

BOOK CLUB KIT

The

ROARING

DAYS *of*

ZORALILY

A Novel

USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR

NOELLE SALAZAR



Author's Note

What's in a name.

Unlike my first two books, this story was born simply from a name. Zora Lily. The real woman who possessed this moniker was my maternal great-great grandmother, whom I'd never heard of until one fateful afternoon a few years ago. I was instantly smitten by the glamorous sounding name, and a woman who, with her husband Horatio, moved from Canada to Seattle and became part of the great logging boom, living with her family in a logging camp in Ballard, WA.

She was the mother of eight. Barely educated. Illiterate. That's what we know. But I like to think she was so much more than that. That she dreamed big, laughed hard, adored her children, had wonderful girlfriends around to support her, and that her love with Horatio was a great, big love. And I hope she'd be proud to have her name on this book, even though it's not her story. Just a tale inspired by a name. Her name.

Zora Lily.

FURTHER READING

THE ROARING DAYS OF ZORA LILY would not exist without the help of a handful of books I researched for a variety of details to build my 1920s Seattle. Please see the list below for the works of several authors that helped inform the music, the musicians, the party-goers, and the fabulous women.

Jackson Street After Hours by: Paul De Barros

Beautiful Little Fools by: Jillian Cantor

Flappers: Six Women of a Dangerous Generation by: Judith Mackrell

Seattle Prohibition: Bootleggers, Rumrunners, & Graft in the Queen City
by: Brad Holden and Paul De Barros

Lost Roadhouses of Seattle by: Peter Blecha and Brad Holden



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Zora's impeccable eye for fashion has her observing every hem and neckline, ruffle and fringe, in every room she enters. What passion or expertise do you have that makes certain details impossible to ignore?

2. The Hough family's station in life is marked by not having an indoor bathroom and residing in a neighborhood that uses candles instead of electric streetlights. How does the wealth inequality of the 1920s differ from the present day? In what ways is it the same?

3. Elsbeth Pritchard's abuse and harassment mars what would otherwise be an exciting new chapter of Zora's life, and she largely keeps her head down and refuses to engage. Do you think she responded appropriately? How would you act in her shoes?

4. In spite of Prohibition, alcohol is freely enjoyed throughout the novel by characters from all walks of life. Can you think of any laws that are as flagrantly ignored today? How might the consequences differ, depending on the person who is caught and made an example of?

5. Both Jessie and Ellis long to hit it big in the entertainment industry, but find themselves hindered by their "foreignness" and skin color, respectively. How are they able to overcome their hurdles, and what obstacles might prove impossible to bypass?

6. Zora waits months and months to write Harley back, and attributes it to the intense shame she feels after being taken advantage of in Hollywood. How do you feel about her decision to put it off until she achieves her dream?

7. Through Sylvia's efforts, Zora is finally recognized for designing Greta Garbo's costumes in *The Star*, years after her death. Given her successful boutique, steadfast husband, and loving family, how important do you think it would have been to her if she had survived?

COCKTAIL

Mary Pickford

- SERVED IN A COUPE GLASS
- 2 FL. OZ GOLD OR WHITE RUM
- 1.5 FL. OZ. PINEAPPLE JUICE
- 1/6 FL. OZ. MARASCHINO LIQUEUR
- 1/6 FL. OZ. GRENADINE SYRUP
- 2 MARASCHINO CHERRIES TO GARNISH (PER ZORA 😊)



FUN FACTS

Mary Pickford the woman was a pioneer in the film industry. Not only a major force onscreen, she was also a studio head, helping to form United Artists, and a producer. Zora would've loved knowing this and would've raised her glass to this woman who paved the way for so many others.

Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel

learned sewing at the convent attached to the orphanage her father sent her and her two sisters to after their mother died. She began her career as a hatmaker and when the shop became popular, she began introducing her clothing designs. She hated mini skirts and designed pants for women, as they were more comfortable and one could more easily ride a horse or get in and out of a gondola in them. She was once arrested by the Vichy Regime during WWII for wearing pants.

Declassified documents from the French Secret Service revealed she was a member of Abwehr, an espionage German group during WWII. Zora would've been mortified. Zora also wouldn't have agreed with her dislike of short skirts. Though she would've agreed with her penchant for clothes that provided comfort. Coco's favorite color was black.

Jeanne Lanvin began as a dollmaker and sold her dolls at fairs. She did not begin her clothing designs with sketches, but rather by draping fabric on a dress form and designing from there. She was a progressive businesswoman, employing 1200 people by 1920, and providing an onsite nursery for her employees' children. Her favorite color was Quattrocento blue.



Noelle Salazar was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, where she's been a Navy recruit, a medical assistant, an NFL cheerleader, and always a storyteller. When she's not writing, she can be found dodging raindrops and daydreaming of her next book. Her first novel, *The Flight Girls*, was an instant bestseller, a *Forbes*, *Woman's World* & *Hypable* book of the month and a *BookBub* Top Recommended book from readers. Noelle lives in Bothell, Washington, with her family.

