



## A Fine Night for Dying

*Jack Higgins*

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# **A Fine Night for Dying**

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## **A Fine Night for Dying** Jack Higgins

The death of a gangster draws super-spy Paul Chavasse into a breathtaking adventure on the high seas – an unforgettable tale from one of the true masters of modern thriller writing, the bestselling author of *Midnight Runner* and *The Keys of Hell*.

Caught in the nets of a local fishing boat, the body of gangland boss Harvey Preston is dragged from the English Channel, wrapped from head to toe in heavy chain. British intelligence suspects a connection with a cross-channel smuggling ring. But as undercover agent Paul Chavasse embarks on what will be one of the most dangerous cases in his extraordinary career, he soon discovers that this is no small-time operation – and the ruthless men behind it will stop at nothing to protect their precious cargo.

## **A Fine Night for Dying Details**

Date : Published December 8th 2011 by HarperCollins (first published 1979)

ISBN :

Author : Jack Higgins

Format : Kindle Edition 272 pages

Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Action, Mystery, Spy Thriller, Espionage

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## **From Reader Review A Fine Night for Dying for online ebook**

### **Claudia says**

A fast, workmanlike thriller. Not bad, but nothing special.

It almost read like a knockoff James Bond story; something dramatic and bad happens, scene. Next, our hero gets his marching orders from M (as it were), and banters with a Moneypenny stand-in.

Next, he's off to fight/chase/fight the bad guys, protect the pretty girl, etc. He gets support from his network, so guns and supplies appear when necessary. There's an atmospheric bad-guy hideout in France, at the end, big fight, end. Ta da.

Eh. Higgins has done better.

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### **Tim Corke says**

easy peasy read but definitely a good story and kept the interest throughout. a bit more 'real' than Bond I suppose but lots of convenience to allow the story to pull together.

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### **Naomi says**

A short and easy read. Picked this up randomly after the last read was tedious and disappointing, so I wasn't ready for another heavy or slow-moving book. Good for travel or whenever you want to read something entertaining enough that doesn't require much thought.

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### **Layla says**

Although set in 1969, this novel examines issues pertinent to life in 2011. These issues are human trafficking and the danger of extremists whose only consideration is the disruption of Western life by any means possible.

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I could discuss the absence of any substantive female character but let's face it, this is a period piece, not high literature.

It's a good diverting read for waiting rooms and lay-overs.

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### **Stefan Ellis says**

An entertaining enough action rush. Thin on characters and very short, but if you are looking for a book you can finish in a couple of hours and not think too much, there are worse books out there.

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### **John says**

This is not a typical Jack Higgins story. There is some action, but most of that involves escaping from sinking boats in the English Channel. Otherwise, it is a plodding story, with a lot of time spent traveling across France, trying to get into England undetected. Paul Chavasse is not Sean Dillon, or any of the other Higgins characters we look forward to.

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### **Steve says**

This book was okay, It was about England's version of a ring of Polleros. The action moved fast but didn't contain as much detail as I usually like. It was a fast and easy read though.

When I read the back I saw that the author is a Scuba Diver and a Sailor. I'd look for one of his books that covers either or both of those subjects in the future.

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### **Jerry B says**

1969 short Brit thriller a little tame by modern standards...

"Dying" was our introduction to prolific author Jack Higgins, a native Irishman heavily influenced by Britain's role in WW-II. In this post-war "thriller", British intelligence agent Paul Chavasse is assigned a case involving a body discovered in the English channel weighted down with chains. Following a lead to a human smuggling ring (to circumvent tight immigration laws), he contrives to be a customer using an Australian identity as a cover. The passage back to England becomes one of cross and double-cross, and before it's over several more deaths go down ere Chavasse closes in on the bad guys and, together with the victim's brother, ensures the carriage of justice.

While the storyline is suspenseful, this is a pretty short novel at 180 pages set in fairly large print. The plot is quite straightforward, with just a few characters and a couple of settings, and is characterized by sustained action as opposed to intrigue or complexity. By today's modern thriller standards, this simplistic book comes across as pretty tame -- maybe that was to be expected from a book published nearly 35 years ago.

Higgins has compiled a bibliography of some 50 or more novels, so he obviously enjoys a loyal and ardent following. While we were modestly entertained with the effort at hand, we plan to sample a more recent example of his work as a truer test of his craft and abilities. Meanwhile, "Dying" provided an enjoyable, albeit brief, adventure.

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## **Melissa says**

This book wasn't awesome but it also wasn't terrible. I thought there would be more action in it. I got confused between the characters sometimes and I wanted to know what happened to Darcy after it all.

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## **Shamila Abeysinghe says**

I had high hopes for the book, given the author's reputation and this was the first of his works I got to read and, it was not that much captivating. A few moments of suspense here and there was all that kept me going and the climax was abrupt. Maybe I've read too many of thrillers of this kind and this is one of the first of its genre that laid the groundwork for better successors but wasn't that great on its own.

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## **Bekki Fowell says**

Very slow, no real climax...

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## **Abe says**

A fast moving novel about underworld smuggling of human and illegal cargo. I can't say anything about Jack Higgins that has not already been said. He's an accomplished author and knows how to weave a fast-paced tale. It is my second reading and I found it as interesting the second time as the first.

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## **Christopher Hivner says**

Intelligence agent Paul Chavasse is brought in to investigate when a body weighted down with chains is found in the English channel and it's not the first. There is a human smuggling ring operating and Chavasse is sent to infiltrate it. Posing as an Australian criminal he pays for passage with the smugglers which leads him to some powerful people at the top.

This is a solid Higgins novel, but not his best. It was actually written in 1969 and parts are dated, especially the Chinese communism story line. The whole plot is interesting but not gripping. It's a short, compact book with quite a bit of action and twists. This novel won't stay with you. It's like a sweet confection; you'll get a few hours of enjoyment and then it's gone.

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## **Steve says**

August 2018. This is my first Paul Chavasse story. Written in 1969 and the last of the 6 book series. Feels like it was written for paperback only publication. Good airplane book. I will try to locate the other stories.

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**Bev Taylor says**

a gangland boss is found dead, caught by the nets of a local fishing boat. he was murdered, having been wrapped in heavy chain

undercover agent is called in as british intelligence suspect a link with a cross channel smuggling ring

but as he furthers his mission he soon discovers that this is no small time operation and there r a lot higher stakes at hand

he finds an unexpected ally and hopes between them they can stop this operation as his orders r - shoot to kill

260 pages which u will romp thru in no time but because it was so fast i found itb difficult to relate to any of the characters, especially paul. not that original

would have been nice to know when it was set as well

3.5 stars

bev

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