



Before Marilyn: The Blue Book Modelling Years

Astrid Franse , Michelle Morgan

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Before Marilyn tells the story of Marilyn Monroe's modelling career, during which time she was signed to the famous Blue Book Agency in Hollywood. The head of the agency, Miss Emmeline Snively, saw potential in the young woman and kept detailed records and correspondence throughout their professional relationship and beyond.

On the day of Monroe's funeral, Snively gave an interview from her office, talking about the girl she had discovered, before announcing, rather dramatically, that she was closing the lid on her Marilyn Monroe archive that day - to 'lock it away forever'.

This archive was purchased by Astrid Franse, and together with bestselling Marilyn Monroe biographer Michelle Morgan they draw on this collection of never-before-seen documents, letters and much, much more.

Before Marilyn explores an aspect of Monroe's life that has never been fully revealed - by charting every modelling job she did, and illustrating the text with rare and unpublished photographs of the young model and her mentor.

Before Marilyn: The Blue Book Modelling Years Details

Date : Published November 10th 2015 by Thomas Dunne Books (first published July 15th 2015)

ISBN : 9781250085900

Author : Astrid Franse , Michelle Morgan

Format : Hardcover 240 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Biography



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From Reader Review Before Marilyn: The Blue Book Modelling Years for online ebook

Tara says

Books about Marilyn Monroe are practically a genre among themselves. Astrid Franse, owner of the archive of the Blue Book Modelling Agency, has collaborated on this book with Michelle Morgan, author of one of the best biographies, 'MM: Private and Undisclosed.' Emmeline Snively, who founded the agency, kept a detailed file on her star pupil, Norma Jeane Dougherty. While many people - usually men - claimed to have 'discovered' Monroe, Snively (who had more input than most) always saw their work together as a collaboration. This is both a biography of Snively, a self-made career woman in an era when that was still rare, and a study of a hopeful, relatively untroubled period in the future Marilyn Monroe's life. After reading it, I had a much better understanding of Marilyn's modelling career, and her relationship with Snively. It provides a much-needed backstory to her early photo-shoots, and also includes a handful of images never seen before. Beautifully written and presented, this book has both style and substance, and while it may not tell the full story of Marilyn's life, it will be a must-have for dedicated fans.

Wendelle So says

americana/relevant to popular culture studies

Paul Monroe says

This one is a completely different approach to a period of Marilyn's life many of us don't know a lot about . I liked to get to know what young Marilyn did before she got to be THE Marilyn Monroe. I wouldn't say that this is just a MM bio BUT a glimpse into the life of two hard working women . Miss Monroe AND Miss Snively who was one of the first people who believed in young Marilyn

Worth the read !

Trisha says

I loved this book to see such Beautiful pictures and learn about a true beauty queen was amazing.

Christine Sinclair says

Great early photos of Marilyn, along with her history at Blue Book Modeling Agency in the '40s prior to her acting career. It's a sad story, not just in light of Marilyn's death, but also that of her earliest mentor, Emmeline Snively, the owner of the modeling agency. Miss Snively, whose archives were discovered by accident years after her death, had intended to produce a play, then write a book about her most famous

pupil. She discovered Jayne Mansfield as well, who also went on to a successful career in movies and a tragic death. Miss Snively died as the result of a stroke on Sept. 19, 1975 at age 66. "Not one person attended her memorial service. Not one. Nobody stood in the chapel and spoke animatedly about her days in Hollywood. Nobody declared their love or expressed how much Miss Snively had changed their lives . . . no one . . . picked up her ashes from the memorial park" and they remain unclaimed in storage to this day. SO sad.

Strawberry says

I've read a few Marilyn Monroe biographies, and they always seem to just skim over her early years and career. It was nice to find a collection of photographs from her modelling days, many of which I have never seen before!

George Lane says

Not knowing much about the early modelling stages of Marilyn Monroe's life, this taught me so much. When Michelle Morgan and Astrid Franse released the information that they were going to write this book, I was already excited! Morgan being a celebrated author, particularly an author of several Marilyn Monroe books, I knew she would do a fantastic job! Franse's story is so interesting. I read this book in the space of 4 nights. I am a casual reader and I never go through books that fast! I couldn't put it down as it was so, so interesting!

Melissa says

~Disclaimer: I revived this book for free in a giveaway~

A lovely hardcover book about the life of Marilyn Monroe focusing on the time before she took up her Marilyn name.

It has many photographs and letters within, but is very structured in the layout. There is some issues with flow in the storytelling. And as it relies heavily on Snively's perspective it is likely biased at time. However, it provides lots of details I had not read anywhere else and that is a huge plus in it's favor.

However, I enjoyed reading about Marilyn from a different perspective and feel like this is a great addition to my collection. Worth a read for those who loved this fashion icon or for those more generally interested in fashion or modeling.
