



The Swans of Fifth Avenue: A Novel

Melanie Benjamin

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The author of *The Aviator's Wife* returns with a triumphant new novel about New York's "Swans" of the 1950s—and the scandalous, headline-making, and enthralling friendship between literary legend Truman Capote and peerless socialite Babe Paley.

People's Book of the Week • USA Today's #1 "New and Noteworthy" Book • Entertainment Weekly's Must List • LibraryReads Top Ten Pick

Of all the glamorous stars of New York high society, none blazes brighter than Babe Paley. Her flawless face regularly graces the pages of *Vogue*, and she is celebrated and adored for her ineffable style and exquisite taste, especially among her friends—the alluring socialite Swans Slim Keith, C. Z. Guest, Gloria Guinness, and Pamela Churchill. By all appearances, Babe has it all: money, beauty, glamour, jewels, influential friends, a prestigious husband, and gorgeous homes. But beneath this elegantly composed exterior dwells a passionate woman—a woman desperately longing for true love and connection.

Enter Truman Capote. This diminutive golden-haired genius with a larger-than-life personality explodes onto the scene, setting Babe and her circle of Swans aflutter. Through Babe, Truman gains an unlikely entrée into the enviable lives of Manhattan's elite, along with unparalleled access to the scandal and gossip of Babe's powerful circle. Sure of the loyalty of the man she calls "True Heart," Babe never imagines the destruction Truman will leave in his wake. But once a storyteller, always a storyteller—even when the stories aren't his to tell.

Truman's fame is at its peak when such notable celebrities as Frank and Mia Sinatra, Lauren Bacall, and Rose Kennedy converge on his glittering Black and White Ball. But all too soon, he'll ignite a literary scandal whose repercussions echo through the years. *The Swans of Fifth Avenue* will seduce and startle readers as it opens the door onto one of America's most sumptuous eras.

Praise for *The Swans of Fifth Avenue*

"Exceptional storytelling . . . teeming with scandal, gossip and excitement."—*Harper's Bazaar*

"This moving fictionalization brings the whole cast of characters back to vivid life. Gossipy and fun, it's also a nuanced look at the beauty and cruelty of a rarefied, bygone world."—*People*

"The era and the sordid details come back to life in this jewel of a novel."—*O: The Oprah Magazine*

"A catty, juicy read that's like a three-martini lunch."—*USA Today*

"[Captures] the mesmerizing sparkle and scandal of New York high society in the 1950s."—*Chicago Tribune*

"Tantalizing . . . Readers will fall into a world of glitz, glamour and the exciting life of the rich and famous. The details and conversations are so rich, you may forget you're reading a novel."—*Associated Press*

“Highly entertaining.”—*The Washington Post*

“Take *Gossip Girl* and move it to the 50s.”—*theSkimm*

“The strange and fascinating relationship between Capote and his ‘swans’ is wonderfully reimagined in this engrossing novel”—**Sara Gruen**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Water for Elephants*

“Your next must-read book-club selection.”—**Jamie Ford**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*

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Jennifer Oaks:

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Lillian Carlucci:

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