Biography: A Brief History is a book by Nigel Hamilton that portrays, through historiography, the history of biography, and shows how biographers have portrayed and interpreted individuals' lives. The book examines the historical evolution of the biography from the ancient world to the present, from the Epic of Gilgamesh to the recent American Splendor, from cuneiform to the Internet, from commemoration to deconstruction, and from fiction to fact. Hamilton considers many of the father of biography, made this explicit when he prefaced his Life of Alexander with his intention to show the influence of character on the destiny of famous men. Narrative form: While Edmund Gosse described biography as “a portrait of the soul” it is not really a portrait, capturing a single, still moment of life. He added that biography was a “portrait of a soul in its adventures through life” (Hamilton, 2007). Even Plutarch, who called him This item: Biography: A Brief History by Nigel Hamilton Paperback $19.34. In stock on October 17, 2020. Order it now. Sold by libreprime and ships from Amazon Fulfillment. How To Do Biography: A Primer by Nigel Hamilton Paperback $15.88. Only 2 left in stock (more on the way). Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. Nigel Hamilton has written a delightful history of the fine art of biography through the ages. His insightful and provocative book reminds us that biography is the most tantalizing of historical narratives and one uniquely suited to understanding the human condition. Kai Bird, 2006 Pulitzer Prize winner for Biography, co-author with Martin J. Sherwin of American Prometheus: The Triumph & Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer. Evolutionary biography -- Hagiography -- The renaissance of biography -- Victorian pseudobiography -- The early twentieth century -- The rise of film -- The people's war -- Death of the author -- New directions -- Biography comes of age -- Biography on trial -- The miner's canary -- Biography. Today. Includes bibliographical references (p. 315-321) and index.