



Bedelia (Femmes Fatales)

By Vera Caspary

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Long before *Desperate Housewives*, there was Bedelia: pretty, ultra femme, and "adoring as a kitten." A perfect housekeeper and lover, she wants nothing more than to please her insecure new husband, who can't believe his luck. But is Bedelia too good to be true?

A mysterious new neighbor turns out to be a detective on the trail of a "kitten with claws of steel"—a picture-perfect wife with a string of dead husbands in her wake. Caspary builds this tale to a peak of psychological suspense as her characters are trapped together by a blizzard. The true Bedelia, the woman who chose murder over a life on the street, reveals how she turns male fantasies of superiority into a deadly con.

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

"Vera Caspary's gift was perhaps more subtle, and deadly [than Jim Thompson, David Goodis, and Charles Willeford]." —**Robert Polito, author of *Savage Art: A Biography of Jim Thompson***

"You must read *Bedelia* to see just how slick Miss Caspary's technique of soft-shoe terror can be—how frightening she can make the chatter at an innocent dinner party, the lure of a lady's deshabelle, the glimpse of a black pearl in a dresser drawer." —***The New York Times***

"A sinister entertainment 'especially for admirers of the psychological horror story.'" —***The New Yorker***

"A tour de force of psychological suspense, *Desperate Housewives* meets *Double Indemnity* in Caspary's *Bedelia*." —**Liahna Armstrong, President Emerita, Popular Culture Association**

About the Author

Vera Caspary (1904-1987) is best known for her skillfully crafted and psychologically complex murder mysteries. Several of her books were made into films, including *Laura*, *Bedelia*, and *The Man Who Loved His Wife*. She was also a playwright and screenwriter, and was an important figure in the radical political causes of her day.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Teresa Raap:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be change about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which one you should start with. This *Bedelia (Femmes Fatales)* is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Dale Hollander:

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