



We Wanted to Be Writers: Life, Love, and Literature at the Iowa Writers' Workshop

Eric Olsen, Glenn Schaeffer

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We Wanted to be Writers is a rollicking and insightful blend of original interviews, commentary, advice, gossip, anecdotes, analyses, history, and asides with nearly thirty graduates and teachers at the now legendary Iowa Writers' Workshop between 1974 and 1978. Among the talents that emerged in those years—writing, criticizing, drinking, and debating in the classrooms and barrooms of Iowa City—were the younger versions of writers who became John Irving, Jane Smiley, T. C. Boyle, Michelle Huneven, Allan Gurganus, Sandra Cisneros, Jayne Anne Phillips, Jennie Fields, Joy Harjo, Joe Haldeman, and many others. It is chock full of insights and a treasure trove of inspiration for all writers, readers, history lovers, and anyone who ever "wanted to be a writer."

Jane Smiley on the Iowa writers' workshop: "In that period, the teachers tended to be men of a certain age, with the idea that competition was somehow the key—the Norman Mailer period. The story was that if you disagreed with Norman, or gave him a bad review, he'd punch you in the nose. You were supposed to get in fights in restaurants."

T.C. Boyle on his short story "Drowning": "I got \$25 for it, which was wonderful . . . You know, getting \$25 for the product of your own brain? You could buy a lot of beer in Iowa City back then for that."

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From reader reviews:

Robert Crumrine:

What do you think of book? It is just for students as they are still students or the item for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that question above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby per other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great along with important the book We Wanted to Be Writers: Life, Love, and Literature at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. All type of book could you see on many sources. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

Pamela Brock:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their own reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the publications. But also they write about the data about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write on their book. One of them is this We Wanted to Be Writers: Life, Love, and Literature at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Janelle Smith:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled We Wanted to Be Writers: Life, Love, and Literature at the Iowa Writers' Workshop your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a e-book then become one application form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get ahead of. The We Wanted to Be Writers: Life, Love, and Literature at the Iowa Writers' Workshop giving you an additional experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful information for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Patrica Fussell:

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