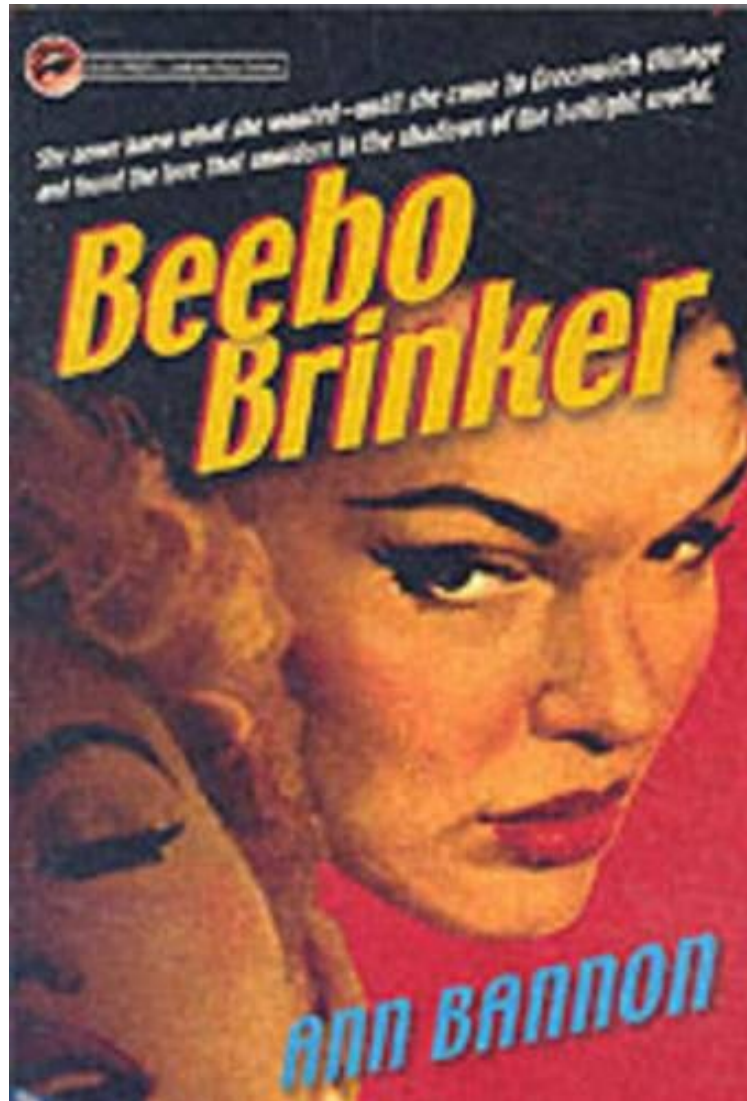


Beebo Brinker

Ann Bannon

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#533199 in Books 2001-05-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.98 x .69 x 5.541, .65 #File Name: 1573441252208 pages | File size: 61.Mb

Ann Bannon : Beebo Brinker before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beebo Brinker:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Social and historic significance, yeah, and also a damn fine readBy Cheyenne BlueBeebo Brinker is described as lesbian pulp fiction. Written in 1962 by Ann Bannon, it is a prequel to the immensely popular series featuring this character. The series is one huge stepping stone along the path of gay and lesbian acceptance in the community.Its hard to know how to approach this review. Do I treat it solely as a reading experience, from my present day perspective? Do I give weight to its social and historical significance? Do I allow my

emotions and heart to weigh in and give a subjective me review? (Well, I always do that, so I'm not going to change there). The series has been republished by the ever-awesome Cleis Press. Beebo Brinker, although written last, is chronologically the first in the series. Having never read any of these before, I elected to start here. Let me say I was quite fond of Beebo as a character. It's hard not to feel sympathy for the awkward girl driven away from her rural home town, coming friendless and nearly penniless to New York. It's easy to fall under the sway of her boyish handsome face and muscular figure and her wit and naivety. It's harder to feel sympathy for the Beebo who treats her girlfriend (the doormat that is Paula Ash) with the same disrespect and callousness that rouses her ire when she observes her boss treating his wife the same way. But then there is so much stress on the mannish Beebo in these pages, and this was how many men treated their little women in the 1950s. See what I mean about Beebo-as-historical-document? (I will not make a Galaxy Quest reference here, oh no I won't). From my present day perspective, clichéd characters abound, there are a lot of early declarations of love (I remember at least three), and there's a bit of unfinished business in the plot. But it doesn't matter. Beebo-as-historical document again, in this case lesbian pulp fiction of the 1950s. It is what it is. I enjoyed reading this. Sure, it dragged a little at times, and I had to make a conscious effort to overlook some things that made my present-day reading eye tsk tsk a little, and a bigger effort to overlook other things that made my present-day feminist-equality eye narrow in disgust, but the book as a whole? As uncritical, pure pleasure with a healthy dollop of sentimentality, with an awareness of what it would mean to lesbians of the era to read something like this? Loved it. Hey Beebo! Never give up! Never surrender!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is a great example of pulp fiction for that time an era. By malrrr This is a great example of pulp fiction for that time an era. However many of the analogies presented and situation outcomes in this book still hold true for today. It is a worthwhile read. For those of us who read this book more than 20 years ago should go back and reread it today.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars By Customer Read it quickly-not much substance.

Designated the "Queen of Lesbian Pulp Fiction" for authoring five landmark novels beginning in 1957, Ann Bannon's work defined lesbian fiction for the pre-Stonewall generation. Unlike many writers of the period, however, Bannon broke through the shame and isolation typically portrayed in lesbian pulps, offering instead women characters who embrace their sexuality against great odds. With Beebo Brinker, Bannon introduces the title character, a butch 17-year-old farm girl newly arrived in New York after she is driven from her Wisconsin home town for wearing drag to the State Fair. Befriended by the gay Jack Mann, a father-figure with a weakness for runaways, Beebo sets out to find love. She never knew what she wanted until she came to Greenwich Village and found the love that smolders in the shadows of the twilight world. Overwhelmed with her discovery, Beebo is infatuated in turn with the vixen Mona Petry, the sweet femme Paula Ash, and the famous actress Venus Bogardus. Sexy, dangerous, and often touching, Beebo Brinker's search for love takes her from password-protected 1950s lesbian bars to the glamour and ritz of Hollywood and back. Chronicling the reality of 1950s lesbian life through Ann Bannon's dreamy butch, Beebo Brinker is an astounding and engaging read.

.com When housewife Ann Bannon brought her first novel to a paperback publisher in the mid-1950s, the publisher skimmed the manuscript and told her to scrap everything but the college love affair between two women. "There's your real story," he said as she blushed, ashamed that her secret obsession had been so obvious to him. The resulting novel was *Odd Girl Out*, one of the bestselling paperbacks of the period, and perhaps the best (and least depressing) example of lesbian pulp fiction, a genre that flourished from the end of the Second World War until the changing laws on censorship made much seamier material commonplace, and the growing gay rights movement brought the gay life out of the shadows. Although the last of a four-book series, Beebo Brinker introduces Bannon's central character, a young, handsome butch who arrives in New York scared and innocent (and wearing a dress) but soon has the femmes of Greenwich Village in the palm of her hand. Essential reading for anyone interesting in lesbian history; a period piece (and a welcome reprint) that has worn remarkably well.--Regina Marler

From Library Journal Another gay novel, this is more of the pulp sort. The eponymous protagonist is sent packing from her stodgy Wisconsin home after wearing drag to the state fair. She relocates to Greenwich Village, New York's capital of the avant-garde, where she is free to pursue "love that smolders in the shadows of the twilight world." This is more kitschy now but still fun for its 1950s sensibilities. Note that this is the first of four Bannon novels being reprinted by Cleis. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Bannon's books grab you and don't let you go..." -- Village Voice "Sex. Sleaze. Depravity. Oh, the twisted passions of the twilight world of lesbian pulp fiction." -- Chicago Free Press