

# The Wapshot Chronicle

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meet the wapshots of st botolphs there is captain leander wapshot venerable sea dog and would be suicide his licentious older son moses and moses s adoring and errant younger brother coverly tragic and funny ribald and splendidly picaresque and partly based on cheever s adolescence in new england the wapshot chronicle is a family narrative in the finest traditions of trollope dickens and henry james

when the wapshot chronicle was published in 1957 john cheever was already recognized as a writer of superb short stories but the wapshot chronicle which won the 1958 national book award established him as a major novelist based in part on cheever s adolescence in new england the novel follows the destinies of the impecunious and wildly eccentric wapshots of st botolphs a quintessential massachusetts fishing village here are the stories of captain leander wapshot venerable sea dog and would be suicide of his licentious older son moses and of moses adoring and errant younger brother coverly tragic and funny ribald and splendidly picaresque the wapshot chronicle is a family narrative in the tradition of trollope dickens and henry james

tells of the wapshot family as they carom around the world with considerable velocity at times veering into outbreaks of wild

hilarity

published to coincide with editor blake bailey's groundbreaking new biography here are the five novels of john cheever together in one volume for the first time in these dazzling works cheever laid bare the failings and foibles of not just the ascendant postwar elite but also the fallen yankee aristocrats who stubbornly and often grotesquely and hilariously cling to their shabby gentility as the last vestige of former glory complete novels gathers the riotous family saga the wapshot chronicle winner of the national book award and its sequel the wapshot scandal winner of the william dean howells medal the dark suburban drama bullet park a magnificent work of fiction john gardner remarked in the new york times book review the prison novel falconer a radical departure that met with both critical and popular acclaim and the lyrical ecological fable oh what a paradise it seems a companion volume collected stories and other writings is the largest edition of cheever's stories ever library of america is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing and keeping permanently in print america's best and most significant writing the library of america series includes more than 300 volumes to date authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length feature cloth covers sewn bindings and ribbon markers and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries

o'hara challenges the critical view that cheever is a predictably optimistic writer restricted to tales of modern suburbia he opens with an analysis of works published before 1945 and examines the evolution of cheever's themes styles and narrative devices through to 1981 and provides a compilation of critical essays on cheever's work by alfred kazin george hunt and others

analyzes the short stories and novels of the american writer offers a brief profile of his life and assesses his place in literature

inventing orders is the first comprehensive survey of american fiction during the second half of the 20th century a truly synergistic model of rhetorical unity inventing orders presents an original understanding of american fiction and its reinvention of realism in the second half of the 20th century

with an introduction by dave eggers once upon a time the wapshots of st botolphs were distinguished for their unshakeable good opinion of themselves but the family members have drifted far from their new england village and into the demented caprices of the mighty the bad graces of the irs and the humiliating abyss of adulterous passion a novel of large and tender vision the wapshot scandal is filled with pungent characters and outrageous twists of fate and above all with cheever's luminous compassion for all his hapless fellow prisoners of human nature

bosha collects major representative criticism of john cheever's fiction and his posthumously published letters and journals from the earliest reviews of 1943 through to the present the volume provides a

clear and comprehensive assessment of cheever s critical reputation both during his lifetime as each of his books was published and reviewed and retrospectively by academics and literary historians who have sought to place cheever s work in a larger literary context in addition to several new essays written specifically for this volume this book publishes for the first time a long interview which john cheever gave less than a year before his death this interview according to prof robert g collins who conducted it is almost certainly the last to be publicly heard the book begins with a critical introductory essay that traces the dominant themes and patterns in cheever criticism and comments on the critical reception of his work over the last five decades a chronology highlights the chief events in cheever s life and career the chapters that follow are arranged chronologically with each chapter devoted to one of cheever s works within each chapter are selections of criticism the book concludes with a bibliography and index

modern literature monographs er

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