



Diva

Jillian Larkin

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If you love *The Great Gatsby*, you'll want to read the Flappers series.

Joy and tragedy collide in DIVA, the riveting conclusion to the Flappers series, set in the dazzling Roaring Twenties. Parties, bad boys, speakeasies—life in Manhattan has become a woozy blur for Clara Knowles. If Marcus Eastman truly loved her, how could he have fallen for another girl so quickly? Their romance mustn't have been as magical as Clara thought. And if she has to be unhappy, she's going to drag everyone else down to the depths of despair right along with her.

Being a Barnard girl is the stuff of Lorraine Dyer's dreams. Finding out that Marcus is marrying a gold digger who may or may not be named Anastasia? A nightmare. The old Lorraine would have sat by and let the chips fall where they may, but she's grown up a lot these past few months. She can't bear to see Marcus lose a chance for true love. But will anyone listen to her?

Now that the charges against her have been dropped, Gloria Carmody is spending the last dizzying days of summer on Long Island, yachting on the sound and palling around with socialites at Forrest Hamilton's swanky villa. Beneath her smile, though, Gloria's keeping a secret. One that could have deadly consequences
...

Diva Details

Date : Published July 10th 2012 by Delacorte Books for Young Readers (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9780385740418

Author : Jillian Larkin

Format : Hardcover 320 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Romance

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From Reader Review Diva for online ebook

Maren says

I've only kind-of enjoyed this series, which follows three girls in the 1920s as they grow up, bob their hair, and fall in love. I feel like Bright Young Things is a superior series about the same period, but the final book in the Flappers series finishes strong.

When last we left our girls, Gloria was arrested for shooting the mobster who was trying to kill her man; Lorraine was learning a few hard lessons about who to trust, and Clara (my favorite character), after losing love-of-her-life Marcus, is living the flapper life and reporting about it in her weekly column for the Manhattanite.

Diva moves forward quickly, introducing Gloria to a Gatsby-ish playboy about whom the FBI wants Gloria to dig up some dirt. Lorraine discovers that Marcus is about to marry a con artist and enlists Clara's help in stopping the wedding. Everything comes together at the lavish Plaza wedding, which includes a few more G-men than most.

Friendships change and grow and unlikely romances are discovered. Lorraine finds redemption for her past deeds, Clara finds her way back to love, and Glo and Jerome may have finally found a place they can be together.

The plot is wrapped up well and while there were still many historical inaccuracies, it was still enjoyable. And it has many descriptions of lovely 20s dresses.

Thanks to Net Galley for the advance copy.

Chelsey Wolford says

This is the third book in the Flappers series by Jillian Larkin, and let me start off by saying that this is a series well worth submerging yourself in. As stated above, the books are set in the middle of the 1920's and follow the lives of three extraordinary Flappers who always seem to find trouble and chaos wherever they go. If you follow my blog at all you know that I love stories that follow more than one lead character. Gloria, Lorraine, and Clara's stories eventually intertwine and only makes for a more interesting story!

Jillian's writing is the ultimate and her love and interest in the 1920's really comes through within the pages. The audacity of these three women is equivalent to the styles and attitudes carried by women in the Roaring 20's. Each woman is outspoken and genuine in her own way. Each chapter is titled with the name of the woman being described and this makes the book so much easier to keep up with! Their stories eventually fuse together and a mystery unfolds that sends the girls on a wild goose chase.

My favorite character was Gloria Carmody, who had just recently gotten out of jail for killing a man who was trying to in turn kill her fiancé. This girl has guts! I loved her and all the gumption that she brought to the pages. Her fiancé was actually an African American man who made his money playing in jazz clubs and trying not to get mauled by angry white mobs. She toured with him as a phenomenal jazz singer. She took a lot of negativity from other people about the man that she chose to associate with, especially during a time such as the 20's, but she never slowed down and neither did her love for Jerome.

This was actually the first book that I have read in awhile that focused on this era and the realism of it made me want to read more and more. From the jazz music and flutes of champagne to the strands of pearls and the sequined flapper dresses; I was absorbing every word. Larkin provides a well detailed analysis of what life was really like in this decadent time period. The plot along with all the wonderful descriptions only added to the romantic aspects of the book and all the relationships that began to unfold and old loves that were made new. This is definitely an intriguing read that I would suggest for anyone and I hope that Jillian decides to provide us, her readers, with a more inside view on her favorite era!

A copy of this book was provided to me by Netgalley in return for an honest review

Liana says

Oh, my. I was supposed to finish this book 3 days ago but I came out with a fever. So I didn't read for like, 2 days, which is really bad and I felt horrible because this book was so good, maybe too good to put down just because I was sick.

But, anyways, I felt infinitely better last night (although I do feel sick now) and stayed up for about 2 hours in the bathroom and didn't go to sleep until 1. Guess what I was doing? Finishing this book! Looks like I got 200 pages down in 2 hours. I really am speeding back up.

Anyways, Jillian Larkin is absolutely po-si-lute-ly fabulous. Did I say that already? Yeah, I did.

This is one of the series in which I liked the first book the most. I mean, this one was great and all but the first one was where everything began, and I like the beginning. DIVA, no matter how fabulous of a conclusion it was, I still like VIXEN out of the three. (And Gloria and Lorraine are both gorgeous, however I have to admit that Clara sure rocks the covergirl looks)

I'm sad to say goodbye to this series. (Dang, I've been reading third books in series recently. Ha.)

This was a wonderful conclusion and it taught us about love, about determination, about redemption, and about friendship and loyalty. Some characters appear to me differently now, because of their positive endeavors. I won't say whom, but for those who've read this series I think y'all know who I'm talking about.

That ending made me cry.

Overall, the 1920's has become such a glamorous and beautiful decade to me, nevermind the flappers and the booze and the speakeasies. Jillian Larkin made it all fascinating.

Zaida says

The final book of the series, said with a big sigh * sigh *

We get to see a different point of view in a part of this story, and by different point of view I mean through the eyes of the hunk Jerome himself (insert another sigh here). Even though this is different than the previous two books which only followed the point of view of females, it still was true to the heart of the story.

My hear was pounding with every page I turned. Not only is Gloria playing a dangerous game being a flapper spy, but Lorraine and Clara are investigating a dangerous criminal themselves. I do not want to spoil

the awesomeness that is in this book, you'll have to read it for yourself but know this; my heart was beating crazy eager for the return of Jerome to his Gloria. I laughed at the crazy antics of Lorraine, who we see truly grow in this final book. I sympathized with Clara who finally realizes love isn't about losing one's independence, it's about love nothing more and nothing less. What's more is I cried, because the author stayed true to real life. Not everyone gets their happy ending, but you're just gonna have to read to learn more about this life lesson.

This was a wonderful series which has greatly inspired me in love and life. I feel like there are a lot of lessons learned, and a lot of laughter and actions from the books. Don't wait any longer to read!

usagi ?? says

3.5/5 stars!

Okay, so this one dragged in a few places (mostly, I think, because the main arcs were wrapped up in book two), but I did like the ending and the epilogue for the closure it finally gave everyone involved in this series. At first I asked myself why this book was needed at all, and I eventually got my answer. "Diva" is a fun end to an equally fun trilogy, even if this one is more of an epilogue to the previous fast-paced high-action books full of glamorous mobsters and flappers.

I found this one had a lot less urgency (even though there should have been more, considering Gloria's tenuous position with the FBI), and felt that it lingered in more places than it should have compared to the previous two. That being said, Larkin's use of sensory language and imagery soars the most in this final book – I could taste the food and drink, feel the lovely dresses and my hair bobbed, and feel the salty wind in my face on the yacht. The fashions were awesome, and I did kind of feel like bobbing my hair by the end of everything. It's kind of what saved the book, with the exception of the ending – the ending made it all worth it.

I also do feel like Larkin could have used Jerome for more than just a punching bag, but with what evidence we do have of how African-Americans were treated during this period, I suppose it's true to that. He felt a little underused compared to everyone else, and considering how central he was to the previous book (and now, to how Gloria is serving out her sentence for the feds), it almost felt like he was tossed away, and that wasn't too great. I did like how everyone sort of mended fences, and the last two chapters were some of the most fantastic of the trilogy. But in between those, there was an unpleasant laggy feeling, so...I don't really know what to make of it. But because the ending was so insanely awesome, it makes up for the lag. I also wondered why we were given new characters as some of the time they felt like filler, but they acted as good foils (though throwing the semi-love triangle didn't really flow too well with everything else) for other characters that were otherwise occupied. All in all, I'm satisfied with what I got, but I think it could have used another editorial pass or two to make it feel a little less disjointed/rough around the edges altogether.

Final verdict? If you've read this far into the trilogy, you may as well finish it. Fans of the first two books will love this final book in the series, and finally feel a sense of closure with our heroes getting their happily ever afters they sorely deserve. "Diva" is out July 10th 2012 from Random House in North America, so be sure to check it out then!

(posted to goodreads, shelfari, and birthofanewwitch.wordpress.com)

Angie says

I received a free digital copy through Net Galley.

I'm sad to see this series end. I'll miss the glitz and the glamor, and of course, the drama!

Gloria has had the best plot so far: interracial romance, starring in shows at speakeasies, being hunted by the mob, and getting arrested! But in *Divya* her story seems to have flat-lined. She's released from prison on the condition that she helps bring in Forrest Hamilton, a probable con-man. Part One of this plot wasn't that interesting, but then Jerome is back! We actually get the addition of his POV this time around, which I really enjoyed. It's far more interesting than his cousin, Vera's, was in *Ingenue*. It was about time that we see how Jerome feels about everything that has been happening. Too bad he only gets three chapters. I think the author could have strengthened this book with a bit more of Jerome, since he's been such a driving force in the series.

Clara, the flapper queen and gossip columnist, has seemed to have lost her way. I found her a little bland in the previous book after loving her in the first book, but now her attitude is back and in full swing as she attempts to fend off her boss' unwanted advances and works on a scheme with...Lorraine! Clara's story seemed to fade into the background at times, and was overshadowed by Lorraine's, since they're very closely related.

Did Lorraine lose some brain cells between the end of *Ingenue* and now? Or is sobriety just getting to her. I've loved Lorraine's over-the-top dramatics in the previous two books, but now she's truly just dumb and annoying. She's stalking Marcus again, but she's managing to get perfect grades due to being blacklisted from all of the swanky clubs. She still holds a bit of a grudge against Gloria, even though everything that has happened is her own fault! I was still interested in her story though, since this girl is truly a train wreck, and I simply cannot look away!

With *Divya*, the Flappers series has ended with a bang. Literally. While, I didn't enjoy this one as much as the previous two, it's still a worthy addition to the series. It also wraps up everyone's stories quite nicely.

"The characters in books shouldn't have all the fun, right?" (95% eARC)

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Katie says

Similar Books: *The Debutantes* by Cora Harrison, *Parlor Games* by Maryka Biaggio, *Bright Young Things* by Anna Godbersen

I've really enjoyed reading this series, and I'm sort of sad it's over. Jillian Larkin is very similar to Anna Godbersen in the way she tells a story, and I love a good historical. But while I liked the final installment in the Flappers series, I thought it didn't quite capture the magic of the first book.

Honestly, Larkin could have ended this series at book 2. Everything was wrapped up - not necessarily in a happily-ever-after sort of way but in what I felt like was a satisfying ending. Book 3 then had to launch a lot of new plotlines, which were interesting but otherwise unnecessary. This resulted in what I thought was some rushed plot threads that were tied together too quickly.

For one, Lorraine and her new boy. Now, I LOVE Lorraine. She was my favorite character throughout the series. She has a wonderful amount of character growth, and she made me laugh constantly. Her chapters were always my favorite! And while I liked her new guy, I thought the development of their romance was too fast. I wish I could have seen him throughout the series and watched their relationship build. But on the flip side, I thought he was PERFECT for her! Love Larkin's choice here.

Clara's plotline felt continued from previous books, and I thought her story in this book was believable. But Gloria's felt tacked on, like it was added because Larkin ran out of story for her and just added another bit. I never liked Gloria much, but I found her kind of superfluous in this book. Her relationship with Jerome was adequately wrapped up at the end of book 2, and I thought it felt stretched in this one.

I did, however, enjoy the introduction of the new character, Forest, who is VERY Jay Gatsby-esque. I felt like he and Ruby were straight out of a Fitzgerald novel (which is ironic, since Forest says that he doesn't like Mr. Fitzgerald's books - purposeful irony, I'm assuming). And the end to his story was also very Fitzgerald. My inner literary nerd enjoyed this bit very much. :)

Overall, I think fans of the series will enjoy this book. But neither books 2 nor 3 really captured that spark of magic that was in book 1. I think maybe Larkin should have kept the series set in Chicago, among all the mobsters and mystery. Because once the girls set foot in New York, the story felt like an Anna Godbersen remake. Which is sad, as Larkin is obviously a talented writer.

Still, I'd recommend this series. It's got lots of great flapper info, and I loved all the slang and fashion!

Pamela Hubbard says

I felt like this was a good final book in the trilogy. It contained a little less drama and suspense as the other two books but it still had that same dangerous 1920s flair. Gloria is sent on a mission by the FBI to investigate a rich Broadway producer. If she can get information on him, she will go free. If not, she will go back to jail for killing Carlito in book 2. Throughout all this, she has very little contact with Jerome, and while she still pines for him, their relationship is not the central focus of the book like it was before. That story line seemed a bit played out. Surprisingly, my favourite parts of the book were the ones with Clara and Lorraine. Marcus gets engaged and since the circumstances seem odd, Lorraine and Clara start to investigate the bride and find some interesting information. This results in a quest to stop the wedding! The book was entertaining, easily read in a day, but not one that I would read again.

Brett says

I'm wondering if Jillian Larkin & Anna Godbersen are friends who are seeing who can do a better job with a teen soap opera set in the 1920's? Otherwise, they're probably feeling like rivals right about now. This is the conclusion to her trilogy beginning with "Ingenuer," & it has so much in common with Godbersen's "Bright Young Things" that one wonders if book publishers have any communication at all. That said, here's what I think of this particular book/series: It's definitely not high literature by anyone's standards, but it's definitely been fun. However, I noticed that this one is even more heavily laden with descriptions of what the various characters are wearing than the last two, & that's saying something. I had to admit it began to grate on me a little. Beyond that, the soap opera pettishness & wildly improbable hijinks continue, although of course everything more or less works out for everyone in the end. No wild surprises there, but it's still a fun, light read that you don't have to think too deeply about.

Elizabeth B says

This book wants to be a grownup. It wants to have lyrical language and characters stumbling through adult problems and relationships. Unfortunately, it doesn't come close to living up to this. The characters are no more well developed than they were in the last book and, perhaps even moreso, they tend to act out to drown their problems. While that's certainly one approach to take, it's certainly not one that makes the character grow. Nor does it manage to engage me as a reader...there's only so many times you can tell me the characters are drinking too much before I just don't care anymore. The attempts to "shock" the reader by the behavior doesn't quite make it either since the actions are normal for the time period they are in. I think the attempt to make this a YA novel just doesn't work...the improper balance of adult settings and scenes with teen reactions causes both audiences to be short changed from what could be a good story. The dual personality of it is frustrating and exhausting and I wish the author had been given more editorial guidance on writing appropriate to a specific genre for marketing purposes because, as written, it's very hard to place in the hands of the correct reader.

ARC Galley Proof

WTF Are You Reading? says

Hello Guys and Dolls,

Thanks for tuning in for WTF's musing's on Diva, the final installment of Jillian Larkin's Flapper series. If you have come to expect the glitz, glamor, dirt, danger, and secrets...secrets...secrets. You will not be disappointed.

Though only a few months have passed since the heart-stopping conclusion of the last tale and where we find the players in our little drama; so much has changed.

Gloria and Jerome...

As usual, life can never be simple for these two.

Yes...Gloria has been freed from jail after killing the man that tried to kill Jerome, but at what cost?

It seems that if our little jailbird wants to stay free she has to sing a sweet tune to the Feds about a certain producer who is living the high-life on money from "low places".

Jerome it seems can never catch a break. While he waits for news of his lady love; certain people are determined to make his life as hard as possible.

The QUESTION: Will these two ever be free to make beautiful music together, or are they doomed to sing solos of heartache and loss forever?

The ANSWER: Read the book.

Clara and Marcus....

While Clara is busy being the mouth of Manhattan as the star reporter for the Manhattanite, Marcus has been hitting the books over on the campus of Columbia University and...planning a wedding?

That's right folks.

It seems that Marcus wasted no time in finding another 'forever girl' when Clara chose working over wifing.

The QUESTIONS: Is Marcus' new love all that she seems, or does her bridal veil hide more than just her

pretty pout?

Has Clara really thrown in the towel on her 'happy ending' with Marcus?

The ANSWER: Read the book.

Lorraine...

Try as she might, this girl can never seem to get it right. Though she has traded in the nightlife of the speakeasy set for the highlighters and note books of Barnard College; she is still on the outs because of her rep as "the girl who ratted out Gloria Carmondy".

The QUESTION: Will Lorraine ever be able to make amends for all the wrong that she has done?

The ANSWER: Read the book?

WTF Are You Reading? says...

This book is well worth the wait. It is packed with all the romance, action, intrigue, an passion of the other books in the series, and still managed to hold it's own plot-wise. Readers will be happy to note that while the first two books focus on the girls, the boys are allowed to shine a little brighter in this read. This book is a fitting end to the sparkle, spectacle, triumph, and tragedy, that serve as the calling cards of THE FLAPPERS.

Find this review here: [WTF Are You Reading?: This "Diva" Lives Up to The Legend](#)

Amanda says

Between the jazz, booze and scandal, the world has completely changed for all of our once-innocent flappers. The wild clubs of Prohibition-era New York have changed their lives forward, from launching promising careers in journalism and show business to brushes with the law and scandalous relationships. All of the drama comes to a climatic end in Jillian Larkin's Diva, the final book in her Flappers trilogy, where dreams come true and romance triumphs.

After narrowly escaping prison, Gloria spends her time in luxury on Long Island, losing herself in a life of secrets and socialites. Meanwhile, Lorraine is trying to break into Broadway while running after the love of her life, no matter what it takes. Clara has fallen into the dark work of parties, booze and speakeasies, and lost the love of a boy she thought was the one for her.

The final drama of the Flappers, their lives and loves reach a dramatic climax in Diva, where the girls have completely grown up, and are willing to go as far as it takes to get what they want. Faced with new challenges and even higher stakes, our lovely heroines are forced to make serious choices that will change the courses of their lives.

While I am sad to see this series end, I felt like it had a satisfying (though somewhat "too perfect") ending that fans of these books will enjoy. As much as I don't like saying farewell to the Roaring Twenties, I'm interested to see what other books author Jillian Larkin has in store for us. Anything goes.

Tina says

3.75 stars- If you haven't read the last book in awhile, have no fear. This book was easy to dive right in and catch up easy and fast.

* Gloria- In prison for murdering a gangster to save her lover. To win her freedom she partners with the FBI. She makes a new group of friends with their own new drama.

* Vera- She's not in this one. There are some mentions, the reader does find out how she's doing. She might not make an appearance but her brother Jerome gets his own pov chapters.

* Lorraine- She's on a mission to turn over a new leaf. She starts off just as crazy and obsessive as ever. But eventually, she redeems herself.

* Clara- Separated from Marcus, she realizes that she's not leading the life she wanted. Speakeasies and drama are not as exciting as they used to be. Marcus gets himself into trouble (unbeknownst to him). Clara has to decide to leave him alone or get involved.

* I was satisfied with the ending. Everything was wrapped up nicely and fit the series.

Plot 4 stars

Cover 4 stars

Writing 3 stars

Setting 4 stars

Originality 3 stars

Characters 4 stars

Romance / Chemistry 4 stars

Drama : Romance Ratio 50:50

Ending 4 stars

Good enough to pick up again 4 stars

Cialina (Muggle-Born) says

Originally posted at: <http://muggle-born.net/diva-by-jillia...>

I continued to enjoy the different perspectives in Diva by Jillian Larkin because I loved seeing how the storylines would intersect. Diva continues through the perspectives of Gloria, Clara, and Lorraine in the 1920's Prohibition in New York City. I was a little sad at first that Vera was no longer in the picture but it seemed like she already had her happily ever after.

Basically, the theme for this book is redemption. Lorraine wants her friends back, Clara wants Marcus back, and Gloria just wants her life back with Jerome. Jillian Larkin manages to keep me engaged into the different plots with various surprises along the way.

However, Gloria's subplot to uncover the mystery behind the rich Forrest Hamilton became a little predictable. The Flappers series is pitched for fans of The Great Gatsby, and it became a little too clear by the time I finished the book: Gloria's subplot mimics the storyline of F. Scott Fitzgerald's famous novel. If it were any other novel, I probably would have been aghast. But since The Flappers is a fun series, I looked at it as a nice homage to the author that inspired the books.

For the most part, I read Diva to hope for my happily ever afters. After reading Ingenue, I wasn't satisfied

with the ending, so I just had to finish up the series to get my fix of romance.

It was also a treat to travel back to the 1920's. I think that Jillian Larkin captures the best in her series is the music. I really get a lot of the setting's mood and atmosphere through the different types of music that we are exposed to as a reader. I actually wished that there was a playlist that I could listen to while I read Diva. It made me crave for jazz and a little bit of showtunes. I also would have loved to hear Gloria sing!

What makes Diva a little different from the other books in the series is that there is a lot less emphasis on the nightlife in the Prohibition era. The characters in the first two novels were so involved in speakeasies and gin joints. But in Diva, there are only mentions of these places. A lot has to do with the fact that the characters have grown since the last book: Gloria has been arrested, Lorraine has finally matured, and Clara has lost her one true love. For the most part, their partying days are behind them.

Instead, Diva focuses on the life of the young and the rich in the 1920's. Lorraine is a Barnard girl, Clara is a successful writer for a popular magazine, and Gloria is hanging out with the rich in Long Island. It was a nice change of pace, and it prevented Diva from being too similar from Ingenue, the previous book.

Diva is not the best conclusion to a series that I've ever read, but it was good enough. I got my fix of romance and history.

Jessica says

I know I have said this before but I love the 1920s! The flappers, the dangers of drinking and getting caught, the music and dancing...I love it all! So it was no surprise to me that I enjoyed this series. I was sad that this was the last book but it was a very enjoyable and quick read.

Gloria is out of jail but only on one condition. She needs to find how Forrest Hamilton has so much money. The FBI is sure that it is something illegal and they send Gloria in, undercover, to find out. Gloria, not knowing where Jerome is, agrees to do it in the hopes that she can keep herself and her fiance out of jail.

Once she meets Forrest, she realizes he is actually a good guy. She meets him, his shady man, Pembroke, and his other houseguests, Glamour and Glitz and Ruby and Marty. She quickly discovers that there is more between Forrest and Ruby than meets the eye. She must discover how Forrest is getting his money and get proof for the FBI, find Jerome and help Forrest and Ruby. Sounds easy right?

Meanwhile, Clara, Gloria's cousin, is still heartbroken over her breakup with Marcus Eastman. This is made worse when she finds out that he has quickly found another woman and gotten engaged. She tries to put Marcus behind her and continue with her journalism career at The Manhattanite, the local rag magazine and even goes out with her boss, Parker, a few times. At a party put on by Forrest Hamilton, she is reunited (sort of) with Gloria and Lorraine Dyer. Lorraine tells Clara that the woman Marcus is marrying is a gold digging con artist and together they must expose her and stop Marcus from making the biggest mistake of his life.

Lorraine is a student at Barnard College. She is still disliked by everyone for her part in putting Gloria in jail. Her only friends are her roommate, Becky, and Melvin, the nerdy guy who has hung around her since school started. Lorraine thinks she is madly in love with Marcus Eastman and follows him through the campus of

Columbia. When she discovers that he is engaged to a con artist, she seeks out Clara and together with Melvin, they attempt to expose the con. While working with Melvin, Lorraine finds out that maybe there is more to a guy than just his looks and his wallet.

I loved all the main characters in this book! They were strong, smart and funny! I liked how everything came around full circle and even though they all left each other in the first book, they all find each other again in this one. Lorraine grew up a lot in this book and I enjoyed seeing that.

The secondary characters were great too! Glamour and Glitz were flaky and all they cared about was drinking and dancing but they were fun to listen too. Pembroke was completely creepy and Forrest was very mysterious. Melvin was sweet and he put up with a lot from Lorraine but wasn't a total pushover.

I liked how this book ended the series. It was a complete happy ending, for the most part. I thought the wedding events were a little unrealistic. I mean, really? How much excitement can you have in one wedding? But it was still fun to read and it was definitely exciting!

This book comes out in July and if you have read the first two books, I highly recommend picking up this one. If you haven't read the first two books, what are you waiting for? Go read them so you can be ready in July for this one!

Teresa in Ohio says

This series starts off with a bang and end with a wimper. Gloria has been front and centered with her story full of angst, pain, love, danger and betrayal. Clara had her moments and was coming in to her own in the second book. Lorraine is a train wreck who is trying to repair her image. Marcus has his heart broken and then gets engaged too quickly.

In this book Gloria is in jail and quickly freed to spy on a con man. Clara is just hanging out being a socialite. Lorraine is in school leading a boring life. This book was just flat, and went nowhere to a conclusion that happened very awkwardly.

In one page, Marcus wedding is turned upside down, Lorraine is forgiven, Jerome reappears and Clara is just there.

Jessica says

I haven't read the first two books of this series, but I was really intrigued when I saw that it was about flappers in the 1920s. I love that era, but I have never actually read a young adult book set in that time, so I knew I was in for a treat!

The book starts out with Gloria being released from jail and agreeing to spy on a playwright in order to earn her freedom. The whole background of her situation and how everyone was related to one another was very confusing in the beginning, but that's because I haven't read the first two books. I think as a reader who is

familiar with this series, they will be able to follow along much better than I did. Despite my lack of background knowledge, I was able to pick up enough to follow along for the rest of the story.

Aside from the confusion, Diva definitely held the notorious Roaring Twenties storyline. There were fabulous parties, speakeasies, fashion icons, and just crazy lives in general. I really grew to like Lorraine, Clara, and Gloria and their individual stories and personalities. There was some mystery with how Forrest, the playwright, could be so young and so wealthy, along with where Jerome went and all of these conspiracies fit together. It seems like no one can stay out of trouble and there is some heart that's breaking around every corner.

All of the characters are definitely unique in their own ways, but that just makes the story so much more interesting. The parties are fantastic and their lives are just so much different from ours today that I couldn't get enough of the time period. I really wish that I had read the first two books in the series so that I could spend more time in this era and really get the most out of the final book of the series. If you're a fan of the first two novels, definitely pick up the final book! And if you haven't read them, I would recommend checking out the first book of this series because I know it has to offer a fun story about an era that was pure fabulousness.

Rebecca Gordon says

Diva by Jillian Larkin is worth reading for the description of the elegant clothes alone. When Diva begins Clara is tired of the flapper lifestyle and wants Marcus back. Lorraine is now at Barnard but being a college girl is no fun when you have no friends. Lorraine finds out that Marcus's fiancée is not who she says she is. How will Lorraine tell Marcus when he wants nothing to do with her and neither does anyone else? She will come up with a way because she has grown up. Gloria has been cleared of all charges but she is still not reunited with Jerome. Gloria is now living in Long Island and socializing with Forrest Hamilton and his entourage. However Gloria has more going on in her life than just trying to look snazzy. I loved reading about the roaring twenties as it is one of my favorite time periods. I really feel the Flapper series illustrates how women were changing and wanting more for themselves. Throughout the series I have read about how these young women have gone to great lengths to get what they want. This inspires me as if they were able to take risks then, I can take risks now. As I am reading I can picture the scene and especially the beautiful clothes and that is what makes Diva not only a good historical romance novel for teens but a novel full of captivating descriptions. I would recommend Diva to readers who enjoy the Roaring Twenties and historical romance.

Elle! says

Cloche hats, cupid bow lips and speakeasies

"Diva" is the last novel to my beloved Flapper Series. You can find the books (Vixen #1) and (Ingenuer #2) on the shelves of basically any book store. This book wasn't as action packed though it should have been, I mean really Gloria, you were mixed up with the FBI. How can that not be fun. This book seemed a bit more gimmicky with its plot line. There were descriptions of gowns and heels, suits and gleaming hair. This book seemed so slow! The newest characters like Melvin and some of the FBI guys seemed like flat characters - like Flat Stanley.

Evil Lorraine (my favorite) met Melvin and turned over a new leaf. Mr. Jerome had like what? One chapter in

the book, so his character wasn't very necessary. He just started the book off , shuttled away and died. The ending was fun, the last few chapters made me laugh but the whole book in a way had me very disappointed about the wrap up. I was like "Happy Ending" , everyone gets exactly what they want - that's all?

Senia says

I liked Diva- but honestly, I felt like it was a little over the top at a lot of points. But maybe that's what you get when you read a book about flappers and mobsters.

Gloria got the best end in my opinion, but bits of her story seemed to overlap and get confusing sometimes. Her secret job with the FBI is overshadowed by her on and off again relationship with Jerome, who is posing as a waiter at her family's summer estate. On top of that, Gloria ends up playing referee to yet another "not really together" couple that has ties to her secret FBI job..... it was a mess at some points. Her story was by far the most exciting for me, but it seemed a little messy.

Lorraine- meh. She had the most boring story, which is a shame, because her character was fascinating and a lot fun. All she does during the book is occasionally attend classes at Bernard, hang out with a boy named Melvin, and eventually assist Clara in becoming the hero. Probably the best part about her in this book was her dialogue. She was pretty funny, which is just another reason I wish she had gotten more character development.

Then there's Clara. She had the most exciting story, but it was also the most ludicrous. There were quite a few scenes (especially near the end) that had me rolling my eyes and thinking "really?". Her relationship with Marcus seemed forced and rushed. His evil fiancée was very cartoonish and just.... odd. It seemed like marrying Marcus was the only closure Clara got. There was never any mention of her parents, her baby, her former lover... nothing. The ending was very abrupt.

There were good things. Jillian Larking still creates great chemistry between the characters. She still writes about the 20's with passion and knowledge. I guess I just felt like the ending was too rushed. I would have liked to see everyone get a better ending after Jillian gave her readers such great characters. All in all, it was a fun read, but not what I hoped.
