

# A private life: A novel



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Fanny Foote came to New York to seek her fortune, had sailed off high-hearted, and has been depressed ever since. She is not seriously depressed but unpleasantly grounded, in part by her dull job at a feminist magazine but also by the failure of freedom to bring extravagant returns. She is twenty-six and treading water, and now without warning Fate plucks her

from tedious obscurity and assigns her Success, Travel, Romance.

Fanny is a woman of her generation, sexually active, and privately disappointed. Her father and mother--responsible, caring parents are people of their generation; Elizabeth worried every time the phone rings to hear from her sad daughter, Marcus waiting for that daughter to get on with it.

At the heart of this otherwise excellent Foote family is a fifteen-year rift. After a quarrel, Fanny's adored aunt Caroline decamped abruptly with the elegant Luce and Tavernier for France, where they established a sort of fancy boarding-house for scholars, writers, and musicians, and have made a name for themselves. When Fanny's editor discovers her relationship to Foote and Tavernier she is ecstatic because, she says, they are the quintessential lesbians, and she sends Fanny off to write them up. Fanny, shocked to death, goes.

Seton calls herself a writer of serious comedy, a soft feminist, and (reluctantly) a moralist. She lives in Northampton,

Massachusetts. This is her fifth novel.

作者介绍:

目录:

[A private life: A novel\\_ 下载链接1\\_](#)

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