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Now, Voyager (Femmes Fatales)



Synopsis

Don't let us ask for the moon! We have the stars! • The film that concludes with Bette Davis's famous words, reaffirmed Davis's own stardom and changed the way Americans smoked cigarettes. But few contemporary fans of this story of a woman's self-realization know its source. Olive Higgins Prouty's 1941 novel *Now, Voyager* provides an even richer, deeper portrait of the inner life of its protagonist and the society she inhabits. Viewed from a distance of more than 60 years, it also offers fresh and quietly radical takes on psychiatric treatment, traditional family life, female desire, and women's agency. Boston blueblood Charlotte Vale has led an unhappy, sheltered life. Dowdy, repressed, and pushing forty, Charlotte finds salvation in the unlikely form of a nervous breakdown, placing her at a sanitarium, where she undergoes treatment to rebuild her ravaged self-esteem and uncover her true intelligence and charm. *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*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Now, Voyager" is a remarkable publishing event. Here is a timeless tale of love and transformation that first appeared 64 years ago, instantly became a best-seller, went through God only knows how many reprintings before sliding slowly into near-obscurity, along with its author, Olive Higgins Prouty, today all but forgotten. Neither the author nor her book deserved this sorry end, and The Feminist Press is to be congratulated for re-publishing "Now, Voyager." The publisher pigeonholes this novel as "pulp" writing, a sometimes derogatory term implying fiction that is popular but not very well written, and certainly not enduring literature. This novel is in fact anything but "pulp" fiction:

"Now, Voyager" is a story brilliantly conceived, and the reader who takes a chance on this novel will be repaid with sheer exhilaration as the text soars on every page with rare lyricism and hauntingly beautiful passages. Here's a typical sampler of Prouty's art: "The pointed pinnacles of the cathedral loomed up above the heterogeneous mass of buildings surrounding it like the pointed tops of spruce above deciduous trees of various varieties. The buildings crowded down to a string of small boats at the water's edge. The blue bay was full of rippling reflections-sails, roofs, pinnacles, and mountain-tops. The air was full of sunshine, breezes, gulls and gulls' calls. The tenders were already plying between the liner and the shore. Other little boats were chugging here and there, plying through the reflections, trailing long wakes of watered silk." The new edition is a faithful rendition of the original novel. The only changes have been the addition of a foreword and afterword and chapter titles.

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