

a man in full tom wolfe

A man in full Tom Wolfe

Tom Wolfe, an iconic figure in American journalism and literature, remains a towering presence whose vivid storytelling and innovative narrative techniques continue to influence writers and readers alike. His unique ability to blend detailed reportage with a poetic sense of style has earned him recognition as one of the most significant authors of the 20th century. In this article, we explore the life, works, and enduring legacy of Tom Wolfe, providing a comprehensive overview of his contributions to literature and culture.

Early Life and Background

Born and Raised in Richmond, Virginia

Tom Wolfe was born on March 2, 1930, in Richmond, Virginia. His childhood was shaped by the cultural and social milieu of the South, which later influenced some of his themes and perspectives.

Educational Path and Early Career

Wolfe attended Washington and Lee University, where he earned a degree in American Studies. He later pursued graduate studies at Yale University, earning a Master of Arts in American Studies. His academic background laid a foundation for his deep engagement with American culture and history.

Transition to Journalism

After completing his education, Wolfe moved to New York City to work as a reporter. His early career involved writing for various magazines, honing his distinctive style that combined detailed reporting with literary flair.

Major Works and Literary Style

Notable Books and Contributions

Tom Wolfe authored several influential books, each contributing uniquely to American literature and journalism.

1. **The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test (1968):** An immersive account of the psychedelic movement, capturing the counterculture of the 1960s with

vivid prose.

2. **The Right Stuff (1979)**: A detailed narrative of the early American space program and the pilots involved, blending factual reportage with storytelling excellence.
3. **Bonfire of the Vanities (1987)**: A satirical novel depicting the excesses and moral decay of 1980s New York City, showcasing Wolfe's talent for social critique.
4. **A Man in Full (1998)**: A sprawling novel examining race, class, and capitalism in contemporary Atlanta, exemplifying Wolfe's mastery of complex narratives.

Unique Literary Style

Wolfe's writing style is characterized by:

- **New Journalism**: Blending journalistic research with literary techniques, including scene-by-scene construction and vivid detail.
- **Detailed Descriptions**: Using exhaustive descriptions to bring characters and settings to life.
- **Cultural Critique**: Incorporating social commentary within his storytelling.
- **Innovative Language**: Employing colorful, energetic language that captures the zeitgeist.

Impact on Journalism and Literature

Revolutionizing New Journalism

Tom Wolfe played a pivotal role in popularizing New Journalism, a style that emphasizes immersive storytelling and subjective perspective, blurring the lines between traditional journalism and literary fiction.

Influence on Writers and Media

His approach inspired countless journalists and authors to adopt more narrative-driven, vivid reporting. Wolfe's techniques have become standard in many long-form articles and literary works.

Contributions to Cultural Understanding

By documenting and critiquing American society's shifts, Wolfe provided readers with a nuanced understanding of cultural, political, and social dynamics.

Legacy and Continuing Relevance

Enduring Popularity of His Works

Wolfe's books continue to be widely read and studied, appreciated for their sharp insights and compelling storytelling.

Influence on Modern Literature

Contemporary writers often cite Wolfe as an inspiration, particularly in the realm of narrative nonfiction and cultural critique.

Recognition and Awards

Throughout his career, Wolfe received numerous accolades, including:

- National Book Award finalist
- Whitney Award for journalism
- Numerous honorary degrees

Criticisms and Controversies

Perceived Elitism and Bias

Some critics argue Wolfe's portrayals sometimes veer into caricature or reflect a particular cultural bias, especially in his satirical works.

Ethical Considerations

As with many journalists, questions about the line between reporting and storytelling have been raised, though Wolfe's commitment to vivid, truthful storytelling remains influential.

Conclusion: The Man Behind the Legend

Tom Wolfe's life and work exemplify a relentless pursuit of capturing the American experience in all its complexity and vibrancy. His innovative style and fearless social commentary continue to resonate, making him a true "man in full" – a complete figure whose contributions transcend genres. Whether through his groundbreaking journalism, compelling novels, or cultural critiques, Wolfe's legacy endures as a testament to the power of storytelling in understanding society. His influence persists, inspiring new generations to see the world through a more vivid, insightful lens.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'A Man in Full' by Tom Wolfe?

The novel explores themes of wealth, power, race, and social change in Atlanta during the 1990s, focusing on the interconnected lives of its diverse characters.

How does Tom Wolfe depict the American South in 'A Man in Full'?

Wolfe portrays the South as a place of deep social stratification and transformation, highlighting issues of race, economic disparity, and the shifting cultural landscape.

Who are the main characters in 'A Man in Full' and what are their roles?

The novel features characters like Charlie Croker, a real estate developer facing financial ruin; Raymond Hain, a wealthy businessman; and Conrad Hensley, a man facing incarceration, among others, each representing different facets of Southern society.

What role does race play in the plot of 'A Man in Full'?

Race is a significant element, influencing characters' relationships and societal dynamics, especially in the context of Atlanta's changing demographics and racial tensions.

How was 'A Man in Full' received upon its release,

and how is it regarded today?

The novel received mixed reviews initially, with some praising Wolfe's detailed characterizations and social commentary, while others critiqued its complexity. Today, it is viewed as a vivid snapshot of 1990s Southern America and Wolfe's sharp social analysis.

What are some notable stylistic features of Tom Wolfe in 'A Man in Full'?

Wolfe employs his signature journalistic writing style, combining detailed character portrayals, vivid descriptions, and social satire to create an immersive narrative of contemporary Southern life.

Additional Resources

A Man in Full is a compelling novel by Tom Wolfe that masterfully captures the complex interplay of power, race, class, and ambition in contemporary America. As one of Wolfe's later works, it exemplifies his signature style—vivid characterizations, sharp social commentary, and a panoramic view of American life. This in-depth review explores the novel's themes, characters, style, and its place in Wolfe's oeuvre, providing a comprehensive analysis for those interested in its literary and cultural significance.

Introduction to "A Man in Full"

Published in 1998, A Man in Full stands as Wolfe's sprawling narrative that examines Atlanta's social and economic landscape at the turn of the 21st century. The novel weaves multiple storylines, focusing on prominent figures such as Charlie Croker, a real estate magnate facing financial ruin; Raymond Carver, a rising African American developer; and a host of other characters who embody various facets of American society. Wolfe's keen eye for detail and his ability to craft vivid, multidimensional characters make the book both engaging and thought-provoking.

Plot Overview

The novel's plot centers on the downfall and redemption of Charlie Croker, who finds himself embroiled in legal and financial crises that threaten his empire. Simultaneously, Raymond Carver navigates the challenges of racial integration and economic opportunity, representing the changing demographic landscape of Atlanta. Other storylines include the political machinations surrounding Atlanta's development, the personal struggles of characters battling personal demons, and the societal tensions rooted in race, class,

and power.

Throughout the novel, Wolfe explores how these individual stories intersect, illustrating the broader social transformations shaping America at the end of the 20th century. The narrative culminates in moments of revelation and change, with characters confronting their identities and societal roles.

Themes and Social Commentary

Power and Ambition

One of the central themes in *A Man in Full* is the pursuit of power and the often-destructive nature of ambition. Wolfe vividly depicts characters who are driven by greed, status, or the desire for influence—be it through real estate, politics, or social standing. Charlie Croker's downfall exemplifies how unchecked ambition can lead to moral compromise and personal ruin.

- Pros: Offers insights into the corrupting influence of power.
- Cons: Sometimes portrays characters as caricatures of greed, reducing complexity.

Race and Social Inequality

Wolfe tackles racial tensions head-on, highlighting the evolving dynamics between African Americans and whites in Atlanta. Raymond Carver's rise symbolizes racial progress, yet the novel does not shy away from depicting ongoing systemic inequalities and conflicts.

- Pros: Provides a nuanced portrayal of racial issues without oversimplification.
- Cons: Some critics argue that certain racial stereotypes persist despite Wolfe's efforts at realism.

Class and Economic Change

The novel vividly portrays the shifting economic landscape, illustrating how traditional elites face challenges from new money and changing demographics. Wolfe captures the tension between old Southern aristocracy and modern entrepreneurs, emphasizing the fragility of established social hierarchies.

- Pros: Sharp depiction of economic transformation.
- Cons: May feel overly focused on material success at times.

Character Analysis

Charlie Croker

As the novel's protagonist, Charlie embodies the archetype of the ambitious businessman brought low by hubris. His personal and professional crises serve as a lens into the corrupting influence of wealth and the moral compromises often involved in real estate development.

- Strengths: Complex, multi-layered character; embodies themes of downfall and redemption.
- Weaknesses: Some readers may find him less sympathetic due to his flaws.

Raymond Carver

A rising African American developer, Raymond symbolizes hope and progress amid racial tensions. His journey reflects themes of racial integration and the pursuit of success against societal odds.

- Strengths: Represents positive change and resilience.
- Weaknesses: Occasionally idealized, which may oversimplify racial issues.

Supporting Characters

Wolfe's cast includes a variety of secondary characters—lawyers, politicians, athletes, and everyday citizens—each adding depth to the novel's social tapestry. These characters serve to illustrate different facets of Atlanta's societal mosaic.

Style and Literary Techniques

Wolfe's signature style is evident throughout *A Man in Full*. His use of detailed, almost journalistic descriptions immerses readers in the setting. The narrative employs a mix of third-person omniscient narration and inside perspectives, offering insight into characters' thoughts and motivations.

Pros

- Vivid descriptions create a richly textured world.
- Sharp, incisive language captures social nuances.
- Use of slang and vernacular lends authenticity.

Cons

- The dense prose can be overwhelming for some readers.
- The multitude of characters and storylines may cause confusion.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

- Rich Character Development: Wolfe's characters are multidimensional, each embodying particular social archetypes.
- Social Insight: The novel provides a penetrating look at American urban life and societal shifts.
- Narrative Scope: Its sprawling narrative captures the complexity of modern American society.

Weaknesses

- Complexity: The numerous plotlines may challenge readers seeking a straightforward story.
- Pacing: Some sections are slow, detailed descriptions that may test patience.
- Stereotypes: Certain characters may seem exaggerated or stereotypical, reflecting Wolfe's satirical edge.

Comparison with Other Wolfe Works

Compared to Wolfe's earlier novels like *The Bonfire of the Vanities* or *A Street of Dreams*, *A Man in Full* maintains his critique of societal excess and hypocrisy but delves deeper into issues of race and economic change. Its tone is slightly more serious, reflecting the shifts in American society at the end of the millennium.

Impact and Reception

Upon release, *A Man in Full* received mixed reviews—some critics praised its detailed social commentary and vivid storytelling, while others felt it was overly ambitious or cluttered. Nonetheless, it remains a significant work for understanding American urban life and Wolfe's literary style.

The novel's portrayal of Atlanta as a microcosm of America's broader societal changes made it both timely and insightful. Its influence extends beyond literature into discussions about race, class, and urban development.

Conclusion

A Man in Full stands as a testament to Tom Wolfe's skill as a social observer and storyteller. Its detailed characterizations, incisive commentary, and panoramic scope make it a compelling read for anyone interested in American society's complexities at the turn of the century. While its dense style and sprawling plot may challenge some readers, the novel rewards those willing to engage deeply with its themes.

Pros:

- Deep social and cultural insights
- Rich, multidimensional characters
- Vivid descriptions and sharp language

Cons:

- Dense and sometimes overwhelming prose
- Complex narrative structure
- Risk of stereotyping in character portrayals

In sum, Wolfe's *A Man in Full* is a monumental work that offers a nuanced exploration of ambition, race, and change in contemporary America, cementing its place as a significant piece of late 20th-century American literature.

[A Man In Full Tom Wolfe](#)

a man in full tom wolfe: *A Man in Full* Tom Wolfe, 2010-04-01 Tom Wolfe's *THE BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES* defined an era and established Wolfe as our prime fictional chronicler of America at its most outrageous and alive. In his #1 New York Times bestseller and National Book Award finalist, *A MAN IN FULL*, the setting shifts to Atlanta, Georgia—a racially mixed late-century boomtown teeming with fresh wealth, avid speculators, and worldly-wise politicians. Don't miss the star-studded mini series adaptation of *A Man in Full*—coming soon to Netflix. Big men. Big money. Big games. Big libidos. Big trouble. The protagonist is Charles Croker, once a college football star, now a late-middle-aged Atlanta real-estate entrepreneur turned conglomerate king, whose expansionist ambitions and outsize ego have at last hit up against reality. Charlie has a 28,000-acre quail-shooting plantation, a young and demanding second wife--and a half-empty office tower with a staggering load of debt. When star running back Fareek Fanon--the pride of one of Atlanta's grimmest slums--is accused of raping an Atlanta blueblood's daughter, the city's delicate racial balance is shattered overnight. Networks of illegal Asian immigrants crisscrossing the continent, daily life behind bars, shady real-estate syndicates, cast-off first wives of the corporate elite, the racially charged politics of college sports--Wolfe shows us the disparate worlds of contemporary America with all the verve, wit, and insight that have made him our most phenomenal, most admired contemporary novelist. *A Man in Full* is a 1998 National Book Award Finalist for Fiction.

a man in full tom wolfe: A Man In Full Tom Wolfe, 2018-06-21 NOW A MAJOR NETFLIX SERIES A dissection of greed-obsessed America a decade after *The Bonfire of the Vanities* and on the cusp of the millennium, from the master chronicler of American culture Tom Wolfe Charlie Croker, once a fabled college football star, is now a late-middle-aged Atlanta real estate entrepreneur-turned conglomerate king. His expansionist ambitions and outsize ego have at last hit

up against reality. Charlie has a 28,000 acre quail shooting plantation, a young and demanding second wife and a half-empty downtown tower with a staggering load of debt. Wolfe shows us contemporary America with all the verve, wit, and insight that have made him our most admired novelist. 'Enthralling enough even to satisfy The Bonfire of the Vanities devotees...humane and redemptive' – Sunday Times

a man in full tom wolfe: Men in Flight Egil Ussing, 2003

a man in full tom wolfe: South to A New Place Suzanne W. Jones, Sharon Monteith, 2002-11-01 Taking Albert Murray's *South to a Very Old Place* as a starting point, contributors to this exciting collection continue the work of critically and creatively remapping the South through their freewheeling studies of southern literature and culture. Appraising representations of the South within a context that is postmodern, diverse, widely inclusive, and international, the essays present multiple ways of imagining the South and examine both new places and old landscapes in an attempt to tie the mythic southern balloon down to earth. In his foreword, an insightful discussion of numerous Souths and the ways they are perceived, Richard Gray explains one of the key goals of the book: to open up to scrutiny the literary and cultural practice that has come to be known as "regionalism." Part I, "Surveying the Territory," theorizes definitions of place and region, and includes an analysis of southern literary regionalism from the 1930s to the present and an exploration of southern popular culture. In "Mapping the Region," essayists examine different representations of rural landscapes and small towns, cities and suburbs, as well as liminal zones in which new immigrants make their homes. Reflecting the contributors' transatlantic perspective, "Making Global Connections" challenges notions of southern distinctiveness by reading the region through the comparative frameworks of Southern Italy, East Germany, Latin America, and the United Kingdom and via a range of texts and contexts—from early reconciliation romances to Faulkner's fictions about race to the more recent parody of southern mythmaking, Alice Randall's *The Wind Done Gone*. Together, these essays explore the roles that economic, racial, and ideological tensions have played in the formation of southern identity through varying representations of locality, moving regionalism toward a "new place" in southern studies.

a man in full tom wolfe: Tom Wolfe's America Kevin T. McEneaney, 2009-04-30 While *The Right Stuff* and *The Bonfire of the Vanities* remain perhaps his best-known works, Tom Wolfe's journalism and fiction continues to enjoy a large audience, perhaps chiefly because of the variety of his subjects and his controversial approach to them. Here, McEneaney offers an account of the man and his works, explaining along the way Wolfe's use of irony, his obsessive themes, and even his use of pranks. More comprehensive in scope than any preceding book on Wolfe, it offers accurate and accessible commentary based upon what Wolfe admits about his own work. In this new book, Wolfe's work is put in journalistic and literary context. The reliability of Wolfe's journalism is discussed, especially when there are alternative narrations to events he has depicted. McEneaney also examines the Wolfe's use of pranks that he plays on readers at times, and uncovers the influences on Wolfe that have contributed to his unique style. Finally, the author discusses Wolfe's impact on other writers. Readers will gain access into Wolfe's world through this detailed and colorful work.

a man in full tom wolfe: The Postsouthern Sense of Place in Contemporary Fiction

Martyn Bone, 2014-01-13 For generations, southern novelists and critics have grappled with a concept that is widely seen as a trademark of their literature: a strong attachment to geography, or a sense of place. In the 1930s, the Agrarians accorded special meaning to rural life, particularly the farm, in their definitions of southern identity. For them, the South seemed an organic and rooted region in contrast to the North, where real estate development and urban sprawl evoked a faceless, raw capitalism. By the end of the twentieth century, however, economic and social forces had converged to create a modernized South. How have writers responded to this phenomenon? Is there still a sense of place in the South, or perhaps a distinctly postsouthern sense of place? Martyn Bone innovatively draws upon postmodern thinking to consider the various perspectives that southern writers have brought to the concept of place and to look at its fate in a national and global context. He begins with a revisionist assessment of the Agrarians, who failed in their attempts to turn their

proprietary ideal of the small farm into actual policy but whose broader rural aesthetic lived on in the work of neo-Agrarian writers, including William Faulkner and Eudora Welty. By the 1950s, adherence to this aesthetic was causing southern writers and critics to lose sight of the social reality of a changing South. Bone turns to more recent works that do respond to the impact of capitalist spatial development on the South -- and on the nation generally -- including that self-declared international city Atlanta. Close readings of novels by Robert Penn Warren, Walker Percy, Richard Ford, Anne Rivers Siddons, Tom Wolfe, and Toni Cade Bambara illuminate evolving ideas about capital, land, labor, and class while introducing southern literary studies into wider debates around social, cultural, and literary geography. Bone concludes his remarkably rich book by considering works of Harry Crews and Barbara Kingsolver that suggest the southern sense of place may be not only post-Agrarian or postsouthern but also transnational.

a man in full tom wolfe: Tot un home Tom Wolfe, 1999-01-01

a man in full tom wolfe: The American Popular Novel After World War II David Willbern, 2013-03-29 Through the perspectives of selected best-selling novels from the end of World War II to the end of the 20th century--including *The Catcher in the Rye*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Godfather*, *Jaws*, *Beloved*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, and *Jurassic Park*--this book examines the crucial issues the U.S. was experiencing during those decades. These novels represent the voices of popular conversations, as Americans considered issues of family, class, racism and sexism, feminism, economic ambition, sexual violence, war, law, religion and science. Through the windows of fiction, the book surveys the Cold War and anti-communism, the prefeminist era of the 1950s and the sexual revolution of the 1970s, forms of corporate power in the 1960s and 1980s, the traumatic legacies of slavery and Vietnam, the American fascination with lawyers, cops and criminals, alternate styles of romance in the era of late capitalism, our abiding distrust of science, and our steadfast wonder about the Great Mysteries.

a man in full tom wolfe: *The Pursuit of Happiness and the American Regime* Elizabeth Amato, 2018-02-28 The Declaration of Independence claims that individuals need liberty to pursue happiness, but provides little guidance on the "what" of happiness. Happiness studies and liberal theory are incomplete guides. Happiness studies offer insights into what makes people happy but happiness policy risks becoming doctrinaire. Liberal theory is better on personal liberty, but weak on the "what" of happiness. My argument is that American novelists are surer guides on the pursuit of happiness. Treated as political thinkers, my book offers a close reading of four American novelists, Tom Wolfe, Walker Percy, Edith Wharton, and Nathaniel Hawthorne, and their critique of the pursuit of happiness. With a critical and friendly eye, they present the shortcomings of pursuing happiness in a liberal nation but also present alternatives and correctives possible in America. Our novelists point us toward each other in friendship as our greatest resource to guide us towards happiness.

a man in full tom wolfe: *The South That Wasn't There* Michael Kreyling, 2010-11-01 Once, history and the South dwelt in close proximity. Representations of the South in writing and on film assumed everybody knew what had happened in place and time to create the South. Today, our vision of the South varies, and there is less there there than ever before. In *The South That Wasn't There*, Michael Kreyling explores a series of literary situations in which memory and history seem to work in odd and problematic ways. Looking at Toni Morrison's masterpiece *Beloved*, he tests the viability of applying Holocaust and trauma studies to the poetics and politics of remembering slavery. He then turns to Robert Penn Warren's grapplings with his personal memory of racism, which culminated in his attempt to confront the evil directly in his book *Who Speaks for the Negro?* In a chapter on the court contest between Margaret Mitchell's estate and Alice Randall over Randall's parody *The Wind Done Gone*, Kreyling treats neglected issues such as the status of literary sequels and parody in an age of advanced commodification of the South. Kreyling's searching inquiry into the intersection of the southern warrior narrative and the shocks dealt America by the Vietnam War uncovers what appears to be the deliberate yet unconscious use of southern Civil War memory in a time of national identity crisis. He follows that up with a comparison of Faulkner's appropriation of Caribbean memory in *Absalom, Absalom!* and Madison Smartt Bell's in his trilogy on Toussaint

Louverture and the Haitian revolution. Finally, Kreyling examines some new manifestations of southern memory, including science fiction as embodied in Octavia Butler's novel *Kindred*, mockumentary in Kevin Willmott's film *C.S.A.*, and postmodern cinema parody in Lars Von Trier's *Manderlay*. Lively and frequently confrontational, *The South That Wasn't There* offers a thought-provoking reexamination of our literary conceptions about the South.

a man in full tom wolfe: *The Snark Handbook: Insult Edition* Lawrence Dorfman, 2015-11-03 The bestselling book on the art of the insult is back and it's more blasphemous than ever. Author and snark connoisseur Lawrence Dorfman does his absolute worst, dishing out hundreds of clever insults for all situations and occasions. From careful instructions on how and when to throw a verbal punch to an expertly curated collection of the best insults in history, this uproarious little book has everything you need to become the ultimate slanderer. Every page is packed with delightfully mean one-liners for swiftly scorning your foes: "You're not yourself today. I noticed the improvement immediately." "You started at the bottom, and it's been downhill ever since." "His men would follow him anywhere but it was only out of morbid curiosity." "Perhaps your whole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others." "You fill a much-needed gap." Complete with charming black and white drawings that complement the book's verbal spars, *The Snark Handbook: Insult Edition* proves that the pen truly is mightier than the sword, and will ensure you're never again without the perfect quip or comeback.

a man in full tom wolfe: *Intuition, Imagination, and Philosophical Methodology* Tamar Szabó Gendler, 2013-07-18 Tamar Gendler draws together in this book a series of essays in which she investigates philosophical methodology, which is now emerging as a central topic of philosophical discussions. Three intertwined themes run through the volume: imagination, intuition and philosophical methodology. Each of the chapters focuses, in one way or another, on how we engage with subject matter that we take to be imaginary. This theme is explored in a wide range of cases, including scientific thought experiments, early childhood pretense, thought experiments concerning personal identity, fictional emotions, self-deception, Gettier cases, and the general relation of conceivability to possibility. Each of the chapters explores, in one way or another, the implications of this for how thought experiments and appeals to intuition can serve as mechanisms for supporting or refuting scientific or philosophical claims. And each of the chapters self-consciously exhibits a particular philosophical methodology: that of drawing both on empirical findings from contemporary psychology, and on classic texts in the philosophical tradition (particularly the work of Aristotle and Hume.) By exploring and exhibiting the fruitfulness of these interactions, Gendler promotes the value of engaging in such cross-disciplinary conversations in illuminating philosophical issues.

a man in full tom wolfe: *How to Write Your Life Stories* Steve Boga, 2009-09-14 Do people say you should write your life stories? This clear hands-on approach guides you through the process of writing your personal stories so that future generations can truly know your life and times. By reading your memoirs, they will become intimate with your culture, understand your work, lifestyle, travel, values, and beliefs; and they will get to know the people you loved and lost. If your stories are well written, they will be fascinated by what you have to say. If your life has known goals and obstacles, conflict and motion, you have the makings of a gripping story. Discover how to • Find the time to write regularly • Set manageable goals • Improve your writing skills • Craft gripping leads • Become a captivating storyteller • Find a publisher for your writing

a man in full tom wolfe: *Patchwork* Tom Comitta, 2025-08-19 Tom Comitta returns with a novella that is at once a picaresque quest for a stolen snuffbox and a marvel of literary *découpage*, equal parts love story, old-fashioned thriller, and absurdist romp. To whom does a story belong? Who is its author? What is an author? Does it matter? These questions and more populate the subversive and audacious *Patchwork*, a comical tragedy that highlights the connective tissue that joins stories to themselves as well as to the grand history of storytelling itself. Celebrating the tropes and clichés of classical novels while simultaneously forging them into an original narrative, *Patchwork* ultimately shows us that the stories produced by hundreds of writers past—celebrated or obscure, reverent or hilarious, factual or fantastical—may, in the hands of a master, become a single,

seamless whole.

a man in full tom wolfe: Literary Journalism in the United States of America and Slovenia Sonja Merljak Zdovc, 2008 Slovenia is acquiring some volume of literary journalism written by Slovene journalists and writers. Author Sonja Merljak Zdovc suggests that more Slovene writers should prefer literary journalism because nonfiction is based on truth, facts, and data and appeals more to readers interested in real world stories. The honest, precise, profound, and sophisticated voice of literary journalism is becoming increasingly good for newspaper circulation, as it reaches not just the mind but also the heart of the reader. Thus the world of Slovene journalism should also take a rapid turn towards the stylized literary journalism seen in the United States. There journalists and writers realize that through literary journalism they could perhaps end a general decline of traditional print media by restoring to readers stories that uncover the universal struggle of the human condition.--BOOK JACKET.

a man in full tom wolfe: *Cecil Travis of the Washington Senators* Rob Kirkpatrick, 2009-03-01 A three-time All-Star, Cecil Travis (1913–2006) was well on his way to a Hall of Fame career when he was drafted for World War II in 1941. When he returned to the game in 1945, after three and a half years in the army, Travis was no longer the dominant player he had been. In the three seasons that followed—the last of his career—only once did Travis play in more than seventy-five games, and his offensive numbers plummeted. Yet his prewar accomplishments were such that he finished his twelve-year career with a .314 batting average, and baseball maven Bill James put Travis atop his list of players most likely to have lost a Hall of Fame career to the war. This biography documents Travis's life and dynamic career. It recounts his childhood years on his family's Riverdale farm in rural Georgia, his demonstration of talent during high school, the beginning of his professional career with the Minor League Chattanooga Lookouts in 1931, his rise with the Washington Senators, the historic 1941 season in which Travis led all of baseball in hits, his time as a soldier, the decline in his play from 1945 to 1947, and his retirement. In an epilogue Cecil Travis comments on his baseball career, the effects of the war, and his life in Riverdale, where he raised livestock on the farm that was his childhood home.

a man in full tom wolfe: The New Georgia Encyclopedia Companion to Georgia Literature Hugh Ruppersburg, John C. Inscoe, 2011-08-15 Georgia has played a formative role in the writing of America. Few states have produced a more impressive array of literary figures, among them Conrad Aiken, Erskine Caldwell, James Dickey, Joel Chandler Harris, Carson McCullers, Flannery O'Connor, Jean Toomer, and Alice Walker. This volume contains biographical and critical discussions of Georgia writers from the nineteenth century to the present as well as other information pertinent to Georgia literature. Organized in alphabetical order by author, the entries discuss each author's life and work, contributions to Georgia history and culture, and relevance to wider currents in regional and national literature. Lists of recommended readings supplement most entries. Especially important Georgia books have their own entries: works of social significance such as Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit*, international publishing sensations like Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind*, and crowning artistic achievements including Jean Toomer's *Cane*. The literary culture of the state is also covered, with information on the *Georgia Review* and other journals; the Georgia Center for the Book, which promotes authors and reading; and the Townsend Prize, given in recognition of the year's best fiction. This is an essential volume for readers who want both to celebrate and learn more about Georgia's literary heritage.

a man in full tom wolfe: **Southern Writers** Joseph M. Flora, Amber Vogel, 2006-06-21 This new edition of *Southern Writers* assumes its distinguished predecessor's place as the essential reference on literary artists of the American South. Broadly expanded and thoroughly revised, it boasts 604 entries—nearly double the earlier edition's—written by 264 scholars. For every figure major and minor, from the venerable and canonical to the fresh and innovative, a biographical sketch and chronological list of published works provide comprehensive, concise, up-to-date information. Here in one convenient source are the South's novelists and short story writers, poets and dramatists, memoirists and essayists, journalists, scholars, and biographers from the colonial period to the

twenty-first century. What constitutes a southern writer is always a matter for debate. Editors Joseph M. Flora and Amber Vogel have used a generous definition that turns on having a significant connection to the region, in either a personal or literary sense. New to this volume are younger writers who have emerged in the quarter century since the dictionary's original publication, as well as older talents previously unknown or unacknowledged. For almost every writer found in the previous edition, a new biography has been commissioned. Drawn from the very best minds on southern literature and covering the full spectrum of its practitioners, *Southern Writers* is an indispensable reference book for anyone intrigued by the subject.

a man in full tom wolfe: *The New New Journalism* Robert Boynton, 2007-12-18 Forty years after Tom Wolfe, Hunter S. Thompson, and Gay Talese launched the New Journalism movement, Robert S. Boynton sits down with nineteen practitioners of what he calls the New New Journalism to discuss their methods, writings and careers. The New New Journalists are first and foremost brilliant reporters who immerse themselves completely in their subjects. Jon Krakauer accompanies a mountaineering expedition to Everest. Ted Conover works for nearly a year as a prison guard. Susan Orlean follows orchid fanciers to reveal an obsessive subculture few knew existed. Adrian Nicole LeBlanc spends nearly a decade reporting on a family in the South Bronx. And like their muckraking early twentieth-century precursors, they are drawn to the most pressing issues of the day: Alex Kotlowitz, Leon Dash, and William Finnegan to race and class; Ron Rosenbaum to the problem of evil; Michael Lewis to boom-and-bust economies; Richard Ben Cramer to the nitty gritty of politics. How do they do it? In these interviews, they reveal the techniques and inspirations behind their acclaimed works, from their felt-tip pens, tape recorders, long car rides, and assumed identities; to their intimate understanding of the way a truly great story unfolds. Interviews with: Gay Talese Jane Kramer Calvin Trillin Richard Ben Cramer Ted Conover Alex Kotlowitz Richard Preston William Langewiesche Eric Schlosser Leon Dash William Finnegan Jonathan Harr Jon Krakauer Adrian Nicole LeBlanc Michael Lewis Susan Orlean Ron Rosenbaum Lawrence Weschler Lawrence Wright

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