



Pretending to Be Erica

By Michelle Painchaud

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We Were Liars meets *Heist Society* in a riveting debut!

Seventeen-year-old Violet's entire life has revolved around one thing: becoming Erica Silverman, an heiress kidnapped at age five and never seen again. Violet's father, the best con man in Las Vegas, has a plan, chilling in its very specific precision. Violet shares a blood type with Erica; soon, thanks to surgery and blackmail, she has the same face, body, and DNA. She knows every detail of the Silvermans' lives, as well as the PTSD she will have to fake around them. And then, when the time is right, she "reappears"—Erica Silverman, brought home by some kind of miracle. But she is also Violet, and she has a job: Stay long enough to steal the Silverman Painting, an Old Master legendary in the Vegas crime world. Walking a razor's edge, calculating every decision, not sure sometimes who she is or what she is doing it for, Violet is an unforgettable heroine, and *Pretending to be Erica* is a killer debut.

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Pretending to Be Erica By Michelle Painchaud Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Erica was murdered and buried beneath a tree just outside of Las Vegas; but, when no trace of the missing kindergartner is found, the prevailing theory is that she was abducted and taken across state lines. Master con artist, Sal, knows Erica's true fate and possesses a lock of her hair. He also has a buyer for the coveted work of art—a valuable historical masterpiece—that is locked in a hidden safe in Erica's home, and he is willing to spend years to perfect his plan to steal it. Sal discovers orphaned Violet who, at five, bears a striking resemblance to the dead girl, and he arranges to adopt her. Violet will not be the first to attempt Erica's longed for reappearance, but she will be the first to come armed with DNA evidence and years of careful preparation to pull off the complicated but lucrative art heist. Violet's quick mathematical mind and uncanny ability to read people make her an adept pupil, and at 17, Sal deems her ready. Having spent her life preparing for this role, Violet has never experienced being a normal teen. Suddenly cast into a life of school, friends, and a caring mother, she begins to question who she is and what she wants from life. When the time comes to abscond with the painting, she must decide between the money and hurting the people who love her. Either way, her own loss is unconscionable. Readers, caught up in Erica/Violet's insoluble struggle, are kept guessing right to the satisfying conclusion. VERDICT The realistic, well thought-out plot with its unique cast of characters make this YA crime novel impossible to put down.—Cary Frostick, formerly at Mary Riley Styles Public Library, Falls Church, VA

Review

Praise for *Pretending to Be Erica*

"The realistic, well thought-out plot with its unique cast of characters make this YA crime novel impossible to put down."—*School Library Journal*

"A thriller premise with a satisfying shades-of-gray resolution."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"This unique, dual first-person novel is a fascinating read. The good/bad protagonist is deep, different, and wonderful. The story is imaginative and engrossing. Readers both want to sympathize with and hate Violet. Her torment and angst about her dual lives are intriguing. She is a different kind of main character, an antihero with a heart and conscience. This book craves reading in one sitting. This excellent book is a must-have purchase for all libraries."—*VOYA*

About the Author

Michelle Painchaud was born in Seattle, but grew up gate-crashing parties in sugar cane fields in Hawaii. Cats and anime take up what little part of her brain isn't harassed by stories of teenagers kicking ass. This is her first novel.

She lives in San Diego, California and you can find her at <http://michellepainchaud.tumblr.com> and on Twitter: @michelleiswordy

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Katherine Sherrer:

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to see? May be the book with the concept Pretending to Be

Erica suitable to you? The book was written by renowned writer in this era. The actual book untitled Pretending to Be Erica is the main of several books that will everyone read now. This particular book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this reserve you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know prior to. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, so all of people can easily to recognise the core of this reserve. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. So you can see the represented of the world in this book.

Travis Ralls:

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Theodore Parish:

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Gary Simms:

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