



Ingenue

Jillian Larkin

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Power . . . love . . . scandal . . .

There's never enough to go around.

In the city that never sleeps, Lorraine Dyer is wide awake. Ever since she exposed Clara Knowles for the tramp she was—and lost her closest confidante in the process—Lorraine has spent every second scheming to make her selfish, lovesick ex-best friend pay for what she did. No one crosses Lorraine. Not even Gloria.

True love conquers everything—or so Gloria Carmody crazily believed. She and Jerome Johnson can barely scrape together cash for their rent, let alone have a moment to whisper sweet nothings in the dark. And if they thought escaping Chicago meant they'd get away with murder . . . they were dead wrong.

Clara was sure that once handsome, charming Marcus Eastman discovered her shameful secret, he'd drop her like a bad habit. Instead, he swept her off her feet and whisked her away to New York. Being with Marcus is a breath of fresh air—and a chance for Clara to leave her wild flapper ways firmly in the past. Except the dazzling parties and bright lights won't stop whispering her name. . . .

INGENUE is the second novel in the sexy, dangerous, and ridiculously romantic Flappers series set in the Roaring Twenties . . . where revenge is a dish best served cold.

Ingenue Details

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Author : Jillian Larkin

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From Reader Review Ingenue for online ebook

Katie says

Vixen has been one of my favorite reads this year, so I was really looking forward to *Ingenue*. And while it was certainly very good and didn't disappoint per se, there was definitely a bit of a sophomore slump here. First, *Ingenue* wasn't quite as long, so I felt like the entire story was a bit short; it's the second in a series, a sort of segue, and it definitely feels like that - like it's tying up loose ends from book 1 and introducing new elements for the finale.

That being said, there's just as much drama and dangerous gangsters as before. The romance wasn't quite as good, but there were certainly a lot of boys to swoon for. And that's something that I like about these books - there aren't many heartstopping, earth-shattering, all-encompassing loves that will last "forever." The relationships that the girls have are sometimes fleeting and sometimes petty, but they always seem realistic. Let's face it: not many of us found our "other half" in high school. So while Gloria and Jerome are certainly a couple to watch, neither Lorraine nor Clara have found their happily ever after yet.

Speaking of characters, Lorraine is still my favorite. I find her absolutely hysterical. She's so catty but in an awesome way. She's also self-obsessed; but somehow, she's also endearing. She was always good for a laugh. And I really sympathized with her situation of being in Gloria's shadow and feeling like she was betrayed by her best friend. I could see how she would want to get back at Gloria, even involving gangsters. I totally bought the entire storyline with her.

The gangsters were even better in this book than the first. They're a bigger threat, constantly hovering over everyone. Gloria and Jerome are always looking over their shoulders for Carlito, while Lorraine is plotting with him. I was afraid that with the relocation to New York, there would be a loss of that gangster/mob flair, but Larkin surprised me - she not only maintained the level of suspense; she jacked it up some more! I just wish there could have been more interaction between Carlito and Lorraine; there wasn't much of that until the end, and I always thought that was an interesting dynamic.

Jillian Larkin's Flappers series can't rival the romanticism of Anna Godbersen's *Bright Young Things*, and they certainly won't win any literary awards. But they're fun brain candy with lots of historical insight. Larkin also touches upon themes that transcend time periods, like interracial relationships and a woman's balancing her love life with a career. The 1920s were a time when a lot of women were gaining more independence, and these books really reflect that.

I officially want to be a flapper now. I have the bob haircut. All I need is to adopt the cool lingo and start wearing dresses with dropped waists. So hit me with another gin, bartender, and let's hear some smooth jazz!

Manoja K. says

It really hurts me to give this book two stars because I loved *Vixen*, but I have to be honest: this one did not live up. I felt like the best part of the story was hinted in the background, and only came full frontal in the end. Especially in the beginning with Sebastian, that came out of nowhere (in my opinion). It's not even that the story should be longer, but I feel like there was a lot that could have been focused on, but Larkin chose to focus on the more boring things. I liked the relationship aspect between Jerome and Gloria because that was

something real, but with Clara and Lorraine (and I guess Vera, but I feel like she didn't deserve a narration or at least develop a more prominent role) it's all about there character, which is fine, but I felt like she should have cut that down a little and focus on what was going on what was hinted in the background. The book overall was okay, the ending was exciting and action packed, but it seemed like there was no real build up to it all...it was just blah and then excitement. There needed to be something inbetween. The ending leaves us hanging so I hope that Diva fixes all the issues I had with this book because the story had left room for it

Shelby Boyer says

I was such a lover of her first book, Vixen, and I was so looking forward to this one. But it almost felt like Larkin forgot how to write; and, if not that, she completely forgot who her characters were in the first. She tried passing it off as "characterization," but it felt forced and contrived--the things she made these once so believable characters into. Now they're flat, stale, unlikeable. Even her plot remains the same, she just rotates what happened to which characters. After making Lorraine so unlikeable in the first, now it's Clara I hate. And after a juicy, deadly-romantic debut, this turns into an ultra-feminist, I-hate-men platform.

I'm so disappointed. I think because I wanted so much to like it.

Read my full review here: <http://by-its-cover.blogspot.com/2011...>

Jessica at Book Sake says

Ingenue is the follow up to last year's Vixen (The Flappers). Ingenue picks up shortly after Vixen ended with all of the main characters in New York as they have fled Chicago for different, but related, reasons. The story is shown through each of the female characters point of view. Lorraine, Raine, is still scheming to throw Gloria under the bus and doubting herself the entire way. Gloria is just trying to keep it together with her true love, despite what society thinks about an interracial couple. She and her boyfriend are on the run from the mob while trying to make ends meet. Clara is trying to behave herself, but the parties and mayhem of New York won't seem to let her get a moment's rest. Vera is trying to help her brother and Clara all the while being tempted by a love of her own. The continuation of this Roaring Twenties tale is all about the jazz, the flapper lifestyle, love, and deception.

While I really enjoyed Vixen and it's great introduction to the lifestyle of a flapper and life in that time period, this one fell short for me. I think it's partly due to the fact that you are only seeing the seedy underworld portion and not the family life that was presented in the first book. The characters that I loved to hate in the first book were just sad in this book and I didn't have much to root for in the way of a hero here.

I did enjoy that some of the characters that thought they had the upper hand and were doing the swindling got swindled in the end. A few new characters were introduced and helped the story move forward and those characters were outstanding. The ending is once again left open for a follow-up book as Clara ends up in a not so great position. I'm not sure that I will continue reading on though as I don't feel anything for these characters. The entire love story that was so prevalent in the first book seemed to fade into the background in this one.

Reviewed by Jessica for Book Sake.

Teril says

Jillian Larking takes us back into the second in the installment of her Flappers series with the question, "How much can we take in the name of love?"

All of our characters are back from the last book, Vixen and now their story is getting deeper.

As the stress of Gloria and Jerome are still on the run and their future is not looking too bright as the Mob is still high on their tail as well as a recent foe Lorraine.

Clara begins to find her voice in a juicy magazine while moving farther from the strength of Marcus and Vera soon finds her own part woven into this story more and more.

The details get richer in Ingenue and the stakes are becoming higher. Is love enough when you want to achieve your goals? Who will be sacrificed and saved in Ingenue.

Jillian Larkin has created an epic historical masterpiece with this series that bring us back into the times of loose inhibition and the rise of stardom can becoming in the flash of a skirt and the cut of a hair.

Get ready for more action, adventure, and heartache in Ingenue released this August.

Amanda says

in·gé·nue

noun/

ingénues, plural

1. An innocent or unsophisticated young woman
2. A part of this type in a play
3. An actress who plays such a part

I'll admit that I wasn't that excited about Vixen, the first book in the Flappers series. I guess that when I read it, I was just a little Roaring Twenties-ed out, between Anna Godberson's Bright Young Things and HBO's Boardwalk Empire, so it didn't seem like much beyond a bunk of bandwagon-y cliches set in the Twenties. But when I had the opportunity to read Ingenue, the sequel to Vixen, I thought I'd give it a try. Since I haven't visited the Twenties in a while, I thought it would be a little more enjoyable and perhaps a little more fresh.

In Ingenue, the stories of the young flappers continue and go to level and unexpected places, most importantly, from Chicago to New York. Gloria continues her illicit relationship with the African-American jazz musician Jerome, while working hard to advance her own jazz career, even though the pair can't seem to get away from the mob. Gloria's former best friend Lorraine spins her own mafia-inspired webs, while Clara attempts to leave her old life behind and newcomer Vera, Jerome's sister, tries to warn him of the danger he's in.

Filled with plenty of unexpected twists, Ingenue is a definite improvement on Vixen in many ways. Not only is Larkin a stronger writer this time around, but the characters and the story really come into their own here

and finally take on their own identities. No cliches here folks, only well-crafted and exciting action, complete with backstabbing and great plotting.

And for the first time reading a Flappers novel, I felt like the characters completely flew off the page and became real. I was finally able to connect with them. An excellent period novel, Larkin finally comes into her own.

April Leonard says

Check out my review here <http://youngadultlitobsession.blogspot.com/2013/03/larkin.html>...

Kerrie says

NO WORDS. -__-

Review later.

OK, I'm pushing 40, so the whole YA appeal of this book came off as completely immature. But not even the writing was able to compensate for it. It was bland and cliched to the point where (as I was listening to audio) I was finishing sentences (correctly!) before the narrator had finished.

The characters were ridiculously immature, and it was a real stretch for me to enjoy this story when the entire cast tops out at about 25 years old. Hard-bitten gangsters at 18 years old? One of the characters, Lorraine, is managing a speakeasy for a gangster (!!!) and she acts like a virgin from the boonies:

"That would be great," Hank said, "though maybe we should buy our own bottle. Wouldn't want to get my girl into any more trouble." He picked up his crate. "Now, where should I put this?"

*His face was calm and impassive, as if he hadn't just called Lorraine **HIS GIRL!** Had she imagined it? No, no, she definitely hadn't. Hank had called her **HIS GIRL!** As in **HIS GIRLFRIEND!!!!** She broke into a smile that felt too big for her face.*

The whole thing felt like a bunch of high school kids dressing up in their parents clothes and acting like how they thought adults behave. It was laughable.

So along with all the youthful high school soap opera shenanigans, when the midget gangster Thor showed up, I felt like I'd entered some kind of wormhole to a 20s version of The Terror of Tiny Town.

The use of 20s slang was heavy-handed, and the guest appearances of famous people (namely Louis

Armstrong) were tacked on. About the only thing this book kinda had going for it was addressing the Interracial Lurve issue, though it received the modern enlightened treatment. Not a surprise. It could have been grittier.

The narrator started out okay, but her cadence was really grating on my nerves after an hour. Her male gangster voices were hilariously snarly - like Eugene Pallette after gargling razor blades. The "good guys" all sounded like Southern gentlemen sippin' bourbon on the plantation veranda.

Horrible experience, so the rest of the series is a total no-go.

Sexinthelibrary says

Usually we don't find the second in a series to be worthwhile. They are bridge books to get us to the third. Not so with The Ingenue.

While continuing the story of all three girls, the bulk of the story is again on Gloria and Jerome. They are now in New York, looking for a job and finding none. Until Gloria finds work in a small nightclub in an almost too-perfect job description- they even want a redhead! There is a need for a piano player too (after the first very competent player was fired) Black piano player preferred. Well, we all know what they say about too-perfect. Yep. It is a set-up by mobster Macharelli to find the pair. Staged by his speakeasy manager in New York- Lorraine.

Gloria and Jerome are living in extreme poverty, and in an interesting switch, Gloria has to sneak in and out of Jerome's apartment because she is white. This part was very well done and historically accurate. The lack of any sex when they are living together was a huge annoyance. It was saved somewhat by the fights, make-ups, but mostly understandings reached. It still felt as if the author were trying too hard to ignore sex, and left the romance flat.

Jerome's younger sister Vera is highlighted in this book: she is out to find and help Jerome, aided by the trumpet player, Evan. While a great character, this had the definite feel of a set-up for Book 3.

Lorraine's character is the charmer here. She develops from annoying whiner to an independent woman. Let's hope she doesn't turn into an alcoholic by the next book!

In other news, Clara and Marcus are together, and in New York, although Clara is alternately worried about college and worried that she will slip into her old lifestyle. She is more than a little overwhelmed by Marcus' needs and attention. This relationship took the least attention from the author in further sketching out its characters, but we bet Clara will be a star in the third book. The possibilities are tantalizing.

The 1920's time period does not disappoint. Flappers, booze, mobsters, and double-crosses abound. The theme however, is independence

Meredith Amelotti says

You can find a full review for The Flappers: Ingenue by Jillian Larkin at A Book Lover's Corner .

Ingenu, the second book in the Flappers series, did not disappoint. There was more involvement of the mob, more flaws to the seemingly perfect relationships, and of course suspense. You will find yourself asking question after question as you try to solve the puzzle. Who ends up with who? Is he who he really says he is? Will love when out in the end? Can I trust you? If you are tired of the current time period, then I will recommend you read Ingenu to escape back to the 1920s where speakeasies, flappers, mobsters, and jazz made every moment exciting.

Linds says

I like the setting, the lingo, the characters, (though the addition as Vera as a main narrator is superfluous). Jillian Larkin forgot to include a plot among all this atmosphere. 1920's New York is a fun place to be, but the entire book hinges on people trying to find Gloria who's hiding out after the events of the previous book, Vixen, the more interesting predecessor.

I can't have hated it that much though since I intend to round off the next book in the trilogy, Diva. Hopefully this was boring exposition and set up for a more interesting conclusion.

I do like the tone, and the culture comes through very clearly. It is an interesting juxtaposition, seventeen year old girls were expected to marry and settle down before they had started their adult life, and the restlessness and desire to live it up and be independent comes through in the book.

By the way, I listened to the audio version and the actress is terrible. She does the female protagonists very well. The antagonists sneer and snarl every sentence like cartoon characters, it's almost insufferable.

Theresa says

Flappers, speakeasies, prohibition, gangsters, jazz, an interracial relationship and murder all jump from the pages of "Ingenu". This young adult book transports the reader back to a time when life was exciting and dangerous and where interracial relationships were forbidden.

Glo and Raine give such life to the story. They both came from "good" influential homes, decided to "sow their wild oats" and ended up involved living lives they never dreamed of. Both lives influenced by the mob, they do the best that they can with the cards they have been dealt. True to character, these two give such a realistic look at what the "glamorous" life was really like.

"Ingenu" is the second book in Jillian Larkin's Flapper series, and although it can be read as a stand alone, I would suggest that "Vixen" be read first. There are a few events and people that are mentioned in "Ingenu" that would be lost to the reader coming into the series with this book. These events gave me a satisfaction that wouldn't have happened had I not read the first book.

"Ingenu" is a fantastic continuation of the series. It's sassy, suspenseful, and an excellent representation of the times. Although targeted to young adults, I found myself forgetting the ages of the characters. They seemed older and more mature than the youth of today - making this a good book for both teens and adults alike.

AshleyR says**3.5 stars**

BRNTerri says

I wasn't as impressed or excited by this second installment as I was with the first in The Flappers series. The story takes place six months after Vixen ends. The entire plotline was about everyone trying to track down Gloria and Jerome for a past crime involving them. It got to be a bit tedious.

I found it totally unbelievable that all three main female characters, Gloria, Clara, and Lorraine all coincidentally ended up in the same place, New York. I wish the story had stayed centered in Chicago. I didn't really see the need to move it to a new location. The location didn't make the story any different and I'm not sure what the point was.

I didn't find Clara or Gloria very interesting this time around. Lorraine is still as evil as ever and is still my favorite. She's so jealous that I can't help but like her. She leaves me wondering what dirty deeds she'll be up to next. Poor Jerome wasn't even in the story very much but his younger sister Vera was. She was featured in this book a bit more than the previous one. I like her a bit more this time.

Things came to a head at the end and though I was disappointed with the story, I'm very anxious to read the last in the series, Diva, due out next year.

Minnie says

OMG CANT WAIT FOR THE THIRD ONE! GLORIA AND JEROME ALL THE WAY!!!!<3

Renee Hall says

Not on par with the first book, but I'm uncertain if that's because the '20s novelty has worn off a bit or if it's because some of the characters are starting to seem a little more cartoonish than previously. Unfortunately, I probably won't get to the third book anytime soon, since my library doesn't have it and I'm not interested in the series enough to buy #3 when I don't own (and probably wouldn't re-read) the others.

Emma (Miss Print) says

Gloria Carmody had to leave Chicago in a hurry after killing a mobster. She hoped to find a new start in New York City with Jerome Johnson. But a white woman loving a black man is just as hard in New York as it was in Chicago. Love aside, living in New York is much harder without the Carmody money supporting her.

Vera Johnson knows Gloria and her brother Jerome left Chicago for good reason. But when trouble threatens to follow them to New York will Vera be able to warn them both before it's too late?

Lorraine Dyer is reader for a fresh start of her own in New York. One short summer is all that stands between her and a clean slate at Barnard. But before she can forget about her less than glamorous departure from Chicago society, Lorraine needs to mete out some justice. Gloria was supposed to be her best friend. Instead she abandoned Lorraine and let her be humiliated. In public. It's only fair that Lorraine help give Gloria what she has coming to her.

Following her boyfriend Marcus Eastman to New York seemed like the perfect idea. Clara Knowles was sure it would help cement her new life leaving her flapper days far behind. But when a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity draws her back to glittering world of booze and flappers, Clara isn't sure she can walk away again.

A new city. A new life. Everyone is trying to get away from their past. But sometimes life won't let you forget a thing in *Ingenu* (2011) by Jillian Larkin.

Ingenu is the second book in The Flappers series which started last year with *Vixen*. (The series will conclude in 2012 with *Diva*.)

Much like the blasé parties Clara observes upon her return to New York City, the latest installment in this series has lost some of its luster.

While the plot moved logically here building on the events of the first book, the characters did not. A lot of their behaviors felt contrived, especially Clara who went abruptly from reading a lot to fervently wanting to a writer. And then became kind of selfish about it besides. It was also disappointing to see Lorraine once again being so sorely abused. (She is either a much abused heroine or the most sympathetic villain in the entire world--which one she is will hopefully be determined once and for all in *Diva*.)

With none of the characters actually seeing each other until the last hundred or so pages of the novel, the alternating chapters following each heroine just feel choppy and disjointed. Combined with the numerous missed connections between Vera and Gloria the book started to feel very forced.

Ingenu is a decent installment and a fine bridge to the conclusion of the trilogy. It just was not, sadly, quite as brilliant as the first book in the series.

Possible Pairings: *Strings Attached* by Judy Blundell, *Flappers and Philosophers* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Ten Cents a Dance* by Christine Fletcher, *Bright Young Things* by Anna Godbersen, *The Luxe* by Anna Godbersen, *The Sheik* by Edith Hull, *Bowery Girl* by Kim Taylor

You can find this review and more on my blog [Miss Print](#)

Carmen Rey says

The first book was good. Not the greatest book, but good enough that, when I was at the library, I made a point to pick up the second and third. First, I started to read the third before the second, and part of me wishes I hadn't decided to go back. I was fine without having read the second and probably would have been happier. The book kind of starts to display just how out of place some of the writer's word choices are and definitely how shallow her characters are. It's everything I hate about high school books rolled up with alcohol, guns and mobsters.

Amy Lignor says

The first book in this incredible series titled, The Flapper Series, was Vixen. And with that first incredible noel, readers were introduced to the 'Roaring 20's' and the fun, power, and mystique that the twenties still carry today. The clothes were cool, the music was jazz, the mobsters were many, and the people who had their own little niches had their own little secrets, romances, and futures all planned out in the crazy, entertaining world.

Ingénue is the second installment in The Flapper Series, and it begins only a few months after Vixen left off. Luckily, the author is still at her highest heights. From page one, readers are not left wanting, as the amazing characters are driven full-force back into our literary lives.

The girls are the same. For a brief recap, Lorraine Dyer is the one who exposed Clara Knowles secret "trampy" past, but lost her best friend Gloria when she played that card. Gloria Carmody is in love with Jerome Johnson and has left Claire and her backstabbing behind. And, Clara Knowles is with the man she loves, yet even though she knows its wrong - the flapper life, the dazzling music and smoke-filled rooms - that scene is still something she can't forget.

Book II begins in New York City. Clara has followed Marcus to New York looking for a fresh start where she was formerly known as a wild flapper. Lorraine is also in the big city and is hired to run a speakeasy owned by Ernesto Macharelli, a man said to be second only to Al Capone. Gloria and Jerome, who are still skulking around, are living in poor circumstances and are very desperate not to be found by their families. Jerome's younger sister, Vera, discovers that Jerome's life is still in danger from the vengeful Carlito Macharelli, son of Ernesto, so she and her friend Evan go to the City to find Jerome and Gloria to let them know about the danger.

Clara starts to come into her own by becoming a reporter for a slick magazine; Gloria and Jerome's story is very sad as issues of race seem to take over their dreams; and, Lorraine is really something else. She is basically a good person but, not a very good friend. She is up to no good and can't seem to make up her mind between the good guys versus the bad. And, Vera, Jerome's sister, is an extremely loyal girl and wants so much to find her brother to warn him, but when she finally does find him, things start to go bad for everyone.

Ingénue follows the same path as Vixen. This book is full of action! From Mob dealings, deception, betrayal, to romance and flappers galore, this is so much fun to read that it can't be put down. The author, once again, does a wonderful job of bringing you back to a sincerely mesmerizing time in history.

This series should definitely be on your list to buy, as these books tell what 1920's New York was really all

about - good gossip and a whole lot of fun.

Tanj says

If i could give it a 3.5 I would, but definitely not a 4

I really like the idea behind the series. However, adding the fourth perspective was a little too much. At least in Vixen, all three girls were somewhat intermixing. In Ingenu, it took way too long for all four paths to collide and it made reading it a little tedious, since you'd have to remember four chapters back every time you got to the next character. It also made the plot feel rushed since four different stories were being crammed into 350 pages and a lot of the "plot twists" seemed pretty obvious.

That being said, I enjoyed it over all. As far as teen books go, this series is pretty original and way better than all those stupid paranormal romance books most girls go crazy for. And I will certainly be looking forward to Diva when it comes out next year.
