

Bunny Lake is Missing (Femmes Fatales)

By Evelyn Piper

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Bunny Lake is Missing (Femmes Fatales) By Evelyn Piper

Blanche Lake is not like the other mothers who come to collect their children at the local nursery school on New York's Upper East Side. She lives alone, has a job, and has never been married. It's the first day of school when this story begins, and Blanche is eager to see how her daughter, Bunny, has fared away from home. But her expectant waiting becomes a mother's most dreaded nightmare: Bunny never materializes. Neither teachers nor students recall the small girl, and soon Blanche is engaged in a frantic search for any trace of her missing daughter. And the worst part is . . . no one believes her.

In this fraught and at times freakish tale of suspense, Evelyn Piper takes us deep into the psyche of the 1950s to explore American fetishes, fallacies, and fears around motherhood and sexuality. Blanche emerges as a new kind of heroine—a hard-boiled mom with gun in hand, willing to take any risk to find her missing daughter.

Femmes Fatales restores to print the best of women's writing in the classic pulp genres of the mid-20th century. From mystery to hard-boiled noir to taboo lesbian romance, these rediscovered queens of pulp offer subversive perspectives on a turbulent era. Enjoy the series: *Bedelia*; *Bunny Lake Is Missing*; *By Cecile*; *The G-String Murders*; *The Girls in 3-B*; *Laura*; *The Man Who Loved His Wife*; *Mother Finds a Body*; *Now, Voyager*; *Return to Lesbos*; *Skyscraper*; *Stranger on Lesbos*; *Stella Dallas*; *Women's Barracks*.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A brilliant tale of psychological suspense, *Bunny Lake Is Missing* is a classic thriller—a riveting revisit to the dark side of the fifties, where the tension beneath the calm surface has an undertow that drags the reader into its grip. Prime pulp—pure pleasure." —**Linda Fairstein, author of *The Bone Vault***

"A beautiful job . . . frantic scenes of action, contagious terror and near hysteria." —***San Francisco Chronicle***

"Evelyn Piper . . . master of taut and impelling writing, [presents] a headlong story of nerve-wracking tension, psychological validity and emotional drive." —***Oakland Tribune***

"The distraught, gusty, and hip mother I played in Bunny Lake Is Missing is my all-time favorite role." —***Carol Lynley***

About the Author

Evelyn Piper was the pseudonym of Merriam Modell (1908-1994). After graduating from Cornell in the late 1920s, Modell worked as a model, as a secretary for a harmonica quartet and lived in Germany for a time. She published short stories in *The New Yorker*, starting in 1941, and her novels include *The Lady and Her Doctor* (1956), *Hanno's Doll* (1961), and *The Nanny* (1964).

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