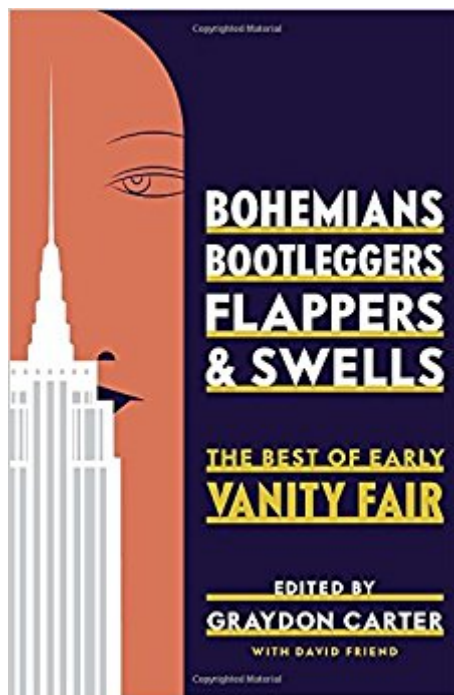


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# Bohemians, Bootleggers, Flappers, And Swells: The Best Of Early Vanity Fair



## Synopsis

For the magazine's centenary celebration, an anthology of pieces from the early golden age of Vanity Fair. In honor of the 100th anniversary of Vanity Fair magazine, *Bohemians, Bootleggers, Flappers, and Swells* celebrates the publication's astonishing early catalogue of writers, with works by Dorothy Parker, Noël Coward, P. G. Wodehouse, Jean Cocteau, Colette, Gertrude Stein, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Sherwood Anderson, Robert Benchley, Langston Hughes, and many others. Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter introduces these fabulous pieces written between 1913 and 1936, when the magazine published a row of the world's leading literary lights. *Bohemians, Bootleggers, Flappers, and Swells* features great writers on great topics, including F. Scott Fitzgerald on what a magazine should be, Clarence Darrow on equality, D. H. Lawrence on women, e.e. cummings on Calvin Coolidge, John Maynard Keynes on the collapse in money value, Thomas Mann on how films move the human heart, Alexander Woollcott on Harpo Marx, Carl Sandburg on Charlie Chaplin, Djuna Barnes on James Joyce, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., on Joan Crawford, and Dorothy Parker on a host of topics ranging from why she hates actresses to why she hasn't married. These essays reflect the rich period of their creation while simultaneously addressing topics that would be recognizable in the magazine today, such as how women should navigate work and home life; our destructive fascination with the entertainment industry and with professional sports; the collapse of public faith in the financial industry; and, as Aldous Huxley asks herein, "What, Exactly, Is Modern?" Offering readers an inebriating swig from that great cocktail shaker of the Roaring Twenties, the Jazz Age, the age of Gatsby, *Bohemians, Bootleggers, Flappers, and Swells* showcases unforgettable writers in search of how to live well in a changing era.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Minneapolis Star Tribune: "As these few sips of Bohemians, Bootleggers, Flappers and Swells • an inebriating swig from that great cocktail shaker of the Roaring Twenties, the Jazz Age, and the age of Gatsby • suggest, the book makes for an excellent nightcap." Buffalo News: "You'll find some of the best poetry and prose of Vanity Fair's first incarnation in this wildly stellar anthology of essays, interviews, poems, journalism and whatnot (lots of whatnot) from the Bible of the Smart Set 1913-1926." Publishers Weekly (starred): "This volume epitomizes the idea of modernity in American cultural life before the Second World War." Kirkus Reviews: "A remarkable range to the pieces. Whether read from cover to cover or dipped into occasionally, this collection serves as a fine primer to one magazine's contribution to a golden age of American magazine writing." Library Journal: "Reading this compilation of writings published in Vanity Fair from the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s is like sampling a box of chocolates on Valentine's Day: a delicious confection of satire, poetry, biographical sketches, humorous pieces, and thought-provoking commentary." Booklist: "These delightful period pieces reflecting the social mores of their time hold up in their innovation, style, and concern about modern life nearly a century later."

Graydon Carter is the editor of Vanity Fair. The American edition of Vanity Fair was launched by publisher Condé Nast in 1913. Under the stewardship of editor Frank Crowninshield, who assigned most of the pieces in this volume, the magazine was a literary and visual treasure of the Jazz Age and featured an incomparable slate of writers through 1936, when it was folded into Vogue as a casualty of the Great Depression. Vanity Fair was revived in 1983. Carter has been its editor since 1992. David Friend, a writer, editor, producer, curator, and formerly Life magazine's director of photography, is Vanity Fair's editor of creative development.

I'm almost done with this and may swing back to the beginning and start again. I love the selected essays, as many are VERY relevant today. Bravo to the author. The difference between this and

after the fact reported history is that the authors of these essays were LIVING in the history at the time they wrote on the various topics. It's a more personal, enlightening view of that era and how things REALLY were, rather than filtered and reported on later. I learned a LOT, laughed and winced a lot too.

This is a nice book to have on the coffee table or to read nightly in bed. It gives you a glimpse of the type of content vanity fair use to feature, its a really nice look in the past. I say it could be a coffee table book only because of its well designed cover, it is a standard book size.

Everything I expected it to be.

thanks

I love this era, the F. Scott Fitzgerald era of flappers and socialites from about 1900 through the 20's and on. Most of the articles are amusing and witty (some are serious but still good); it's a great sociological study of how people really thought back then. A great book and a great gift idea for anyone who loves this era!

Get a taste of the wit and wisdom that the English language is sorely missing today. Get a sample of some of the finest humor, bar none, as you read Dorothy Parker and e e cummings. I cannot praise this book with anything but superlatives !!

So many of my favorite things in one book. Short stories, pre-World War II era, New York City. Great, prolific writers. I highly recommend it.

I am a nostalgia buff, especially when it comes to literature. If this is your thing, and you have an interest in writers who ruled the page in the early to mid 1900's, this is a collection of writing from Vanity Fair magazine that you will love. I only received my copy last week, and I'm more than halfway through it. Its absorbing articles put me smack dab in the middle of the decade's culture and happenings. Relax and enjoy. This collection is a treasure.

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