

PROVENANCE: A NOVEL

A vivid portrait of a family determined to live *undefined* by race.

Select Praise for Provenance:

"Sawyer successfully explores the meaning of family in this multigenerational saga set in the world of high-end art. An often memorable tale of love, loss and redemption."

— Kirkus Reviews

"A terrific and timely story. I love the rich characters that are so individual and varied. All of their voices are unique and distinctive." —Barbara Esstman, author of "The Other Anna" and "Night Ride Home"

"A substantive read that will nudge (if not force) you to rethink your perceptions of racial identity, wealth and, art."
—Kelly Hand, author of "Au Pair Report"

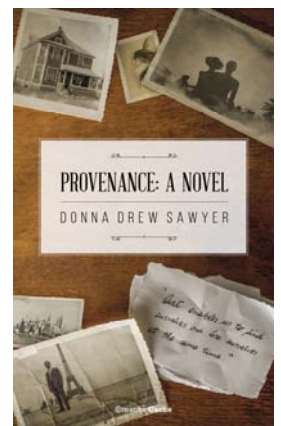
In the tradition of Nella Larsen's seminal classic on race, *Passing*, and Donna Tartt's art infused coming-of-age epic, *The Goldfinch*, [Donna Drew Sawyer's](#) debut novel, **PROVENANCE** (Creative Cache; October 2015), is a tale of triumph despite tragedy. The story is set in the early 20th century—between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement—a fascinating period in African American history that is rarely explored in literary fiction. For African American men and women this was a time when risking everything to take more than society was willing to offer was a daring and often solitary act. The characters in *Provenance* choose different paths to ensure their destinies; some thrived within segregated communities, others left the United States for the freedom that Europe promised and, others choose racial passing.

With the art world as its backdrop, *Provenance* intertwines the stories of captivating yet flawed fictional characters with [real people and places](#) to paint a vivid picture of African Americans who defied tradition to escape racial barriers. Though each character's path is unique, as racial pioneers they shared the same quest—the right to live undefined by race. Some, like Josephine Baker, are familiar; others like Belle da Costa Greene and Eugene Bullard, are not as renowned but just as remarkable. Like the fictional family in *Provenance*, each was on a unique path to dictate their own destiny—despite their provenance.

***Provenance* is a sweeping family saga about a time when the destiny of a black family had to be self-determined. It is an unforgettable tale of the choices and chances that determined men and women took to live the life they imagined for themselves. *Provenance* paints a vivid picture of courage, love, loss, beauty, passion, history and healing that strengthens and preserves an American family.**

The experiences and insights of the book's characters are as timely today as ever; because race still has the power to divide or unite, cannot predict success or failure and, continues to be powerless in the face of love and a passion for life. *Provenance* is perfect book club fiction, a page-turner that will have readers questioning assumptions about race, family and destiny long after the book's final page.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: DONNA DREW SAWYER, is a former director of the Smithsonian's *Hirshhorn Museum* and, *The Chrysler Museum of Art*. As a marketing and communications expert specializing in cultural inclusion in the arts, she wrote to attract diverse audiences which led her to start writing for an audience of her own. Born and raised in New York City, she and her author/educator husband now live in an empty nest near Washington, DC. Visit the author online at DonnaDrewSawyer.com



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