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### The Silver Blonde

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## Book Review

# The Silver Blonde

### Author

Elizabeth Ross

### Reviewer

Karen Abbott

### Rating

Outstanding

### Level

Young Adult

### Pages

400

### Year

2021

### ISBN

9780385741484

### Publisher

Delecorte Press

Trying to make your mark in Hollywood is murder—just ask Clara Berg, who discovers the body of a young woman in the studio vaults. The victim is Connie Miller, an unknown stand-in with big screen dreams. Clara is sympathetic to the dead girl, who is near her own age, and she resents how easily it seems that this girl will be forgotten in the shadow of a major movie star, Babe Bannon. As Clara digs into the murder, she discovers clues that link her beloved studio to the Nazi regime. The war is barely over, and such information could bring down the man she is falling for, bring down the head of the studio, and cost Clara her job. Even with so much at stake, Clara persists to reveal the truth that will shape her life, love, and career.

This is a wonderful mystery and drama that captivates from the word “action.” Fans of film noir will sink quickly into the pages of this novel because it reads like an old detective movie. The author shapes the environment and characters with the skill of a Hollywood director, and it is easy to visualize each scene in black-and-white on the silver screen, maybe even sliding some favorite actors into the roles of each character. Clara is likeable and has parents who are a stable influence in her life. The drive and desire of her supporting cast at the studio will be very relatable to teens near Clara’s age. This gets five stars for the film noir setting and the characters who have just stepped out of a silver screen. Add another five starts for the historical view of post-war America. Readers should note that there are some historically accurate depictions of smoking and underage drinking.