

Biographical fiction: Facts or fiction?



FIC B2597a

Barnes, Julian

Arthur & George

(Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir 1859-1930)

Arthur is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, physician, sportsman, gentleman par excellence and the inventor of Sherlock Holmes; George is George Edalji, also a real, if less well-known person, whose path crossed not quite fatefully with the famous author's. Edalji was the son of a Parsi father (who was a Shropshire vicar), and a Scots mother. In 1903, George, a solicitor, was accused of writing obscene, threatening letters to his own family and of mutilating cattle in his farm community. He was convicted of criminal behaviour in a blatant miscarriage of justice based on racial prejudice. Eventually, Sir Arthur ("Irish by ancestry, Scottish by birth") heard about George's case and began to advocate on his behalf. In this combination psychological novel, detective story and literary thriller, Barnes elegantly dissects early 20th-century English society as he spins this true-life story with subtle and restrained irony. [Publishers Weekly]

FIC C432g

Chadwick, Elizabeth

The greatest knight : William Marshal: a novel of a legendary man

(Marshal, William, Earl of Pembroke, 1146-1219)

Based on fact, this is the story of William Marshal, the greatest knight of the Middle Ages, unsurpassed in the tournaments, adeptly manoeuvring through the colourful, dangerous world of Angevin politics to become one of the most powerful magnates of the realm and eventually regent of England.

FIC C549b

Chopra, Deepak

Buddha : a story of enlightenment

(Siddhartha Gautama – Buddha, 560?-480? BC)

The life of Prince Siddhartha, who became the Buddha. The book is divided into three parts. The Buddha's story is compelling, and though Chopra's writing can be overly dramatic and his language flowery, he captures the essence of the spiritual seeker, sometimes shockingly single-minded in the pursuit of illumination. When the novel ends, the explanations begin, with Chopra providing a Q and A about the tenets of Buddhism. Many will find his "answers" as enigmatic as they are enlightening. [Booklist]

FIC D655d

Doherty, P.C.

Death of the red king

(William II,

King of England, 1056?-1100)

William II of England, nicknamed "Rufus the Red King" was killed by an arrow loosed by one of his own men. By concentrating on both old and new evidence, the author demonstrates that the king's death is highly suspect. Through the eyes of Anselm, the great philosopher and secret admirer of the Red King, the author develops a much more chilling interpretation of the Red King's death.

FIC D691a v.1

Doody, J. Margaret

Aristotle detective

(Aristotle, 384-322 B.C)

The greatest philosophical mastermind turns detective in this witty and dramatic whodunit which takes place in Athens, 332BC, an unhappy city under the rule of the Macedonian 'barbarian' Alexander the Great. In the midst of this unrest, Boutades, an eminent citizen, is found brutally murdered. Suspicion falls heavily on young Philemon, and, by Athenian law, his cousin Stephanos is elected to defend his name in court. In desperation, Stephanos seeks assistance from Aristotle, his former mentor — and Aristotle turns Detective.

Look also for the sequels: [Aristotle detective. 2], Aristotle and poetic justice

[Aristotle detective. 3], Aristotle and the secrets of life

[Aristotle detective. 4], Poison in Athens

[Aristotle detective. 5], Mysteries of Eleusis

FIC G823o

Gregory, Philippa

The other Boleyn girl

(Boleyn, Mary, 1508-1543)

When Mary Boleyn comes to court as an innocent girl of fourteen, she catches the eye of Henry VIII. Dazzled by the king, Mary falls in love with both her golden prince and her growing role as unofficial queen. However, she soon realizes just how much she is a pawn in her family's ambitious plots as the king's interest begins to wane and she is forced to step aside for her best friend and rival: her sister, Anne. Then Mary knows that she must defy her family and her king, and take her fate into her own hands.

Look also for these biographical novels by the same author: *The constant princess*

The queen's fool

The virgin's lover

FIC H315i
Harris, Robert
Imperium

(Cicero, Marcus Tullius, 106-43 BC & Tiro, Marcus Tullius, 104-4 B.C)
From the bestselling author of Pompeii comes the first volume in an exciting new trilogy set in ancient Rome — an imaginary biography of Cicero, Rome’s first and greatest politician.Of all the great figures of Roman times, none was more fascinating or attractive than Marcus Cicero. A brilliant lawyer and orator, a famous wit and philosopher, he launched himself at the age of twenty-seven into the violent, treacherous world of Roman politics. Cicero was determined to attain imperium, the supreme power in the state. Beside him at all times in his struggle to reach the top — the office of Consul — was his confidential secretary, Tiro. An accomplished man, Tiro was the inventor of shorthand and the author of numerous books, including a famous life of Cicero, unfortunately lost in the Dark Ages.

FIC K283q
Kellerman, Faye
The quality of mercy

(Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616)
Rebecca, the headstrong daughter of a Jewish conversos (Jews who must practice their religion in secret), flees an arranged marriage for the heady world of Elizabethan London. Disguised as a man, she embarks on an adventure that plunges her into the sinks and stews of Elizabethan England with the equally headstrong and romantic William Shakespeare.

FIC P359p
Pearl, Matthew
The Poe shadow

(Poe, Edgar Allan, 1809-1849)
Poe's ignominious funeral catches the notice of Quentin Clark, a young, idealistic attorney, who finds himself obsessed with rescuing Poe's reputation amid rumours that the writer died from an excess of drink. Clark's preoccupation soon becomes all-consuming, imperilling his practice and his engagement, especially after he learns that Poe's legendary master sleuth, the Chevalier Auguste Dupin, was modeled after a real person. The lawyer journeys to France to track down the real Dupin, in the hopes that the detective can help him solve the puzzle of Poe's death.

FIC S4272b v.1
Scott, Manda
Boudica. [1], Dreaming the eagle

(Boadicea, Queen, d.62)
Dreaming the Eagle is the first part of the gloriously imagined epic series of the life of Boudica. It is 33 AD and eleven-year-old Breaca (later named Boudica), the red-haired daughter of one of the leaders of the Eцени tribe, is on the cusp between girl and womanhood. She longs to be a Dreamer, a mystical leader who can foretell the future, but having killed the man who has attacked and killed her mother, she has proven herself a warrior. Dreaming the Eagle is also the story of the two men Boudica loves most: Caradoc, outstanding warrior and inspirational leader; and Bàn, her half-brother, who longs to be a warrior, though he is manifestly a Dreamer, possibly the finest in his tribe’s history. Bàn becomes the Druid whose eventual return to the Celts is Boudica’s salvation.

Look also for the sequels: *Boudica. [2], Dreaming the Bull*
Boudica. [3], Dreaming the hound
Boudica. [4], Dreaming the serpent spear

FIC W425i
Weir. Alison
Innocent traitor :
a novel of Lady Jane Grey

(Grey, Jane Lady 1537-1554)
Popular biographer Weir makes her historical fiction debut with this coming-of-age novel set in the time of Henry VIII. Weir's heroine is Lady Jane Grey (1537–1554), whose ascension to the English throne was briefly and unluckily promoted by opponents of Henry's Catholic heir, Mary. [...] Weir proves herself deft as ever describing Tudor food, manners, clothing, pastimes (including hunting and jousting) and marital politics. [Publishers Weekly]

