

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes -and- But Gentlemen Marry Brunettes: The Illuminating Diary of a Professional Lady

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"Kissing your hand may make you feel very very good, but a diamond and safire bracelet lasts forever."

Anita Loos first published the diaries of the gold-digging blonde Lorelei Lee in the flapper days of 1925, forging a new archetype for the modern world. *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* follows Lorelei and her best friend, Dorothy, from Hollywood to Manhattan to Paris and London, pursued by eager suitors all the while. In "the Central of Europe," with a new diamond tiara in her handbag, Lorelei meets a traveling American millionaire who just might be the one. She retires her diary, but not for long, because, as she writes in the opening pages of *But Gentlemen Marry Brunettes*, "it is bright ideas that keep the home fires burning, and prevent a divorce from taking all of the bloom off Romance."

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Anita Loos was born in California in 1888. She began writing movie scripts and supplied film scenarios for D.W. Griffith and Douglas Fairbanks. First published in 1925, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* was a best-seller in thirteen languages and was followed by its sequel, *But Gentlemen Marry Brunettes*. Anita Loos was the author of the novels *A Mouse is Born* and *No Mother to Guide Her* and two volumes of autobiography, *A Girl Like I* and *Kiss Hollywood Good-by*. She died in 1981.

Regina Barreca is a professor of English and feminist theory at the University of Connecticut. She is the editor of seven books, including *The Penguin Book of Women's Humor*, and the author of four others. She writes frequently for the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Hartford Courant*.

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I poeti preferiscono le bionde.

... è dal suo celebre *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, 1925 (sottotitolo: *The Illuminating Diary of a Professional Lady ... 22*), a cui com'è noto la stessa Loos fece seguire due anni dopo *But Gentlemen Marry Brunettes* (ivi, 1932)."