



Fictional Biographies

The King's Way C359302.k by Francoise Chandernagor

After her birth in prison, Francoise d'Aubign marries a crippled old poet when she is 16, rather than enter a convent. Through the years at her husband's salon, she becomes learned and witty enough so that when she becomes Louis XIV's morganatic wife, she wields power over France as Madame de Maintenon.

The Raven's Bride C8767 by Elizabeth Crook

Sam Houston's 11 week marriage to Eliza Allen in 1829 abruptly dissolves, an event that caused lingering scandal and speculation, and inspiration for this novel.

I Am Madame X D5723.i by Gioia Diliberto

A "memoir" of the life of Virginie Gautreau, the subject of John Singer Sargent's controversial portrait "Madame X", from her Creole youth and flight to France during the American Civil War, to her marriage to a prominent banker.

A God Against the Gods and Return to Thebes D8453 by Allen Drury

In these two novels, Drury recreates the fabled court and society of the Egypt of 3300 years ago. At the center of the story is the Pharaoh Akhenaten, the first monotheist, who placed Aten, "The Sole God" above Amon and his powerful priesthood. When Akhenaten and his wife Nefertiti are killed, Tutankamon becomes Pharaoh for a brief chaotic time. Here is the ancient world brought to life by a master storyteller.

The World As I Found It D872.w by Bruce Duffy

Ludwig Wittgenstein, the most magnetic philosopher of our time, is at the center of this mammoth novel. The tome also gives glimpses of Bertrand Russell, D.H. Lawrence, Sigmund Freud and other contemporaries of this brilliant, tortured philosopher.

Lucy E333.I by Ellen Feldman

Drawing on recently discovered materials to recreate the voice of a woman who played

crucial but silent role in the Roosevelt presidency, the novel details the love affair between Roosevelt and his wife's secretary.

The Blue Flower F5708.bl by Penelope Fitzgerald

An account that centers on the 18th century German poet, Novalis, and his romance with Sophie von Kuhn, 12, who becomes his muse, but who died of tuberculosis before they could marry.

Stone Heart G4525.s by Diane Glancy

Retells the story of Sacajawea, the young Shoshoni woman who traveled with Lewis and Clark on their expedition to the West. Throughout the book, excerpts from the actual diaries of Lewis and Clark serve as a counterpoint to Sacajawea's more intimate observations and mystical interpretations of their adventures.

Gerontius H1808.g by Paterson Hamilton

In 1923, Sir Edward Elgar is widowed, idle and unproductive. On impulse, he books passage on a cruise to South America. There, he encounters the woman who was the inspiration for the Enigma Variations, and learns to understand himself and his genius.

The Monsters of St. Helena H19713.m by Brooks Hansen

The story of Napoleon Bonaparte's last exile, in 1815, on the island of St. Helena, whose arrival—with a retinue of fifteen hundred people—throws the island population in turmoil.

I, Victoria H249137.i by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles

The autobiography Queen Victoria might have written is a personalized journey across 80 of the most fascinating years of the 19th century, seen through the eyes of one of its most prominent leaders, a woman who gave her name to an era.

Sappho's Leap J74.sa by Erica Jong

If you could go back in time 2600 years and get inside the head of the greatest singer of love the world has ever known, Sappho's leap would be the result. An odyssey of love and adventure which spans the ancient world, this novel tells the story of a passionate woman who was ahead of her time and whose songs have proven to be immortal.

The Lost Diaries of Frans Hals K4516.l by Michael Kernan

Ancient notebooks are found in a Long Island garage and a Columbia graduate student starts translating them. The notebooks seem to be the diaries of the Dutch artist, and offer a fascinating portrait of a man living in the age of Rembrandt and Descartes.

The Wind From Hastings L779.w by Morgan Llywelyn

In 1066, William the Conqueror defeated Harold of England at Hastings, changing the course of Western civilization. This is the story of Harold's wife, Edyth, who witnessed the battle, then vanished forever, taking with her the legitimate heirs to the thrones of England and Wales.

Dancer M125.d by Colum McCann

A fictional account of the life of Rudolf Nureyev, following his first ballet lessons under Anna Vasileva, his relationship with the ambitious Yulia, and his experiences with Venezuelan hustler Victor.

Dreams of Empire M19918.d by Jeanne Mackin

The year is 1799 and Napoleon, Lord Elgin, Tallyrand and the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, as well as young Marguerite Verdier are all in Egypt, searching for a legendary treasure called The Woman Carried Away. Intrigue, unlikely alliances and ancient curses all add to the excitement of a richly imagined epic tale of adventure.

Outlaws of Sherwood M199501.o by Robin McKinley

The author retells the adventures of Robin Hood and his band of outlaws who live in Sherwood in twelfth century England.

Benjamin's Crossing P2147.be by Jay Parini

In 1940, the German-Jewish critic Walter Benjamin was in Paris, writing his masterpiece. With Nazis in the Paris suburbs, Benjamin had to flee with his precious manuscript. Scrupulous research coupled with originality of perception bring to life one of this century's most brilliant thinkers in an exciting story emblematic of our age.

The Man Who Loved Mata Hari S55305.m by Dan Sherman

A master of espionage exposes the shocking truth behind the legendary Mata Hari. Though she was Europe's most seductive entertainer at the time, she probably was not

a spy at all, but rather a pawn of the British and French who needed a scapegoat for such wartime tragedies as the Battle of the Somme.

Vindication S55428.v by Frances Sherwood

Loosely based on the life of Mary Wollstonecraft, the great eighteenth century feminist writer, this is the story of a gifted young woman who leaves her uncomprehending family behind and travels to London where she becomes involved with many of the great figures of the day.

Coco, the Novel S68353.c by Patricia Soliman

If you thought that Chanel was no more than a perfume with a number, a classic suit and a design label, you will think again as you read this novel. Chanel's odyssey from peasant to self-made career woman, friend to Picasso, Cocteau, Stravinsky, the Duchess of Windsor and Churchill, is the story of a woman ahead of her time.

Passions of the Mind S87755.pa by Irving Stone

Sigmund Freud was one of Vienna's most distinguished neurobiologists when he gave up a life of respectability and affluence to become a daring researcher of the uncharted seas of the human mind.

I, James McNeill Whistler W6704.i by Lawrence Williams

The flamboyant, indomitable American expatriate and controversial artist here paints his own portrait in a purported autobiography. John Ruskin, the foremost art critic of the day despised Whistler's work and Whistler brought suit against him for ridiculing one of his paintings. The resulting trial provides the climax to a swashbuckling career.