

The Most Famous Writer Who Ever Lived

author: Tom Shroder

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Synopsis

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A veteran of the *Washington Post* and *Miami Herald*, Tom Shroder has made a career of investigative journalism and human-interest stories. His most fascinating reporting, however, comes from within his own family: Shroder's grandfather, MacKinlay Kantor, was the world-famous author of *Andersonville*, the seminal novel of the Civil War. As a child, Shroder was in awe of the larger-than-life character. Kantor's friends included Ernest Hemingway, Carl Sandberg, Gregory Peck, and James Cagney. He wrote the novel *Glory for Me*, which became the multi-Oscar-winning film *The Best Years of Our Lives*. Kantor also suffered from alcoholism, an outsized ego, and an overbearing, abusive, and publicly embarrassing personality where his family was concerned; he blew through a small fortune in his lifetime, dying nearly destitute and alone. In *The Most Famous Writer Who Ever Lived*, Shroder revisits the past - Kantor's upbringing, his early life, and career trajectory - and writes not just the life story of one man, but a meditation on fame, family secrets, and legacies, and what is remembered after we are gone.

Reader's comments

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