

## Biography Genre Study 2005



# BIOGRAPHY STAFF PICKS

951.05 CHA *Wild Swans*  
Chang recounts the evocative, unsettling, and insistently gripping story of how three generations of women in her family fared in the political maelstrom of China during the 20th century. By Jung Chang \*\*\*\*\*

958.1046 SHA *Storyteller's Daughter*  
Born in England and raised on her father's fantastic stories of an Afghanistan she had never known, Shah spends her adult life searching for a mythic place of beauty. By Saira Shah \*\*\*\*\*

974.403 MAR *Peabody Sisters*  
A thoroughly researched biography of the Peabody Sisters and their influence on the Transcendental movement during the 19th century. By Megan Marshall \*\*\*\*\*

### BIO Angelou *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Maya Angelou uses poetic language to recount a youth filled with disappointment, frustration, tragedy, and finally hard-won independence. By Maya Angelou \*\*\*

### BIO Austen *Jane Austen*

While many are familiar with Jane Austen's novels, the details of her life are less well known. Biographer Shields draws from Austen's witty letters and classic novels to combat the notion that Austen lived a placid, uneventful life. By Carol Shields \*\*\*

### BIO Clark *Kitchen Privileges*

An entertaining memoir from the Queen of Suspense recounting her early experiences that have shaped her as a person and influenced her as a writer. By Mary Higgins Clark \*\*\*\*\*

### BIO Frank *Diary of a Young Girl*

Anne Frank received a diary on her 13th birthday, just weeks before she and her family went into hiding in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam. Her personal entries chronicle 25 trying months of claustrophobic, quarrelsome intimacy with her parents, sister, a second family, and a middle-aged dentist. By Anne Frank \*\*\*\*\*

### BIO Franklin *The First American*

A grand story of an exceptional man emphasizing the development of Benjamin Franklin as a thinker, politician, and statesman. By H.W. Brands \*\*\*\*\*

### BIO Gilbreth *Cheaper by the Dozen*

A family of twelve lively kids, a famous efficiency expert father who believes families can run like factories, and a mother who is his partner in everything except discipline all combine to create a hilarious tale of growing up. By Frank Gilbreth \*\*\*

### BIO Johnson *My Posse Don't Do Homework*

An English teacher at an inner-city school offers a gritty but humorous portrait of her battle to win over recalcitrant students. By Lou Anne Johnson \*\*\*

### BIO Kepler *Kepler's Witch*

A remarkable human portrait grounded in the day-to-day life of Johannes Kepler the mathematician and astronomer who discovered the fundamental laws governing the motion of the planets. By James A. Conner \*\*\*\*\*

### BIO Kimmel *A Girl Named Zippy*

Kimmel's smooth, impeccably humorous prose evokes her childhood in small-town America as vividly as any novel. By Haven Kimmel \*\*\*\*\*

BIO Lincoln ***With Malice Toward None***

A masterful biography of Lincoln following his struggles and success as a business man and eventually as President of the United States during one of its most tumultuous periods. By Stephen Oates \*\*\*

BIO Martin ***Memories Are Made of This: Dean Martin Through His Daughter's Eyes***

Deana Martin details her father's life from his teenage years as a card dealer to his first Atlantic City gig with Jerry Lewis, offering her own observations along the way. By Deana Martin \*\*\*\*\*

BIO Nur ***Leap of Faith***

Noor gives you a view of a world you thought you knew, that will never look the same, and she paints a loving and memorable portrait of her husband, King Hussein, that will make you sorry all over again that he is no longer with us. By Queen Nur \*\*\*\*\*

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BIO Oufkir ***Stolen Lives***

Oufkir tells of the 20-year imprisonment of her upper-class Moroccan family following a 1972 coup attempt against King Hassan II by her father, a close military aide. After her father's execution, Oufkir, her mother and five siblings were carted off to a series of desert barracks where they were soon left to die. By Malika Oufkir \*\*\*\*

YA BIO Paulsen ***Caught by the Sea***

Paulsen's real life sea adventures read just like one of his survival novels. Shark attacks, tropical storms, and getting lost on the ocean all the while running out food and water. By Gary Paulsen \*\*\*

BIO Sacks ***Uncle Tungsten***

Oliver Sacks' luminous memoir charts the growth of a mind. Born in 1933 into a family of formidable intelligence, he discovered the wonders of the physical sciences early from his parents and their flock of brilliant siblings, most notably "Uncle Tungsten" (real name, Dave), who "manufactured lightbulbs with filaments of fine tungsten wire." By Oliver Sacks \*\*\*

BIO Smith ***Joseph Smith, the First Mormon***

Joseph Smith, a controversial character in American Religious history, is given a very even-handed treatment in this fine, single-volume biography. By Donna Hill \*\*\*\*\*

BIO Stark ***Passionate Nomad***

Freya Stark, former New York Times reporter, marched alone into the Middle East from Persia to Yemen, discovering lost cities and creating an anti-Nazi intelligence system along the way. By Jane Geniesse \*\*\*\*\*

BIO Thomas ***Make Room for Danny***

Thomas' forte as an entertainer is his storytelling, which gets a full workout in these pages. He tells stories about his Lebanese immigrant family, the Chicago nightclubs, and his hit TV series – *Make Room for Daddy*. By Danny Thomas \*\*\*

BIO Walls ***Glass Castle***

Walls' parents were a matched pair of eccentrics, and raising four children didn't conventionalize either of them. Resonating from cover to cover is Walls appreciation of her parents' knack for making hardships feel like adventures, and her love for them despite their overwhelming self-absorption. By Jeannette Walls \*\*\*\*\*

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