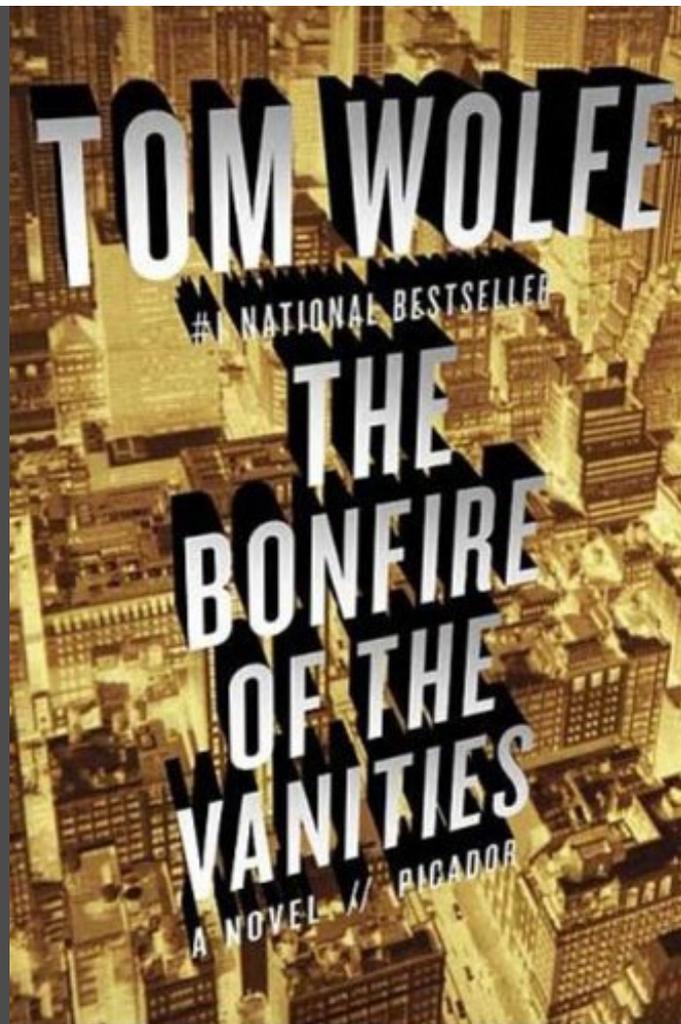


PDF | The Bonfire of the Vanities: A Novel

by Tom Wolfe



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Vintage Tom Wolfe, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, the #1 bestseller that will forever define late-twentieth-century New York style. "No one has portrayed New York Society this accurately and devastatingly since Edith Wharton" (*The National Review*) "A page-turner . . . Brilliant high comedy." (*The New Republic*)

Amazon.com Review

After Tom Wolfe defined the '60s in *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* and *Radical Chic and Mau-Mauing the Flak Catchers* and the cultural U-turn at the turn of the '80s in *The Right Stuff*, nobody thought he could ever top himself again. In 1987, when *The Bonfire of the Vanities* arrived, the literati called Wolfe an "aging enfant terrible."

He wasn't aging; he was growing up. *Bonfire's* pyrotechnic satire of 1980s New York wasn't just Wolfe's best book, it was the best bestselling fiction debut of the decade, a miraculously realistic study of an unbelievably status-mad society, from the fiery combatants of the South Bronx to the bubbling scum at the top of Wall Street. Sherman McCoy, a farcically arrogant investment banker (dubbed a "Master of the Universe," Wolfe's brilliant metaphorical co-opting of a then-important toy for boys), hits a black guy in the Bronx with his Mercedes and runs--right into a nightmare peopled by vicious mistresses, thin wives like "social x-rays," slime-bag politicians, tabloid hacks, and Dantesque denizens of the "justice" system. If the Coen and Marx brothers together dramatized *The Great Gatsby*, Wolfe's *Bonfire* would probably be funnier. Many think his second novel, *A Man in Full*, is deeper, but *Bonfire* will never die down.

You might find it interesting to compare the film *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, a fascinating calamity perpetrated by the geniuses Brian De Palma and Tom Hanks, with *The Right Stuff*, one of the very best films of the '80s.--*Tim Appelo*

Product Description

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