

Capitol Hill in Fiction

Adams, Henry. *Democracy: An American Novel*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Young, 1952.

First published anonymously in 1880, this novel is the story of Madeleine Lee, a young widow who comes to Washington, D.C., to understand the workings of government. The book is a scathing commentary on the American political system in general rather than on one administration in particular, and the characters are recognizable in any era.

Drury, Allen. *Advise and Consent*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1959.

In the first book of a six-part series, Allen Drury introduces the reader not only to the inner workings of the U.S. Senate, but also to the very human realities of our elected officials. The novel is filled with believable characters, dealing with real problems and issues.

Drury, Allen. *Come Nineveh, Come Tyre: The Presidency of Edward M. Jason*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1973.

This book is the fifth installment in Allen Drury's *Advise and Consent* series. It details the very brief presidency of fictional character Edwin Jason.

Drury, Allen. *Mark Coffin, U.S.S.: A Novel of Capitol Hill*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1979.

This book deals with the life of a fictional junior senator from California—the idealistic and naive Mark Coffin. Only 30 years old and something of a celebrity when he enters the Senate, Coffin immediately finds himself thrust into a battle over the president's choice for attorney general. Drury's message is that times have changed after Watergate.

Drury, Allen. *Preserve and Protect: A Novel*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1968.

The action in this novel begins when fictional President Harley Hudson is killed in a plane crash. The Speaker of the House becomes president and calls for a national committee to select new nominees for the coming election. This book teaches the public a valuable lesson on presidential succession.

Drury, Allen. *The Promise of Joy*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1975.

This book is the final installment in the six-book *Advise and Consent* series. Drury introduces a new president, and writes about potential war between the United States, Russia, and China.

Drury, Allen. *A Shade of Difference: A Novel*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1962.

This book discusses racism and how the United Nations deals with it. Drury demonstrated that he not only understood the inner workings of the United Nations, but that he has a great understanding of the world: he predicted the civil rights struggles of the late 1960s.

Ellison, Ralph. *Juneteenth: A Novel*. New York: Random House, 1999.

When Ellison died in 1994, he left a manuscript of over 2,000 pages. Found by his literary executor, the writings were edited and *Juneteenth* is the final product. This book allows us to see Ellison's mature vision as a novelist. *Juneteenth* revolves around just two characters and focuses on the stories told by an injured senator to a reverend.

Grady, James. *Six Days of the Condor*. New York: Norton, 1974.

Set on Capitol Hill, this novel revolves around a murderous renegade network operating within the Central Intelligence Agency. This novel was so well received that it was made into a movie, "Three Days of the Condor," starring Robert Redford.

Mikulski, Barbara, and Marylouise Oates. *Capitol Offense*. New York: Dutton, 1996.

Mikulski and journalist Marylouise Oates have put together a page-turning fictional story of an activist female senator whose ideology wins her fans at home but not on the Hill. She is faced with interesting decisions that reveal some of the wicked ways of Washington.

Patterson, Richard North. *Protect and Defend*. New York: Random House, 2000.

When a newly elected president has the opportunity to nominate a new justice to the Supreme Court, he selects a respected female judge, Caroline Masters, who has a brilliant record--and a secret. As it becomes apparent that a volatile abortion case might come before the court, Masters' nomination becomes embroiled in a clash between the White House and the Senate. This book has been called an up-to-date version of *Advise and Consent*.

Truman, Margaret. *Murder on Capitol Hill: A Novel*. New York: Arbor House, 1981.

The second book in Margaret Truman's *Murder in Washington* series is a mystery that revolves around events surrounding the murder of a senator at a party. Truman holds the reader in suspense throughout the journey of the investigation into who really killed Senator Cale Caldwell.

Twain, Mark, and Charles Dudley Warner. *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*. New York: Trident Press, 1964.

First published in 1873, *The Gilded Age* is a revealing portrait of post-Civil War America. The book details a time of corruption when crooked land speculators and bankers and dishonest politicians took advantage of the nation's peacetime optimism. With his characteristic wit and perception, Mark Twain and his collaborator, Charles Dudley Warner, attack the greed, lust, and naivete of their own time in a work that is one of America's most important satirical novels.