

# CRIME SCENE

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ALL NEW  
STORIES!

## DARK ROAD DEATH!

BY MILLER RONALDS



**VELDA BELLINGHAUSEN**  
DEAN DAVIS TALKS TO THIS PRETTY  
SHOWGIRL TURNED PRIVATE DICK

*Taken from the pages of Crime Scene, January 1955. Reprinted with permission from the Dean Davis Archives, Briarton College, Briarton CA.*

*One of Dean's first assignments for Crime Scene was guest writing a column called The Gumshoe's Bookshelf. Every month a regular contributing writer with Crime Scene would review a book. This title could be found in their own personal library.*

*Dean reviewed an autobiography titled Velda (Globe 1506). It told the true story of stripper turned private eye, Velda Bellinghausen. The book had already been out a year or so, but Dean slanted the text enough to make it seem like a reissue. Dean did three Gumshoe Bookshelf columns as a writer for Crime Scene. The other two books were by Richard S. Prather.*

*The Velda review had a small piece about the book and dedicated the rest of the space to an interview with "Her Royal Legness" as Dean would call her. When confronted by a gossip rag on the question if they were romantically linked, Dean responded with, "I won't kiss and tell. I stand by my original answer of...maybe".*

## **THE GUMSHOE'S BOOKSHELF**

**T**his month we take a look at a treasured favorite of mine, *Velda* (Globe 1506). This tome is written by the lovely Velda Bellinghausen and has received a lot of press since its first printing. Ms. Bellinhausen is a stripper who has recently changed careers. Her new line of work has her trading in her g-string and pasties for a trench coat and fedora (God, what a shame covering up a beautiful figure like that).

The book highlights interesting anecdotes about her transition and some of her first cases and clients. Her writing style is unique and that is the beauty of the book. She tells it the way it happened, no mincing of words for this doll. The innocents are protected and the guilty parties are given justice Velda style. In this case you can judge a book by its cover, a hot tomato with hot lead!

Globe Publishing always acknowledged this book as one of their most popular and has let the presses roll once again to keep up with reader demand. I had a chance to meet with Velda recently and ask her about her first publishing venture.

DD: With all the exposure you've recently received, positive and unfortunately, some negative, do you feel that people for the most part take you seriously?

VB: Are you kidding? I was taken more seriously as a stripper, for God's sake. I'd get either a leer or a sneer when I told people I was the headliner at Slotsky's, but at least that meant they took me seriously . . . but they tend to laugh when I tell 'em I'm a private eye. Ticks me off, too.

DD: Some say that you are pursuing a movie contract and the whole P.I. thing is a gimmick. Response?

VB: Me in the movies? Be nice, I gotta admit, but, geez, I don't know . . . prancing from one end of a runway to another is one thing, acting is a whole nuther ball of wax. But then, who said anything about acting? Sure didn't stop Jane Russell from becoming a star—though she had a couple of other outstanding points in her



*Velda Bellinghausen during her conversation with Dean Davis. She is the author of the popular autobiography, Velda, which has recently been reprinted by Globe Publishing Co. The leggy PI is best known for having cracked the notorious Sline Case, which helped unseat the unscrupulous NY DA, King Noorvik. She has often expressed her admiration for Davis' novels and here she seems to be expressing a little admiration for Mr. Davis himself!*

*(Photo courtesy Philo Spleenbock)*

favor, if you get my drift. Besides, I'm six feet tall. Can you imagine me playing next to Alan Ladd? But I can tell you right now, being a PI's no gimmick. Are you kidding? You think it was easy getting my ticket, for Christ's sake? Cost me \$25 for the correspondence course and nearly six months of study. And you think I get the crap beaten out of me for the publicity? Lot easier ways to get into the movies, I'm sure.

DD: When you get into a scrap, what works best for you when kicking a guy in the crotch, heels or flats?

VB: Flats for sure. I get more balance that way. I don't recommend it with open-toed shoes, though.

DD: Tell us a bit about your father and would he approve of your new line of work? Where's Mom? Only child?

VB: Mom died in a freak donut accident when I was eight. To this day it's hard for me to look at a donut and not think of her, but I try since donuts are my favorite for breakfast. As for my dad, I dunno. We were pretty tight, but he was kind of a traditionalist, you know what I mean? Gung ho for whatever I wanted to do so long as it was something you'd expect a woman to take up, like he was all behind me going to business school and taking up stenography. I have to admit, though, I was an awful tomboy and he never discouraged me, so who knows? I don't have any siblings I'm aware of.

DD: What's your weapon of choice?

VB: My dad's nickel-plated Colt .45 automatic.

DD: It seems some of your clients are dames who have the finger of John E. Law pointing at them. Do you feel like a champion for the little girl in the big city or do you just view them as cases?

VB: Are you kidding? I'm just happy to get the work. Besides, as you'll see in the other cases I've written up, two of my three clients were a fairy and an elephant.

DD: Career highlight so far?

VB: Well . . . career as a stripper or as a detective? I suppose the highlight of my years at Slotsky's was getting my name on the marquee. It's pretty snazzy seeing your name spelled out in light bulbs (even if Maxim shortened it to "Velda B" to save a few bucks). And Peek magazine did a pictorial on me back in '49 after a big raid on the theater. But since I hated working in burlesque from day one, it's guess it's really hard to call anything I did in those five years a "highlight". I guess solving the Sline case was my biggest triumph so far as a PI, though it was a financial disaster. Not only didn't I make a dime but it cost me most of my savings besides. Got me lots of publicity, though, so I guess it paid off that way.

DD: Do you plan to write any more case histories?

VB: Sure. Takes my mind off wondering where my next job is coming from. Besides, it keeps my typing honed—always good to have a skill to fall back on, you know?

DD: Is it true you are undressing me with your eyes right now?

VB: Be a lot easier with my fingers, if you get what I mean. I kinda like the rugged yet intellectual type, like Mark Trail, you know? You got any plans after you get done playing twenty questions? I'm free the rest of the evening . . .

DD: In that case, what are you doing for dinner?

VB: Heating up a can of Franco-American spaghetti . . . unless you have something better in mind? Hmmm?

DD: As a matter of fact, I do. We just have to stop by a market and pick up some batteries and whipped cream.