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### Capote in Kansas

Interviews with Capote cover his writing methods, his observations on the wealthy, his outlook on life, and his feelings about the writers who influenced his work

### Pink Triangle

For the first time, here is Brooklyn's story through the eyes of its greatest storytellers. Like Paris in the twenties or postwar Greenwich Village, Brooklyn today is experiencing an extraordinary cultural boom. In recent years, writers of all stripes—from Jhumpa Lahiri, Jennifer Egan, and Colson Whitehead to Nicole Krauss and Jonathan Safran Foer—have flocked to its patchwork of distinctive neighborhoods. But as literary critic and journalist Evan Hughes reveals, the rich literary life now flourishing in Brooklyn is part of a larger, fascinating history. With a dynamic mix of literary biography and urban history, Hughes takes us on a tour of Brooklyn past and present and reveals that hiding in Walt Whitman's Fort Greene Park, Hart Crane's Brooklyn Bridge, the raw Williamsburg of Henry Miller's youth, Truman Capote's famed house on Willow Street, and the contested streets of Jonathan Lethem's Boerum Hill is the story of more than a century of life in America's cities. Literary Brooklyn is a prismatic investigation into a rich literary inheritance, but most of all it's a deep look into the beloved borough, a place as diverse and captivating as the people who walk its streets and write its stories.

### **Truman Capote-Enfant Terrible**

Before *Breakfast at Tiffany's* Audrey Hepburn was still a little-known actress with few film roles to speak of; after it – indeed, because of it - she was one of the world's most famous fashion, style and screen icons. It was this film that matched her with Hubert de Givenchy's "little black dress". Meanwhile, Truman Capote's

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original novel is itself a modern classic selling huge numbers every year, and its high-living author of perennial interest. Now, this little book tells the story of how it all happened: how Audrey got the role (for which at first she wasn't considered, and which she at first didn't want); how long it took to get the script right; how it made Blake Edwards' name as a director after too many trashy films had failed to; and how Henry Mancini's soundtrack with its memorable signature tune 'Moon River' completed the irresistible package. This is the story of how one shy, uncertain, inexperienced young actress was persuaded to take on a role she at first thought too hard-edged and amoral - and how it made Audrey Hepburn into gamine, elusive Holly Golightly in the little black dress - and a star for the rest of her life.

### **Tiny Terror**

Katherine Graham, Lauren Bacall, Gore Vidal, John Huston, and many other familiars of the writer follow his life and career, from his Southern childhood to his precipitate decline

### **Truman Capote and the Legacy of "In Cold Blood"**

The Routledge Companion to Remix Studies comprises contemporary texts by key

authors and artists who are active in the emerging field of remix studies. As an organic international movement, remix culture originated in the popular music culture of the 1970s, and has since grown into a rich cultural activity encompassing numerous forms of media. The act of recombining pre-existing material brings up pressing questions of authenticity, reception, authorship, copyright, and the techno-politics of media activism. This book approaches remix studies from various angles, including sections on history, aesthetics, ethics, politics, and practice, and presents theoretical chapters alongside case studies of remix projects. The Routledge Companion to Remix Studies is a valuable resource for both researchers and remix practitioners, as well as a teaching tool for instructors using remix practices in the classroom.

### **The grass harp**

Truman Capote's first novel is a story of almost supernatural intensity and inventiveness, an audacious foray into the mind of a sensitive boy as he seeks out the grown-up enigmas of love and death in the ghostly landscape of the deep South. At the age of twelve, Joel Knox is summoned to meet the father who abandoned him at birth. But when Joel arrives at the decaying mansion in Skully's Landing, his father is nowhere in sight. What he finds instead is a sullen stepmother who delights in killing birds; an uncle with the face—and heart—of a debauched child; and a fearsome little girl named Idabel who may offer him the

closest thing he has ever known to love.

### **Literary Brooklyn**

A short and pungent New Yorker-style profile/extended essay of one of the great literary talents and some would say underachievers of American literature.

### **Truman Capote**

Although Truman Capote's last, unfinished novel offers a devastating group portrait of the high and low society of his time. Tracing the career of a writer of uncertain parentage and omnivorous erotic tastes, *Answered Prayers* careens from a louche bar in Tangiers to a banquet at La Côte Basque, from literary salons to high-priced whorehouses. It takes in calculating beauties and sadistic husbands along with such real-life supporting characters as Colette, the Duchess of Windsor, Montgomery Clift, and Tallulah Bankhead. Above all, this malevolently finny book displays Capote at his most relentlessly observant and murderously witty.

### **Get Happy**

Homicide trial scenes in "An American Tragedy, Native Son, In Cold Blood, " and

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"The Executioner's Song" support the assertion that certain crimes represent the era in which they occur. The social issues addressed in the forum of the courtroom become more complex as the century progresses, moving from the destructiveness of the American Dream - and the social and economic stratifications that dream implies - to issues of race, religion, sexuality, psychiatry, and media involvement in the legal process.

### **Capote**

A landmark collection that brings together Truman Capote's life's work in the form he called his "great love," *The Complete Stories* confirms Capote's status as a master of the short story. Ranging from the gothic South to the chic East Coast, from rural children to aging urban sophisticates, all the unforgettable places and people of Capote's oeuvre are here, in stories as elegant as they are heartfelt, as haunting as they are compassionate. Reading them reminds us of the miraculous gifts of a beloved American original.

### **Fifth Avenue, 5 A.M.**

Jack Dunphy was Truman Capote's lover for thirty-five years. This book is part biography, part fiction.

### **Bad Signs**

O grande Truman Capote revelado por suas correspondências Truman Capote, além de autor e roteirista, também era um inveterado escritor de cartas, e as compunha de uma maneira bastante peculiar, como se estivesse conversando pessoalmente com seus destinatários: sem inibições, censuras ou floreios verbais. Uma coletânea dessa escrita tão extravagante foi organizada por seu aclamado biógrafo, Gerald Clarke, e abrange mais de 40 décadas da vida de Capote, sendo o mais próximo possível de uma autobiografia dele. Em Um prazer fugaz: as cartas de Truman Capote, toda a trajetória de vida do escritor é delineada por meio de suas cartas: um jovem ainda ingênuo e bem-humorado conhecendo a cena literária de Nova York; um Capote mais maduro nos anos 1950; o Capote dos anos 1960, imerso em pesquisas e na escrita de seu célebre livro A sangue frio; e o Capote dos anos 1970 e início dos 1980, já no final da vida e com problemas para lidar com sua exposição pública e seus vícios. Revelando a relação entre o autor e grandes ícones do início do século XX, como Tennessee Williams, Jacqueline Kennedy, Richard Avedon e Katharine Hepburn, este livro aproxima ao máximo o leitor à vida deste incomparável escritor. Sobre o autor: Gerald Clarke é jornalista graduado pela Universidade de Yale e especializado nas literaturas inglesa e norte-americana. Escreveu em diversas revistas, incluindo The Atlantic, The New Republic, Rolling Stone e Time. Além de Um prazer fugaz: as cartas de Truman Capote, Clarke também escreveu uma biografia de Capote, que foi adaptada para

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o cinema em 2006 e teve 6 indicações ao Oscar, levando apenas a estatueta de melhor ator. Atualmente vive em Bridgehampton, Nova York.

### **Summer Crossing**

This hugely entertaining biography of the founding editor of The New Yorker tells the diverting story of how Ross and the brilliant group of people he gathered around him--including James Thurber, Charles Addams, Dorothy Parker, and John O'Hara--devised the formula that made the magazine such a popular and critical success. Photos & cartoons.

### **Capote**

A portrait based on hundreds of hours of interviews with the famous author traces his eccentric childhood in Alabama, his relationships with such contemporaries as Grace Paley and Gore Vidal, and his struggles with alcohol and drug abuse.

### **Genius in Disguise**

Murder. Not intricately plotted "whodunit." Not fiery passionate fury. But dirty, sad, disturbing actions from real people. That's what Truman Capote decided to use for

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In *Cold Blood*—his bold experiment in the realm of the non-fiction "novel." Following in that legacy is *CAPOTE IN KANSAS*, a fictionalized tale of Capote's time in Middle America researching his classic book. Capote's struggles with the town, the betrayal, and his own troubled past make this book a compelling portrait of one of the greatest literary talents of the 20th century. A new edition of the critically acclaimed graphic novel by Ande Parks (*LONE RANGER*) and Chris Samnee (*DAREDEVIL*).

### **A Tree of Night**

The national bestselling biography and the basis for the film *Capote* starring Philip Seymour Hoffman in an Academy Award-winning turn. One of the strongest fiction writers of his generation, Truman Capote became a literary star while still in his teens. His most phenomenal successes include *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *In Cold Blood*, and *Other Voices, Other Rooms*. Even while his literary achievements were setting the standards that other fiction and nonfiction writers would follow for generations, Capote descended into a spiral of self-destruction and despair. This biography by Gerald Clarke was first published in 1988—just four years after Capote's death. In it, Clarke paints a vivid behind-the-scenes picture of the author's life—based on hundreds of hours of in-depth interviews with the man himself and the people close to him. From the glittering heights of notoriety and parties with the rich and famous to his later struggles with addiction, Capote

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emerges as a richly multidimensional person—both brilliant and flawed. “A book of extraordinary substance, a study rich in intelligence and compassion . . . To read Capote is to have the sense that someone has put together all the important pieces of this consummate artist’s life, has given everything its due emphasis, and comprehended its ultimate meaning.” —Bruce Bawer, *The Wall Street Journal*  
“Mesmerising . . . [Capote] reads as if it had been written alongside his life, rather than after it.” —Molly Haskell, *The New York Times Book Review*

### **Truman Capote**

"Truman Capote and the Legacy of ""In Cold Blood"" is the anatomy of the origins of an American literary landmark and its legacy. "

### **Capote**

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER \* The author of *The Aviator's Wife* returns with a triumphant new novel about New York's "Swans" of the 1950s--and the scandalous, headline-making, and enthralling friendship between literary legend Truman Capote and peerless socialite Babe Paley. Of all the glamorous stars of New York high society, none blazes brighter than Babe Paley. Her flawless face regularly graces the pages of *Vogue*, and she is celebrated and adored for her ineffable style

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and exquisite taste, especially among her friends--the alluring socialite Swans Slim Keith, C. Z. Guest, Gloria Guinness, and Pamela Churchill. By all appearances, Babe has it all: money, beauty, glamour, jewels, influential friends, a prestigious husband, and gorgeous homes. But beneath this elegantly composed exterior dwells a passionate woman--a woman desperately longing for true love and connection. Enter Truman Capote. This diminutive golden-haired genius with a larger-than-life personality explodes onto the scene, setting Babe and her circle of Swans aflutter. Through Babe, Truman gains an unlikely entrée into the enviable lives of Manhattan's elite, along with unparalleled access to the scandal and gossip of Babe's powerful circle. Sure of the loyalty of the man she calls "True Heart," Babe never imagines the destruction Truman will leave in his wake. But once a storyteller, always a storyteller--even when the stories aren't his to tell. Truman's fame is at its peak when such notable celebrities as Frank and Mia Sinatra, Lauren Bacall, and Rose Kennedy converge on his glittering Black and White Ball. But all too soon, he'll ignite a literary scandal whose repercussions echo through the years. The Swans of Fifth Avenue will seduce and startle readers as it opens the door onto one of America's most sumptuous eras. Praise for *The Swans of Fifth Avenue* "This moving fictionalization brings the whole cast of characters back to vivid life. Gossipy and fun, it's also a nuanced look at the beauty and cruelty of a rarefied, bygone world."--*People* (Book of the Week) "The strange and fascinating relationship between Truman Capote and his 'swans' is wonderfully reimagined in this engrossing novel. It's a credit to Benjamin that we end up caring so much for

these women of power, grace, and beauty--and for Capote, too."--Sara Gruen, New York Times bestselling author of *Water for Elephants* "A delicious tale . . . Melanie Benjamin has turned Truman Capote's greatest scandal into your next must-read book-club selection."--Jamie Ford, New York Times bestselling author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* "Like being ushered into a party where you're offered champagne and fed the sumptuous secrets of New York's elite--without having to pay the price afterward."--Vanessa Diffenbaugh, New York Times bestselling author of *The Language of Flowers* "Benjamin convincingly portrays a large cast of colorful historical figures while crafting a compelling, gossipy narrative with rich emotional depth."--Library Journal "The beautiful people of the fifties and sixties glitter in this riveting tale of betrayal and greed. . . . Irresistible, astonishing, and told with verve."--Lynn Cullen, bestselling author of *Mrs. Poe* "The season's must-read guilty pleasure . . . Benjamin conjures, in vivid detail, a lost world."--Michael Callahan, author of *Searching for Grace Kelly*

### **Truman Capote and the Legacy of "In Cold Blood"**

Branding, says James Twitchell, is nothing more than commercial storytelling; brands are the stories that are associated with products. (For example, the special taste of Evian, says Twitchell, is in the brand, not the water.) Branding has become so successful, so ubiquitous that even institutions that we thought were above branding, antithetical to branding, have succumbed. Such cultural institutions as

religion, higher education, and the art world have learned to love Madison Avenue or lose market share. Of course, most ministers, university presidents, and museum directors will insist that branding has nothing to do with them, but as Twitchell brilliantly demonstrates in this witty, insightful examination of three of our most important cultural institutions, wherever supply exceeds demand branding follows. The rise of the megachurch epitomizes branding in religion. From its inception the megachurch was designed not to compete with other churches but to bring in the "unchurched," especially men, worshippers who might otherwise be home watching television or strolling through the mall on a Sunday morning. The megachurches have been phenomenally popular, none more so than Willow Creek Community Church, just south of Chicago, one of the oldest megachurches, which Twitchell analyzes in *Branded Nation*. Colleges and universities have embraced branding as they have grown more alike. Especially among the top schools in the country, the student bodies, the faculties, often even the campuses themselves are practically interchangeable. What distinguishes each school is the story it tells about itself. Now every institution of higher learning has its image organizers, its brand managers, usually in the admissions or development offices, whose job it is to make their institution seem different from all the rest. Even museums, with their multimillion-dollar Monets, have seen the advantages of branding. The blockbuster exhibitions often put familiar paintings in a new context, that is, they provide a new narrative, branding the art. Museums keep expanding their stores, placing them not just near the entrance on the ground floor but

throughout the museum, in the galleries themselves. Some museums, such as the Guggenheim, even franchise themselves, turning the institution itself into a brand. In short, high culture is beginning to look more and more like the rest of our culture. In perhaps his most subversive observation, Twitchell doesn't condemn the branding of cultural institutions. On the contrary, he believes that branding may be invigorating our high culture, bringing it to new audiences, making it a more integral part of our lives. Not since *Bobos in Paradise* has there been such a trenchant, provocative analysis of our world.

### **Portraits and Observations**

This collection of 14 short stories includes *Handcarved Coffins* which, like the novel *In Cold Blood*, is based on the brutal crimes of a real-life murderer. Of the 14 stories, seven are portraits of characters such as Marilyn Monroe and a dope-smoking, New York cleaning lady.

### **Other Voices, Other Rooms**

This “fascinating” biography of an iconic American author and public intellectual “is so full of incident and celebrity . . . a pageant of entertaining stories” (*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*). Few writers of recent memory have distinguished

themselves in so many fields, and so consummately, as Gore Vidal. A prolific novelist, Vidal also wrote for film and theater, and became a classic essayist of his own time, delivering prescient analyses of American society, politics, and culture. Known for his rapier wit and intelligence, Vidal moved with ease among the cultural elite—his grandfather was a senator, he was intimate with the Kennedys, and one of his best friends was Tennessee Williams. For this definitive biography, Fred Kaplan was given access to Vidal's papers and letters. The result is an insightful and entertaining portrait of an exceptional and mercurial writer.

### **The Complete Stories of Truman Capote**

Truman Capote and the Legacy of 'In Cold Blood' is the anatomy of the origins of an American literary landmark and its legacy.

### **A House on the Heights**

"In a small Southern town, a teenage girl anxiously waits for her date to arrive. A little boy meets his dream dog in Central Park. A woman fights to save the life of a child who has her lover's eyes. Best friends discuss the theoretical murder of husbands. In these never-before-published stories, written by Truman Capote when he was in his teens and twenties, Capote-the-Writer is already recognizable. His

prose: witty, poignant, and crystal-clear. His characters: solitary, observant young children; charming and naïve young women whom you could imagine befriending Holly Golightly; aging urban sophisticates worn down by cynicism. His settings: the rural South of his childhood and the cosmopolitan New York of the 1940s. This splendid collection offers readers to opportunity to see the confident first steps of one of the 20th century's most-acclaimed writers onto the path that would lead to his most beloved works"--

### **Music for Chameleons**

### **Answered Prayers**

The iconic author of *In Cold Blood* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* comes to life in *Conversations with Capote*, written by veteran interviewer Lawrence Grobel. Truman Capote knew from the age of eleven that he wanted to be a writer, and was published by his early twenties. He went on to pen some of the most beloved plays, novels, and short stories in twentieth century literature. Capote's work, along with his flamboyant and charismatic personality, made him a beloved literary and cultural legend. In this compelling book, Capote speaks candidly about his tumultuous childhood and early fame, his bouts with drugs and alcohol, his

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romantic relationships, and his work. He also shares his pointed thoughts on some of the most well known figures of our time, including Jacqueline Onassis, J.D. Salinger, Norman Mailer, Tennessee Williams, Elizabeth Taylor, and Marilyn Monroe. This definitive, in-depth interview is a compelling read and a must-have for all fans of Capote's work.

### **Truman Capote**

#### **The Early Stories of Truman Capote**

Powerful account of the brutal slaying of a Kansas family by two young ex-convicts.

#### **The Courtroom as Forum**

The protagonists of these nine short stories learn to accept the harsh loneliness of life

#### **Truman Capote *Enfant Terrible***

## **Branded Nation**

This NHB Shooting Script Book includes: The complete screenplay by Dan Futterman, based on the book by Gerald Clarke Foreword by Gerald Clarke, author of the biography of Truman Capote Q&A with screenwriter Dan Futterman and director Bennett Miller 16 color photographs Background notes on In Cold Blood and an excerpt from the Clarke biography Full cast and crew credits

## **Remix Theory: The Aesthetics of Sampling**

She lived at full throttle on stage, screen, and in real life, with highs that made history and lows that finally brought down the curtain at age forty-seven. Judy Garland died over thirty years ago, but no biography has so completely captured her spirit -- and demons -- until now. From her tumultuous early years as a child performer to her tragic last days, Gerald Clarke reveals the authentic Judy in a biography rich in new detail and unprecedented revelations. Based on hundreds of interviews and drawing on her own unfinished -- and unpublished -- autobiography, Get Happy presents the real Judy Garland in all her flawed glory. With the same skill, style, and storytelling flair that made his bestselling Capote a landmark literary biography, Gerald Clarke sorts through the secrets and the scandals, the legends and the lies, to create a portrait of Judy Garland as candid as it is

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compassionate. Here are her early years, during which her parents sowed the seeds of heartbreak and self-destruction that would plague her for decades the golden age of Hollywood, brought into sharp focus with cinematic urgency, from the hidden private lives of the movie world's biggest stars to the cold-eyed businessmen who controlled the machine and a parade of brilliant and gifted men -- lovers and artists, impresarios and crooks -- who helped her reach so many creative pinnacles yet left her hopeless and alone after each seemingly inevitable fall. Here, then, is Judy Garland in all her magic and despair: the woman, the star, the legend, in a riveting saga of tragedy, resurrection, and genius.

### **Gore Vidal**

A close look at the genesis of one of America's great modern writers Robert Emmet Long presents a full account of Truman Capote's early life, making use of Capote's unpublished papers. Topics covered include his strange relationship with his beautiful but immature mother (she was sixteen years old when capote was born) as well as his friendships with a series of rich and talented women. Combining biographical insights with literary criticism, Truman Capote, *Enfant Terrible* presents a grand overview of a complex and fascinating author: one who remained a child in appearance and behavior; a southerner who strayed from the south; a celebrity while living in the most solitary realm of his vast imagination.

## **The Routledge Companion to Remix Studies**

Exposes the literary slugfests of several three gay writers and offers an intimate look at their relationships with the glitterati--everyone from Marilyn Monroe to Jacqueline Kennedy and Marlon Brando. Original.

## **Conversations with Capote**

Orphaned by an act of senseless violence that took their mother from them, half-brothers Clarence Luckman and Elliott Danziger have been raised in state institutions, unaware of any world beyond its walls. But their lives take a sudden turn when they are seized as hostages by a convicted killer en route to death row. Â Â Earl Sheridan is a psychopath of the worst kind, and as he and his two hostages set off on a frenetic path through California down to Texas, Clarence and Elliot must come to terms with the ever-growing tide of violence in their wake. It's a path that will force them to make a choice about their lives, and their relationship to each other—and it will change their lives forever. Â Set in the 1960s, *Bad Signs* is a tale of the darkness within all of us, the inherent hope for salvation, and the ultimate consequences of evil. Praised by Alan Furst as a “uniquely gifted, passionate, and powerful writer,†? R.J. Ellory once again delivers a thriller as beautiful as it is riveting, returning to the haunting ground of his

international bestseller *A Quiet Belief in Angels*.

### **In Cold Blood**

The private letters of Truman Capote, lovingly assembled here for the first time by acclaimed Capote biographer Gerald Clarke, provide an intimate, unvarnished portrait of one of the twentieth century's most colorful and fascinating literary figures. Capote was an inveterate letter writer. He wrote letters as he spoke: emphatically, spontaneously, and passionately. Spanning more than four decades, his letters are the closest thing we have to a Capote autobiography, showing us the uncannily self-possessed naïf who jumped headlong into the post-World War II New York literary scene; the more mature Capote of the 1950s; the Capote of the early 1960s, immersed in the research and writing of *In Cold Blood*; and Capote later in life, as things seem to be unraveling. With cameos by a veritable who's who of twentieth-century glitterati, *Too Brief a Treat* shines a spotlight on the life and times of an incomparable American writer.

### **The Swans of Fifth Avenue**

The tranquil life he led in the quiet enclave of Brooklyn Heights stood in sharp contrast to the glittering scene he adored on the other side of the Brooklyn Bridge,

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but for a few years in the 1950's and '60's, Truman Capote happily made his home in a yellow brick house on Willow Street. By turns wistful and farcical, *A House on the Heights* vividly evokes a neighborhood Capote described as among Brooklyn's "splendid contradictions," a world of grand homes and dimly recalled gentility, of mysterious warehouses and cartoonish street thugs, of antiques and dowagers, a broad yard overhung with wisteria, and the famous Esplanade with its incomparable view—all rendered in Capote's deft and stylish prose.

### **Local Color**

Thought to be lost for over 50 years, here is the first novel by one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. Set in New York during the summer of 1945, this is the story of a young carefree socialite, Grady, who must make serious decisions about the romance she is dangerously pursuing and the effect it will have on everyone involved. Fans of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and Capote's short stories will be thrilled to read *Summer Crossing*.

### **Dear Genius--**

Sampling and remixing are now common in art, music and new media. Assessing their aesthetic qualities by focusing on technical advances in 1970s and 80s music,

and later in art and media, the author argues that 'Remix' punches above its deemed cultural weight.

### **Too Brief a Treat**

Perhaps no twentieth century writer was so observant and elegant a chronicler of his times as Truman Capote. Whether he was profiling the rich and famous or creating indelible word-pictures of events and places near and far, Capote's eye for detail and dazzling style made his reportage and commentary undeniable triumphs of the form. Portraits and Observations is the first volume devoted solely to all the essays ever published by this most beloved of writers. From his travel sketches of Brooklyn, New Orleans, and Hollywood, written when he was twenty-two, to meditations about fame, fortune, and the writer's art at the peak of his career, to the brief works penned during the isolated denouement of his life, these essays provide an essential window into mid-twentieth-century America as offered by one of its canniest observers. Included are such celebrated masterpieces of narrative nonfiction as "The Muses Are Heard" and the short nonfiction novel "Handcarved Coffins," as well as many long-out-of-print essays, including portraits of Isak Dinesen, Mae West, Marcel Duchamp, Humphrey Bogart, and Marilyn Monroe. Among the highlights are "Ghosts in Sunlight: The Filming of In Cold Blood," "Preface to Music for Chameleons, in which Capote candidly recounts the highs and lows of his long career, and a playful self-portrait in the form of an imaginary self-

interview. The book concludes with the author's last written words, composed the day before his death in 1984, the recently discovered "Remembering Willa Cather," Capote's touching recollection of his encounter with the author when he was a young man at the dawn of his career. Portraits and Observations puts on display the full spectrum of Truman Capote's brilliance. Certainly, Capote was, as Somerset Maugham famously called him, "a stylist of the first quality." But as the pieces gathered here remind us, he was also an artist of remarkable substance.

### **Um prazer fugaz**

Truman Capote was one of the most gifted and flamboyant writers of his generation, renowned for such books as *Other Voices*, *Other Rooms*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and his masterpiece, the nonfiction novel *In Cold Blood*. What has received comparatively little attention, however, is Capote's last, unfinished book, *Answered Prayers*, a merciless skewering of cafe society and the high-class women Capote called his "swans." When excerpts appeared he was immediately blacklisted, ruined socially, labeled a pariah. Capote recoiled--disgraced, depressed, and all but friendless. In *Tiny Terror*, a new volume in Oxford's *Inner Lives* series, William Todd Schultz sheds light on the life and works of Capote and answers the perplexing mystery--why did Capote write a book that would destroy him? Drawing on an arsenal of psychological techniques, Schultz illuminates Capote's early years in the South--a time that Capote himself described as a

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"snake's nest of No's"--no parents to speak of, no friends but books, no hope, no future. Out of this dark childhood emerged Capote's prominent dual life-scripts: neurotic Capote, anxious, vulnerable, hypersensitive, expecting to be hurt; and Capote the disagreeable destroyer, emotionally bulletproof, nasty, and bent on revenge. Schultz shows how Capote would strike out when he felt hurt or taken for granted, engaging in caustic feuds with Gore Vidal, Tennessee Williams, and many other writers. And Schultz reveals how this tendency fed into *Answered Prayers*, an exceedingly corrosive and thinly disguised roman a clef that trashed his high-society friends. What emerges by the end of this book is a cogent, immensely insightful portrait of an artist on the edge, brilliantly but self-destructively biting the jet-set hands that fed him. Anyone interested in the inner life of one of America's most fascinating literary personalities will find this book a revelation.

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