboding and subtle surprises, *The Girl with a Clock for a Heart* is an addictive, nonstop thriller—an ever-tightening coil of suspense that grips you right up to its electrifying end.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Liana Dector, the title character in this debut thriller, is a master at reinventing herself, and, early on, her boyfriend, George Foss, becomes ensnared in her schemes. George and Liana—then known as Audrey Beck—became a couple in their freshman year at college in Connecticut, with their semester-long romance ending when Audrey presumably committed suicide at home in Florida during winter break. When George learns that Liana and the real Audrey have switched identities, and that Liana may have killed her cohort, he continually watches for her until, nearly 20 years later, he spots her at a bar in Boston. Liana, now known as Jane Byrne, asks for a favor, trusting that George will help her rather than turn her over to the authorities; George, both smitten and curious, is hooked. In alternate chapters, Swanson unreels the story of the teenage lovers and advances to the present-day quagmire into which George steps. Driven by the power of first love, this dangerous mix of sex and lies tumbles to an inevitable conclusion. Optioned for a feature film. --Michele Leber

Review

“The book has pace to burn. It feels like a throwback to Ross MacDonald’s flawed but relentless work . . . glimmers with bright and original moments.” (USA Today)

“In *The Girl with a Clock for a Heart* a long-lost lover resurfaces, with chaos in her wake. A must read!” (Harper’s Bazaar)

“[A] roller coaster thrill-fest of a ride, filled with deliciously wicked moments of mystery, murder, and mayhem, double-cross and deception. A cerebral noir thriller debut.” (New York Journal of Books)

“Swanson gives readers an adrenaline rush through all the hairpin turns.” (Publishers Weekly)

“The pace is fast . . . and the plot genuinely twisty . . . [It is] seemingly pre-measured for the movies . . . often to good effect; all in all, a quick, deft, promising first crime novel.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“The labyrinthine plot here has a grip of high-tensile steel.” (Financial Times (UK))

“What do you say when a woman who broke your heart years ago and is wanted for questioning in connection to a murder pops back into your life to ask a favor? If she’s as alluring as Liana Dector, you say, ‘Yes.’ And hope you survive . . . *The Girl with a Clock for a Heart* is a twisty, sexy, electric thrill ride.” (Dennis Lehane, *New York Times* bestselling author)

“An edge-of-your-seat psychological thriller that dares you to turn the next page . . . This novel burns faster and hotter than a lit fuse, and you’ll be feeling its heat long after the explosive ending.” (Wiley Cash, *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Land More Kind Than Home*)

“The parallel stories unwind relentlessly with audacious and spectacular twists . . . An intense mix of noir, pulp fiction, and fun . . . The most unsurprising aspect of this book? It’s already been optioned for a film.” (Boston Globe)

“Who are literature’s most lethal women? . . . Here’s a new contender: Liana Dector, who causes endless heartbreak and occasional death in Peter Swanson’s compulsively readable [*The Girl with a Clock for a*

Heart] . . . should be a contender for crime fiction's best first novel of 2014." (Washington Post)

From the Back Cover

George Foss has passed the age when he thinks he might fall madly in love or have anything truly remarkable happen to him. He spends evenings at his local tavern talking about the Red Sox and obsessing over a lost love from his college days who vanished twenty years earlier. Until she reappears.

George has both dreamed of and dreaded seeing Liana Decter again. She's an enigma and quite possibly someone who was involved in a murder years ago. But she's back—and needs his help. She says that some men are after her and that they believe she's stolen their money. And now they will do whatever it takes to get it back.

George can't say no—he never could—and soon his life is gone as he is pulled into a terrifying whirlpool of lies and betrayal, from which there is no sure escape.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lula Barnes:

Reading a book tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world may share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about the data about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write with their book. One of them is this *The Girl with a Clock for a Heart: A Novel*.

Nancy Rush:

Reading a book being new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to go through a book. When you read a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, these us novel, comics, and also soon. The *The Girl with a Clock for a Heart: A Novel* provide you with new experience in studying a book.

Gloria Eller:

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Paul Anderson:

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