

# Biographical Fiction

## **West of Sunset** **by Stewart O’Nan**

A tale inspired by F. Scott Fitzgerald's last years in Hollywood finds him reflecting on past events at the height of the Jazz Age while falling in love, struggling to hold his family together and penning *The Last Tycoon*.

## **Vanessa and her Sister** **by Priya Parmar**

Told uniquely as part diary, part epistolary novel, Parmar focuses on the relationship of Vanessa (later Bell) and Virginia (later Woolf) Stephens, one filled with unspoken jealousy and a fierceness of love that will ultimately destroy their kinship.

## **The Vanishing Woman : based on a true story** **by Doug Peterson (LP)**

Based on the true story of Ellen Craft, a light-skinned slave who escaped from Georgia in 1848 by posing as an ailing white man while her husband pretended to be her slave, Ellen and William Craft traveled over one thousand miles to freedom.

## **Epitaph : a novel of the O.K. Corral** **by Mary Doria Russell**

A sequel to *Doc* is based on the true events of the gunfight at the O.K. Corral and Wyatt Earp's survival against a backdrop of volatile politics in 1881 America.

## **Lincoln in the Bardo** **by George Saunders**

Traces a night of solitary mourning and reflection as experienced by the sixteenth president after the death of his eleven-year-old son at the dawn of the Civil War.

## **The Last Painting of Sara De Vos** **by Dominic Smith**

Novel explores the legacy of fictional 17th-century Dutch painter Sara de Vos. The artist's masterpiece, *At the Edge of a Wood*, is stolen from Manhattan attorney Marty de Groot's Upper East Side residence in 1957 and replaced with a skillfully executed forgery that remains a secret for decades -- until museum curator Ellie Shipley, who created the fake, is confronted by the two versions of the painting.

## **Hadassah : one night with the King** **by Tommy Tenney**

A Jewish woman reads a letter from Esther, which has been passed down from generations before her, and is drawn into the story of a simple peasant girl who became Esther, Queen of Persia.

## **Becoming Bonnie** **By Jenni Walsh**

Determined to escape poverty, Bonnelynn Parker secretly takes a night job in a 1927 speakeasy while maintaining her wholesome girl identity by day, and endeavor that introduces her to convicted felon Clyde Barrow who entices her to become his partner in crime.



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**Biographical fiction** is **fiction** which takes a historical individual and recreates elements of their life in turn telling a **fictional** narrative. Find these titles on the adult fiction shelves under the author's last name.

**A Touch of Stardust**  
**by Kate Alcott**

Julie is a wide-eyed Indiana girl who, through a series of lucky breaks, advances from studio gofer and assistant to Carole Lombard to contract writer at MGM.

**The Noise of Time**  
**by Julian Barnes**

A biographical novel about the Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich, reimagining his difficult creative compromises in the aftermath of his denouncement by Joseph Stalin.

**The Dream Lover**  
**by Elizabeth Berg**

George Sand, a woman truly ahead of her time, leaves her estranged husband and children to embark on a life of art in bohemian Paris. A talented writer who finds monetary and critical success, Sand adopts a man's name, often dresses as a gentleman and smokes cigars. Through her writing, politics, sexual complexities and views on feminism, Sand is always seeking love.

**The Swans of Fifth Avenue**  
**by Melanie Benjamin**

This story gives us the chance to spy on Truman Capote's close friendship with Babe Paley and his society "swans," and the betrayal and scandal that drove them apart in 1960s Manhattan.

**Fates and Traitors : a novel of John Wilkes Booth**  
**by Jennifer Chiaverini**

A reimagining of the life of Lincoln's assassin describes Booth's tumultuous childhood on a Maryland farm and rise to the ballrooms of Washington, D.C., at the sides of four women before he became obsessed with avenging the Confederacy.

**The Secret Chord**  
**By Geraldine Brooks**

In this fascinating and richly detailed fictionalized account of the life and times of King David. We see David as he might actually have been: a charismatic leader of men, both brutal and conflicted.

**The Perilous Adventures of the Cowboy King: a novel of Teddy Roosevelt and his times.**  
**by Jerome Charyn**

Charyn re-creates the voice of Theodore Roosevelt, the New York City police commissioner, Rough Rider, and soon- to-be twenty-sixth president through his derring-do adventures, effortlessly combining superhero dialogue with haunting pathos. Beginning with his sickly childhood and concluding with McKinley's assassination, the novel positions Roosevelt as a "perfect bull in a china shop," a fearless crime fighter and pioneering environmentalist who would grow up to be our greatest peacetime president.

**The Taming of the Queen**  
**by Philippa Gregory**

Reimagines the story of Henry VIII's sixth wife, Kateryn Parr, who after being forced to marry the king struggles against dangerous adversaries to observe her own faith and promote religious reforms.

**Paradise Sky**  
**by Joe Lansdale**

On the run after an infamous landowner murders his father, Willie becomes an expert marksman before turning Buffalo Soldier, befriending Wild Bill Hickok and earning the nickname "Deadwood Dick."

**Circling the Sun**  
**by Paula McLain**

A fascinating portrayal of Beryl Markham, a complex and strong-willed woman who fought to make her way in the world on her terms. McLain paints a captivating portrait of Africa in the 1920s and the life of expats making their home there.

**The Chaperone**  
**by Laura Moriarty**

"A novel about the friendship between an adolescent, pre-movie-star Louise Brooks, and the 36-year-old woman who chaperones her to New York City for a summer, in 1922, and how it changes both their lives"--.

**The Life and Opinions of Maf the dog and one of his friend Marilyn Monroe**  
**by Andrew O'Hagan**

Given as a Christmas present to Marilyn Monroe, Maf the dog provides keen insight into the world of the Hollywood starlet during the last two years of her life.

