

## Hella's Book Review



Historical fiction is my favorite genre, and the 1920's have always intrigued me which is why I chose the novel *Showgirl* by Nicola Harrison to review. This fictional story gives a glimpse of the glamorous world of the costumes, the dancing, and the music of that era through the eyes of a young midwestern girl.

Olive McCormick, a young talented singer and dancer, moves to California at the age of nineteen to perform at an amateur opera company, although her parents are strictly against her move. In California, she catches the attention of Florenz Ziegfeld. Later, he invites Olive to visit him in New York. She is thrilled by this invitation and is determined to travel to New York, but when she returns to Minnesota from California some unforeseen circumstances keep her in Minnesota for the rest of the year.

Olive does not give up on her dream of becoming a big star. In 1927 she defies her parents and moves to New York to become a star in the Ziegfeld Follies. It is much harder than she expected but she does not give up. During the span of three years, through hard work and dedication, she becomes a showgirl and gains popularity, changing her name from Olive McCormick to Olive Shine. Ziegfeld moves her from the Ziegfeld Follies into the late-night show, *The Midnight Frolic*, and doubles her salary. It is because of her midnight performances that Olive is featured in an article in the *New York Times*. Sadly, all this popularity also gained her much disrespect from her parents and other more reserved Midwesterners. They called her a flapper and disapproved her smoking. Her father called her performances vulgar.

After she meets the love of her life, Archie Carmichael, Olive is forced to make some big decisions. Does she want to reveal her secrets? Does she want to give up her career as a showgirl? But then the stock market crashes, and with it comes the end for the Ziegfeld Follies and the financial losses for her parents and her fiancé.

How will these life changing events affect her future? How does the author, Nicola Harrison, tie everything together at the ending of this historical novel, *The Show Girl*? Check this book out at the Tilden Public Library to find out. You will not be disappointed.

**Happy Reading!**