

"It was happening again. Charley wouldn't stay locked in the secret place. Charley insisted on thinking of Erin. Only two more Charley whispered. Then I'll stop"(p.1). Charley is a psycho killer in the novel *Loves Music, Loves to Dance* by Mary Higgins Clark. This novel is about two girls, Darcy and Erin, who are answering personal ads because their friend is doing a story about people who place and answer ads. Erin goes on one particular date with a man who calls himself Charles North. Erin is found dead two days later on a boat dock by the highway. When she was found she was wearing one of her own shoes and an unmatched ballroom dancing shoe. The FBI figures out that there is a cereal killer and they urge everyone not to answer the personal ads. Despite what everyone says, Darcy keeps answering, these ads in hope that she will find Erin's killer. Darcy goes on many dates and the one person she would never suspect. While at his home, she finds Erin's ring.

The key scene in this novel is when Darcy is on a date with Michael Nash, otherwise known as Charles North. She starts to get very nervous because he is acting extremely strange, so she decides to walk around a little at his "writing cabin". Darcy goes to sit back down on the couch and steps on something almost completely covered by the fringe on the rug. Ignoring it, she sits down and begins shaking uncontrollably. While shaking so badly, Darcy accidentally spilt some sherry on the rug. As she dabbed the wine up with a napkin, she noticed Erin's ring.

She thought, "Erin's ring. Erin had been here. Erin had answered Michael Nash's ad"(p.279). This is the key scene because this is where the novel becomes very suspenseful. Here, you realize that Michael killed Erin and now it's Darcy's turn. Since this story is written so well, the writer made it even more suspenseful by putting Darcy and Michael off at this little house that no one knows about. This is

not only the key scene, but the best scene. I like how the writer wrote it to make this be the point where the novel begins to unravel.

After the key scene, Darcy and Michael begin to dance. Darcy can tell Michael is going psycho. Then he tells her it is her time. Just in time, everyone figures out where Darcy is and saves her life. This is a very well written novel and I highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys suspense.