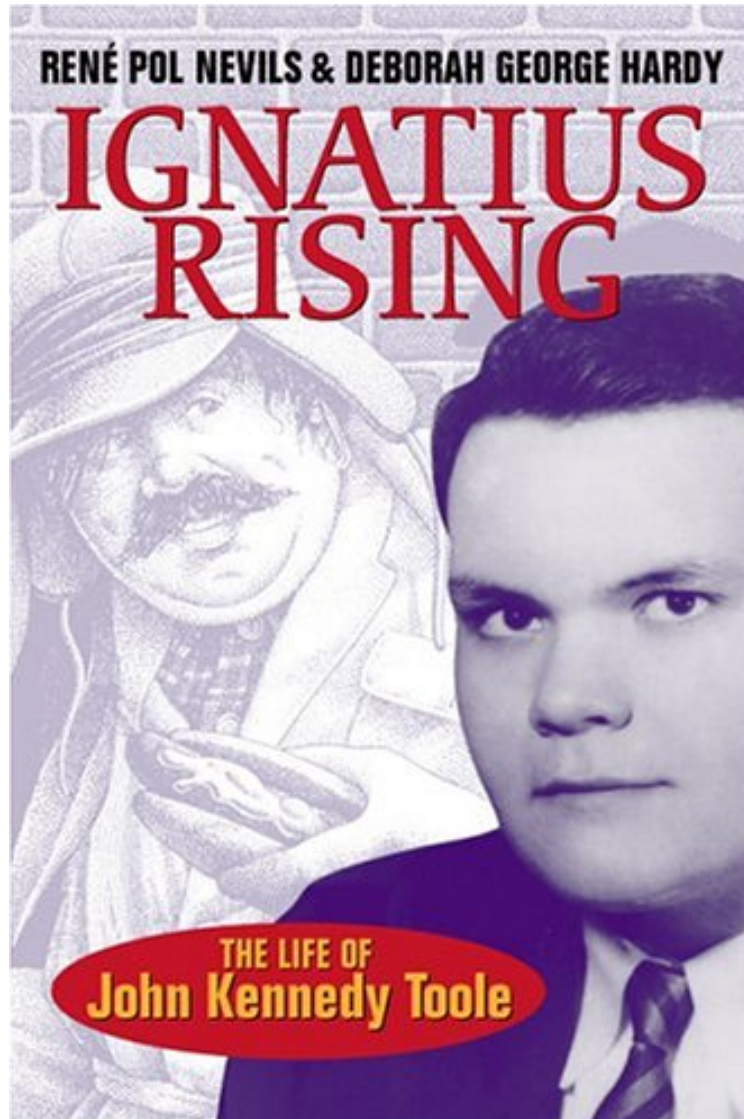


(Mobile book) Ignatius Rising: The Life of John Kennedy Toole

Ignatius Rising: The Life of John Kennedy Toole

René Pol Nevils, Deborah George Hardy

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René Pol Nevils, Deborah George Hardy : Ignatius Rising: The Life of John Kennedy Toole before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ignatius Rising: The Life of John Kennedy Toole:

28 of 31 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating Look at a Tormented SoulBy debra crosbyEver since I read "A Confederacy of Dunces" and heard the legend about how it got published, I have been interested in the character of its author. This biography provides an interesting look at the life of John Kennedy Toole and sheds some

light on a complex man whose inner demons finally destroyed his spirit and ultimately, his life. His mother, probably the greatest influence on John, is drawn as vividly as he is, and comes across as a fascinating and maddening woman who nonetheless always believed in her son's work. Their relationship is at the core of John's life as well as his pain. The ultimate tragedy for us readers is that we won't ever see any more of his work. John's tragedy was that he thought no one would ever want to. A well documented character study that is a must read for anyone who is a fan of Toole's masterpiece!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Decent bio
By William Schnabel
Great writer. This book is OK though. It's not as good as some recent biographies I've read recently. But, it still held my interest.
13 of 21 people found the following review helpful. What a shame!
By Roy Sherwood
This book was a terrible disappointment. The authors are apparently barely literate. How the heck did they get a book contract? The scant information here about the mysterious and tragic Ken Toole was useful, but presented in such a way as to be almost unreadable. I want more -- about his life, about his work. I want more -- but not by these authors.

The phenomenal success of John Kennedy Toole's comic masterpiece, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, is now legendary, a story that has long beckoned a deeper exploration into the life, imagination, and demise of the writer responsible for one of American literature's most memorable characters -- Ignatius J. Reilly. In *Ignatius Rising*, René Pol Nevils and Deborah George Hardy present the first biography of Toole, drawing upon scores of interviews with contemporaries of the writer and acquaintances of his influencing mother, Thelma, as well as unpublished letters, documents, and photographs. Frank yet sympathetic, *Ignatius Rising* deftly describes a life that is dark, tragic, bizarre, and amazing -- but luminous with the gift of laughter, a life not unlike those of Toole's beloved characters, now loved the world over.

From *Library Journal*
By now, the tale of Toole's sprawling comic novel of New Orleans, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, lives on as a modern literary legend. A young novelist writes what he thinks is his masterpiece, is rejected by a famous New York publisher, and commits suicide only to be published posthumously and win the Pulitzer. But in this almost hagiographic account, first-time authors Nevils and Hardy reveal a story that is not quite so simple. Raised in New Orleans by a mostly distant and later mentally disturbed father and a clinging mother, Toole developed the love of reading early. When he finished *Confederacy*, he sent it to Simon and Schuster, where the famous Robert Gottlieb championed the manuscript and encouraged Toole to make some changes so that the book would be more publishable. Toole refused, asked for the manuscript back, and eventually descended into depression and paranoia, blaming Gottlieb for the novel's failure. After his death, his mother urged Walker Percy to publish *Confederacy*. The rest is history. Here, mother and son seem to have stepped right out of the Southern Gothic of a Tennessee Williams play, but this is a sad tale of one family's descent into despair and lonely ascent into posthumous fame. Recommended for most collections, especially where *Confederacy* is popular. Henry Carrigan, Lancaster, PA
Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "If the ultimate compliment one can make of an artist's biography is that it makes you want to revisit the [artist's] work, *Ignatius Rising* hits that mark. The story of Toole is a tragic and bittersweet tale, but there is great joy in reading of the early development of Ignatius, a character so vividly drawn he will doubtlessly outlive the infamy of his creator." About the Author
René Pol Nevils lives in Baton Rouge with her husband, Rick. Deborah George Hardy is a member of the Paris Poetry Workshops and founding director of Littlestarfriends.com. She lives in Pasadena, California.