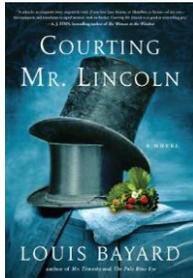


## Carver County Library Suggests *Biographical Fiction*



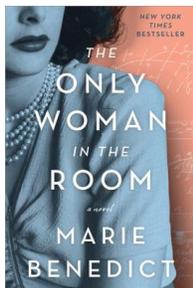
### **Louis Bayard - Courting Mr. Lincoln (BAY 2019)**

Reimagines the early adulthood of a future 16th President from the alternating views of the two people who knew and loved him best, including spirited debutante Mary Todd and Lincoln's intimate confidante, Joshua Speed. Alternating between Mary's and Joshua's points of view, Bayard chronicles the bumpy progression of the Lincoln-Todd courtship, its painful blow-up, and Lincoln's subsequent collapse into crippling depression. Mary Todd gets a welcome contemporary reappraisal as a woman of spirit and will, not the needy hysteric painted by traditional historians.



### **Marie Benedict - Lady Clementine (BEN 2020)**

Benedict brings to light Clementine Churchill, wife of Sir Winston Churchill. Beginning on Clementine's wedding day in 1909 and tracing key events in her life for the next 35 years, the book focuses on Clementine's struggle to be both an emotional and intellectual support to her demanding husband, her mixed feelings about motherhood, and her own strongly held political beliefs, which she was often forced to sideline in service of her husband's ambition.



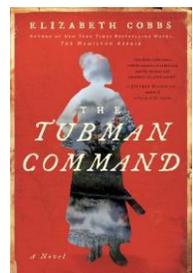
### **Marie Benedict - The Only Woman in the Room (BEN 2019)**

A fascinating look at a famous movie star with an unexpected past: Hedy Lamar. The Austria-born beauty escaped her arms-dealer husband to become a Hollywood legend while hiding a secret double life as a Jewish scientist and sharing vital information about the Third Reich. Fast pacing and atmospheric scenes of pre-World War II Europe round out this intriguing work of historical fiction.



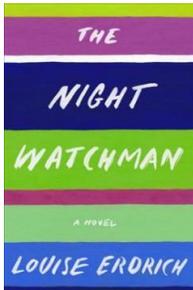
### **Jennifer Chiaverini - Resistance Women (CHI 2019)**

After Wisconsin graduate student Mildred Fish marries brilliant German economist Arvid Harnack, she accompanies him to his German homeland, where a promising future awaits. In the thriving intellectual culture of 1930s Berlin, the newlyweds create a rich new life filled with love, friendships, and rewarding work--but the rise of a malevolent new political faction inexorably changes their fate. As Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party wield violence and lies to seize power, Mildred, Arvid, and their friends resolve to resist and engage in a clandestine battle to sabotage Hitler's regime.



### **Elizabeth Hoffman Cobbs - The Tubman Command (COB 2019)**

Cobbs spotlights a significant chapter in American history by putting her own spin on some of the lesser-known yet extraordinary achievements of revered human rights icon Harriet Tubman, who escaped slavery to become an abolitionist and activist. The novel focuses on the successful raid up the Combahee River in South Carolina that freed 750 men, women, and children.



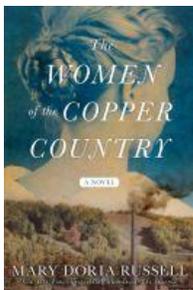
**Louis Erdrich – The Night Watchman (ERD 2020)**

In this unhurried, kaleidoscopic story, the efforts of Native Americans to save their lands from being taken away by the U.S. government in the early 1950s come intimately, vividly to life. Erdrich's grandfather Patrick Gourneau was part of the first generation born on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. As the chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in the mid-1950s, he had to use all the political savvy he could muster to dissuade Utah Sen. Arthur V. Watkins from reneging on long-held treaties between Native Americans and the federal government. Erdrich's grandfather is the inspiration for her novel's protagonist, Thomas Wazhushk, the night watchman of the title.



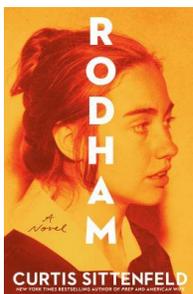
**Julie Orringer - Flight Portfolio (ORR 2019)**

This novel is based on the story of Varian Fry's extraordinary effort to save the lives and work of Jewish artists fleeing the Holocaust. In 1940, Fry traveled to Marseille carrying three thousand dollars and a list of imperiled artists and writers he hoped to help escape within a few weeks. Instead, he stayed more than a year, working to procure false documents, amass emergency funds, and arrange journeys across Spain and Portugal, where the refugees would embark for safer ports. His clients included Hannah Arendt, Max Ernst, Marcel Duchamp, and Marc Chagall, and the race against time to save them is a tale of forbidden love, high-stakes adventure, and unimaginable courage.



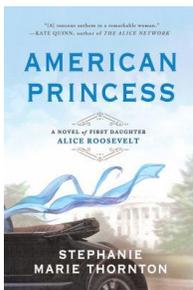
**Mary Doria Russell - Women of the Copper Country (RUS 2019)**

Russell shines a fictional spotlight on the life of labor activist Annie Clements. Big Annie as she was commonly referred to because of her majestic six-foot, two-inch height—witnesses first-hand the inherent injustices of the mining business. As the wife of a taciturn copper miner in Calumet, Michigan, in 1913, she decides she has seen enough. Seeing other women trying to survive and keep their families fed and clothed amidst deplorable conditions, she forms the Women's Auxiliary of the Western Federation of Miners, advocating and actively participating in the Copper Country Strike of 1913–14.



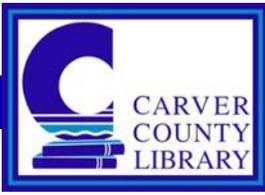
**Curtis Sittenfeld – Rodham: a Novel (SIT 2020)**

Sittenfeld imagines Hillary Clinton's personal and professional life if she and Bill had gone their separate ways instead of marrying. The novel begins with an intimate perspective on historical events with a historical twist. Bill runs for president in 1992 but drops out of the race. Hillary, meanwhile, is a year into her first term as senator from Illinois. When she runs for president, in 2016, Bill is one of three primary challengers. Sittenfeld delivers an often funny, mostly sympathetic, and always sharp what-if.



**Stephanie Marie Thornton - American Princess: A Novel of First Daughter Alice Roosevelt (THO 2019)**

Alice may be the president's daughter, but she's nobody's darling. The gum-chewing, cigarette-smoking, poker-playing First Daughter discovers that the only way for a woman to stand out in Washington is to make waves - oceans of them. When Alice falls hard for a smooth-talking congressman it will take everything this rebel has to emerge triumphant and claim her place as an American icon. As she soldiers through the devastation of two world wars, it's no wonder everyone in the capital refers to her as the Other Washington Monument - and Alice intends to outlast them all.



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