



## Hooking Up

By Tom Wolfe

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### Hooking Up By Tom Wolfe

Only yesterday boys and girls spoke of embracing and kissing (necking) as getting to first base. Second base was deep kissing, plus groping and fondling this and that. Third base was oral sex. Home plate was going all the way. That was yesterday. Here in the Year 2000 we can forget about necking. Today's girls and boys have never heard of anything that dainty. Today first base is deep kissing, now known as tonsil hockey, plus groping and fondling this and that. Second base is oral sex. Third base is going all the way. Home plate is being introduced by name.

And how rarely our hooked-up boys and girls are introduced by name!-as Tom Wolfe has discovered from a survey of girls' File-o-Fax diaries, to cite but one of *Hooking Up's* displays of his famed reporting prowess. Wolfe ranges from coast to coast chronicling everything from the sexual manners and mores of teenagers... to fundamental changes in the way human beings now regard themselves thanks to the hot new field of genetics and neuroscience. . . to the inner workings of television's magazine-show sting operations.

Printed here in its entirety is "Ambush at Fort Bragg," a novella about sting TV in which Wolfe prefigured with eerie accuracy three cases of scandal and betrayal that would soon explode in the press. A second piece of fiction, "U. R. Here," the story of a New York artist who triumphs precisely because of his total lack of talent, gives us a case history preparing us for Wolfe's forecast ("My Three Stooges," "The Invisible Artist") of radical changes about to sweep the arts in America.

As an espresso after so much full-bodied twenty-first-century fare, we get a trip to Memory Mall. Reprinted here for the first time are Wolfe's two articles about *The New Yorker* magazine and its editor, William Shawn, which ignited one of the great firestorms of twentieth-century journalism. Wolfe's afterword about it all is in itself a delicious draught of an intoxicating era, the Twistin' Sixties.

In sum, here is Tom Wolfe at the height of his powers as reporter, novelist, sociologist, memoirist, and-to paraphrase what Balzac called himself-the very secretary of American society in the 21st century.

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## Hooking Up By Tom Wolfe Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Tom Wolfe's name is now so well known that the cover of his new collection bears just that: Tom Wolfe's name. No title, no picture, just the name, with an elegant design twining through it. Flip the thing on its side and you'll find that its title, *Hooking Up*, gives little idea of its function. But investigation soon reveals an oleo of reportage, fiction, and acrimonious name-calling. The latter, of course, makes for the best reading. In "My Three Stooges," Wolfe reviles the three big men of American letters--Updike, Mailer, and Irving--who cast aspersions on his second novel. Apparently, "the allergens for jealousy were present. Both Updike and Mailer had books out at the same time as *A Man in Full*, and theirs had sunk without a bubble. With Irving there was the Dickens factor." Wolfe gets in a lot of figures about what a big hit *his* book was with the reading public, and a few gentle reminders about other writers who were big hits of their times--little guys like Twain and Tolstoy.

Equally bitter fun are his two famous 1965 satires from the *New York Herald Tribune*. As always, Wolfe's titles lead you a good way into the actual stories: "Tiny Mummies! The True Story of the Ruler of 43rd Street's Land of the Walking Dead!" and "Lost in the Whichy Thickets: *The New Yorker*." Wolfe, clotheshorse of note, gets off some of his best cracks at the expense of *New Yorker* editor William Shawn's fashion sense: "He always seems to have on about twenty layers of clothes, about three button-up sweaters, four vests, a couple of shirts, two ties, it looks that way, a dark shapeless suit over the whole ensemble, and white cotton socks." The rest of the reported pieces are unexceptional, and while the novella *Ambush at Fort Bragg* makes the most of its setting--a *Dateline*-like newsmagazine--it lacks the irresistible momentum required to drag most readers into a novella. Still, it's fun to watch the author reprise his lifelong role of unlikely underdog: between his sniping at the literary elite and his mocking of the precious *New Yorker* set, Tom Wolfe makes like a defender of the common man. --*Claire Dederer*

### From Publishers Weekly

Arch, vengeful and incisive as ever, the standard bearer for the chattering classes is back, this time with a collection of nine previously published essays, one new one and a reprinted novella. Ranging from the spectacular innovations of neuroscience to the preposterous horrors of the contemporary art world to a bare-knuckled assessment of the critical reception to his novel *A Man in Full* (an essay that appears for the first time in this collection, and that will set tongues wagging), the pieces run the gamut of Wolfe's signature obsessions. Fans of his character sketches will relish "Two Young Men Who Went West," a revelatory profile of Robert Noyce, a key innovator of the microchip who founded Intel in 1968, where the midwestern Congregationalist values he shared with his former mentor, William Shockley (founder of the original Silicon Valley startup, Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory), grew into a business philosophy that's now so pervasive it's practically in the ether. Also included are Wolfe's infamous, irreverent profiles of *New Yorker* editors Harold Ross and William Shawn, originally published in 1968. Lopped off of Wolfe's most recent fiction opus, the novella "Ambush in Fort Bragg" concerns a "TV sting" run amok, and sits easily next to his journalism. However, Wolfe's meticulous eye for detail shows signs of jaundice in his hectoring anti-Communist tirades and in the title essay, which turns a snide backward glance on the turn of the millennium. Still, his fans will find plenty of evidence that Wolfe remains willing to plunge into "the raw, raucous, lust-soaked rout that throbs with amped-up octophonic typanum all around [him]" and that *Despecially* in his nonfiction *Dhe* can still grab the brass ring. Agent, Janklow & Nesbitt Associates. (Oct.--" and that *Despecially* in his nonfiction *Dhe* can still grab the brass ring. Agent, Janklow & Nesbitt Associates. (Oct.)

From Library Journal

In this audiobook, Wolfe (The Bonfire of the Vanities) chronicles the "here and now." He reports on everything from the creation of the Intel computer chip, the sexual activities of today's teenager, the definition of art over the ages, an in-depth look at the new field of genetics and neuroscience, and the dissolution of the human soul, as well as many other "now" topics. In fact, Wolfe takes potentially boring subjects and turns them into a verbose tour de force. That said, his style of writing is awe inspiring. Read wonderfully by the author and actor Ron Rifkin, this is highly recommended. DMarty D. Evensvold, Arkansas City P.L., KS  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Sharon Doyle:**

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each book has different aim or goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They are reading whatever they get because their hobby is actually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, individual feel need book after they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you should have this Hooking Up.

#### **James Matter:**

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Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important usually. The book Hooking Up has been making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The guide Hooking Up is not only giving you a lot more new information but also for being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book Hooking Up. You never truly feel lose out for everything when you read some books.

#### **Richard Starkes:**

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will

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