

CLEIS PRESS P.O. BOX 14697
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114
WWW.CLEISPRESS.COM



TELEPHONE: (415) 575-4700
FAX: (415) 575-4705
EMAIL: CLEIS@CLEISPRESS.COM

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Cleis Press
Contact: Diane Levinson,
Marketing and Publicity Director
dlevinson@cleispress.com
ph: (415) 575-4700
fax: (415) 575-4705
www.cleispress.com

*"I am quite sure that without Spring Fire and Vin Packer,
there would never have been a Beebo Brinker Chronicles,
nor an author known as Ann Bannon."*

— Ann Bannon

SPRING FIRE by Vin Packer

- Includes a new introduction by the author describing the story behind the novel's original publication in 1952

Her silky black hair. Her low-cut gown. Her sparkling sorority pin. It's autumn rush in the Tri Epsilon house, and the new pledge, Susan Mitchell — "Mitch," to her friends — trembles as the fastest girl on campus, the lovely Leda Taylor, crosses the room toward her for a dance. Will Leda corrupt Mitch? Or will the strong and silent Mitch draw the queen of Tri Ep into the forbidden world of Lesbian Love?

Spring Fire was the first lesbian paperback novel and sold an amazing 1.5 million copies when it first appeared in 1952. It launched an entire genre of lesbian novels, as well as the writing career of Vin Packer, one of the pseudonyms of prolific author Marijane Meaker, whose acclaimed memoir, *Highsmith: A Romance of the 1950s*, told the story of her own forbidden love. Now available after forty years out of print, *Spring Fire* is both a vital part of lesbian history and a steamy page-turner.

“All of Vin Packer’s novels — published as paperback originals in the ‘50s and dealing with ‘hot’ topics such as lesbianism, race conflict, teen gangs, and adultery — are extraordinarily well-written. I really think that Packer is one of the great — and given that her books sold in the millions, one of the most important fiction writers of the 1950s.” — Michael Bronski

“Packer is an important figure not merely as one of the few women to make her way in the boys’ club of the ‘50s paperback writers, but also as one of the best and most original American novelists of that era.” — *Encyclopedia of Pulp Fiction Writers*, by Lee Server

“*Spring Fire* was the first paperback original to deal with a lesbian theme, and it opened up a whole new genre. While many later books were written by men, with little attention to authenticity, and were filled with stereotypical and misogynistic ideas about women and lesbians, this first novel did have the ring of truth because it was written by a lesbian.”
— *Strange Sisters*, by Jaye Zimet

About the author:

Spring Fire is the first novel by Marijane Meaker, who at the time was working as a secretary for the editor of Gold Medal Books. Meaker randomly combined the names of two acquaintances to come up with Vin Packer, the pseudonym she used for *Spring Fire* and her next twenty-one novels. She also wrote five nonfiction reports on lesbian life as Ann Aldrich, and under her own name she authored six novels including *Shockproof Sydney Skate*. In the ‘70s, Meaker turned to young adult literature, selecting M.E. Kerr as her pen name. She has won numerous awards for her novels for teens, which include *Dinky Hocker Shoots Smack*, *Hello I Lied*, *Deliver Us from Evie*, and *Slap Your Sides*. In 2003, Marijane Meaker published the critically acclaimed *Highsmith: A Romance of the 1950s*, a memoir of her two-year relationship with Patricia Highsmith. She lives in Long Island, NY.

About the publisher:

Based in San Francisco, Cleis Press has been publishing provocative books for smart readers since 1980. Other Cleis authors include Ann Bannon, Gore Vidal, Joan Nestle, Carol Queen, Achy Obejas, Patrick Califia, and Essex Hemphill.

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**For more information,
please contact:**
Cleis Press
Contact: Diane Levinson,
Marketing and Publicity Director
dlevinson@cleispress.com
ph: (415) 575-4700
fax: (415) 575-4705
www.cleispress.com