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Bright Young Things

Debbie Barr

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Godbersen, Anna. *Bright Young Things*. HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 9780061962660. \$17.99. 390 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Historical fiction;

Subject: New York (N.Y.) --History --1898-1951--Juvenile fiction; Conduct of life--Juvenile fiction; Social classes--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

It's the roaring 20s, and two young girls from Ohio--Cordelia and Letty--have decided to run away to New York City. Cordelia is looking for her father, the famous bootlegger Darius Grey, while Letty is hoping to become a popular actress. Once in New York the girls fight and separate ways. Cordelia finds her father, but quickly falls in love with Thom Hale, the son of her father's greatest enemy. She also befriends Astrid, a high class girl (courted by Cordelia's brother), who shows her the ropes of wealthy living. Letty works in a speakeasy, but finds that becoming an actress isn't as easy as she thought. In the end Cordelia's father is killed and she blames Thom, losing her father and her beau in one night. She and Letty are reunited at the end, each with a new sense of loss and gratitude for friendship.

Bright Young Things is the first book in a new series by Anna Godbersen, author of the popular *Luxe* books. Just as she did in the *Luxe* books, Godbersen writes luscious descriptions of dresses, parties, and all else that encompasses the high life. Filled with intrigue and hidden identities, *Bright Young Things* will keep readers on their toes and eager for the next book in the series. Though there is, perhaps, not a lot of substance to the book, the prose is impeccable, making it an enjoyable, well-written read. Adult situations and relationships make this book appropriate for older teens.

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