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# Ingenu (The Flappers)



## Synopsis

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. . . .

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Ingenue, the second book in Jillian Larkin's Flapper series, picks up a few months after Vixen left off, but it thrusts us full force back into the lives of the four main characters. It's now summer and

Clara has followed Marcus to New York City, looking for a new start in the place where she was formerly known as the wild child flapper. Also in New York is Lorraine, who finds herself running a speakeasy due to Ernesto Macharelli's influence, rubbing elbows with the Mob and still out for revenge against former best friend Gloria. That leaves Gloria and Jerome, who are still having to sneak around for their forbidden love affair, living in poorer circumstances than either has ever known, and desperate not to be found. When Jerome's younger sister Vera discovers that Jerome's life is still in danger from the vengeful Carlito Macharelli, she (and friend Evan) hightail it to NYC to find Jerome and Gloria and let them know about the danger. Lots and lots of action fills *Ingenué*: secret Mob dealings, romance, deception, betrayal, and flappers galore abound. I loved how Clara starts to come into her own, but suffered right along with her when she struggles with her relationship with Marcus. Gloria and Jerome's story is well done but I still feel that, for the times, it is unrealistic and cannot possibly end well, but we'll see if love triumphs. Lorraine? Well, I've never warmed up to her, and her ridiculous vendetta and uber-foolishness really sent me over the edge this time. But if there's someone I really felt was extraneous, it was Vera, at least for the first 3/4 of the book; it wasn't until Evan's life is threatened that she finally comes to life. She spends way too much time wandering around and when she finally sees Gloria, she disrupts an entire ballroom? Uh...no.

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 *Ingenué* (2011) by Jillian Larkin. *Ingenué* 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 blase parties Clara observes upon her return to New York City, the latest installment in this series has lost some of its luster.

The second installment of The Flappers series did not disappoint. I left the library practically skipping on the day it arrived at my library. I was excited to travel back to the 1920s, and see what Vera, Clara, Lorraine, Marcus, Gloria, and Jerome were all up to now. There was a LOT more involvement of the mob in the second book, which as I mentioned in my review for Vixen I wanted to see more of. In the comforts of my home, I always say how fascinating it would be to experience the mob. Then I really think about it, and realize that I could never handle it in real life. While reading Ingenué, I felt the fear that the mobsters instilled. I felt the disgust and desperation. I loved reading every second of it. One of the main focuses of the book was to follow all the couples that formed in Vixen, and see how they were doing. SPOILER: We have Clara and Marcus, Jerome and Gloria, and Vera (Jerome's younger sister) falls for one of the band members from Jerome's old band. Lorraine flitted around. She was heavily involved with the mob, so she was focusing on doing her job correctly. Clara and Marcus' big problem was being back in New York, the place of Clara's downfall before meeting Marcus. Jerome and Gloria's big problem was how he was African American and she was white. Biracial relationships were unheard of in the 1920s, more so than today. Vera and her special beau team up together to protect the ones they care about and right the wrongs that had taken place. Ingenué is told from alternating perspectives of Vera, Gloria, Lorraine, and Clara. You feel like you are right in the middle of the action, especially when things heat up between the main characters and the mobsters.

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