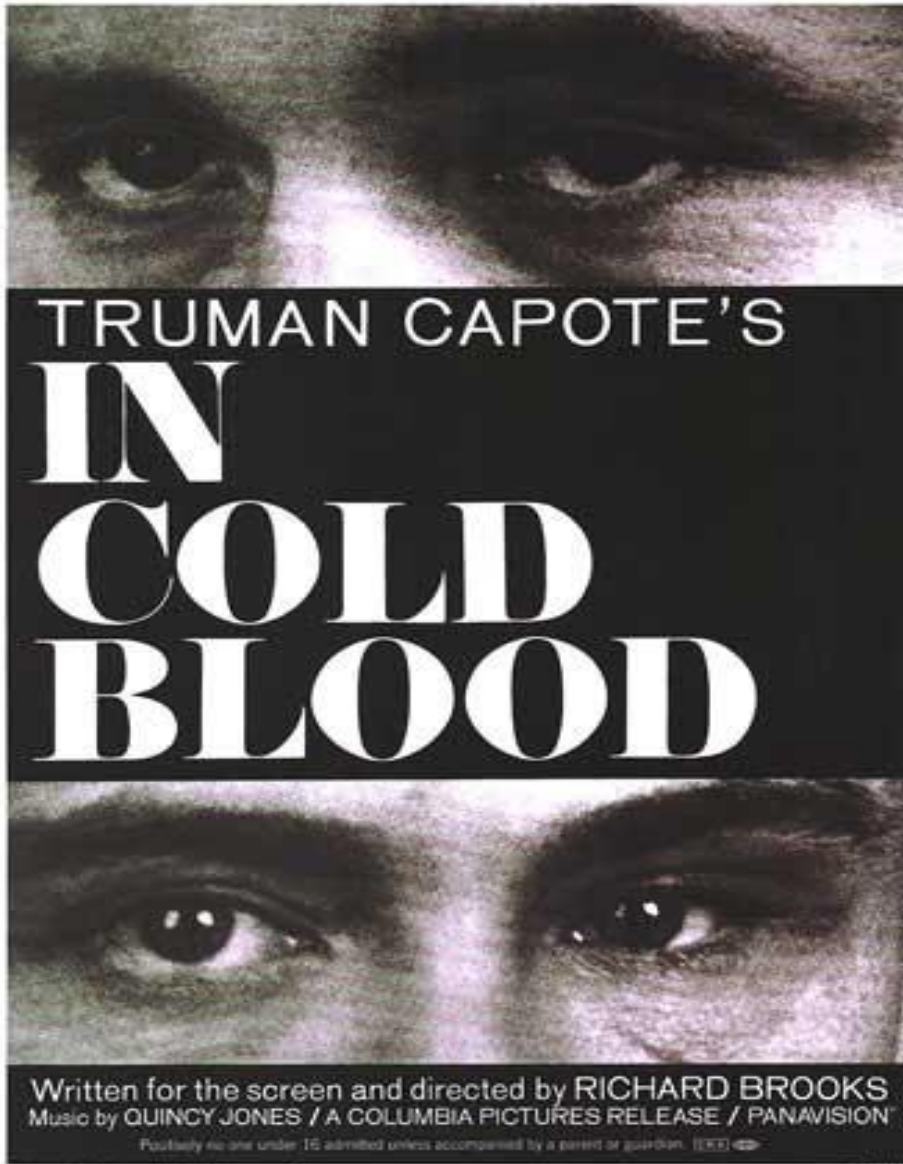


Truman Capote

“...the most perfect writer of my generation.”

~Norman Mailer, American author and director



IN COLD BLOOD

By Truman Capote

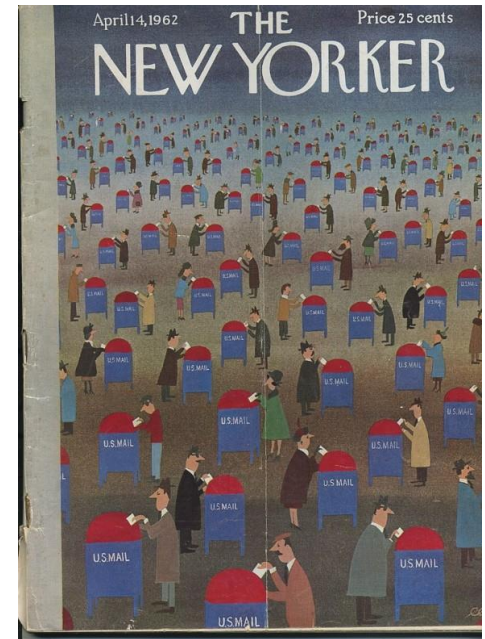
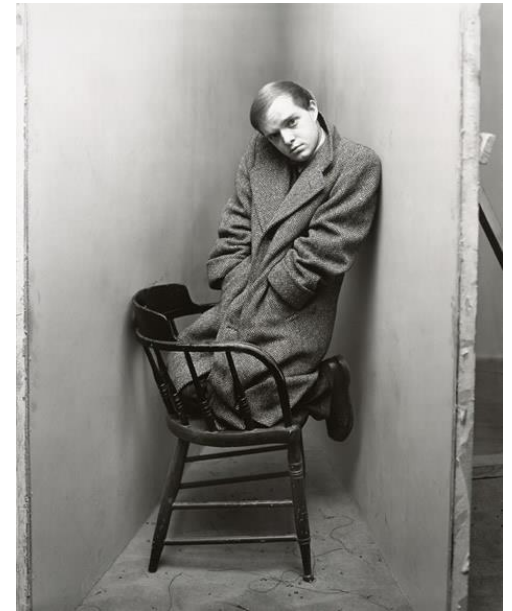
Capote's Childhood

- Truman Streckfus Persons born 1924 in Louisiana.
- Raised in Monroeville, AL by relatives, where he met Harper Lee, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird* helped Capote research *In Cold Blood*.
- When his mom remarried, he moved with her to NY and was adopted by her husband, Joe Capote.



Capote's Experience

- Attended the best schools, tested at high IQ, but got low grades.
- Rumored to be “Dill” in his best friend’s Pulitzer Prizewinning novel.
- At 17, got office assistant job for *New Yorker* magazine.
- Developed relationship with them, and they first published *In Cold Blood* in parts in their magazine.
- Also authored *Other Voices, Other Rooms* and *Breakfast at Tiffany’s: A Short Novel and Three Stories*



Capote's Reputation

- He was an individual: openly homosexual, the highlight of New York society, famous and popular.
- He was sensitive, and researching *In Cold Blood* troubled him deeply. He became addicted to alcohol and drugs and died at age 59.
- He left most of his wealth to his long-time lover, Jack Dunphy.



In Cold Blood Background

- Like *Crime and Punishment*, the book was originally published in parts for a magazine.
- Unlike *Crime and Punishment*, it is based on the true story of the murders of four members of the Clutter family in Kansas in 1959.



I.C.B. Background Cont.

- The political focus at the time was on foreign invasion, but this event was American. It shocked the nation and created widespread fear.



Evolution of the American Household

American Life

"You mean a woman can open it...?"

ADLAND MAD MEN

NOW SHE CAN COOK BREAKFAST AGAIN

... WHEN YOU PRESCRIBE NEW MORNIDINE™
(BRAND OF PHENAZINE)

A new drug with specific effectiveness in nausea and vomiting of pregnancy, Mornidine eliminates the ordeal of morning sickness.

With its selective action on the vomiting center, or the medullary chemoreceptor "trigger zone," Mornidine possesses the advantages of the phenothiazine drugs without unwanted tranquilizing activity.

Doses of 5 to 10 mg., repeated at intervals of six to eight hours, provide excellent relief all day. In patients who are unable to retain oral medication when first seen, Mornidine may be administered intramuscularly in doses of 5 mg. (1 cc.).

Mornidine is supplied as tablets of 5 mg. and as ampuls of 5 mg. (1 cc.).

G. D. Searle & Co., Chicago 80, Illinois—Research in the Service of Medicine.

The Chef does everything but cook - that's what wives are for!

What does douching with DEMURE® have to do with your

HUSBAND?

A lot. Every husband wants his wife to be feminine... in every sense of the word. And Demure Liquid Douche lets you discover how completely feminine you can be.

Delicately scented Demure is the different douché perfected by a leading gynecologist. So Demure does much more than old-fashioned home remedies or medicinal-smelling powders. It gently cleanses and freshens. Makes you feel very special. But more than that, Demure deodorizes. Deodorizes so thoroughly, so pleasantly, you know you're the woman your husband wants you to be. Feminine... in every sense of the word.

Shouldn't you discover Demure... the liquid douché perfected by a leading gynecologist.



Please... let your wife come into the living room!

Everybody's Heading To **Hotpoint**

Automatic Electric Dishwashers

If your husband ever finds out you're not "store-testing" for fresher coffee...

... if he discovers you're still taking chances on getting flat, stale coffee... wee be unto you!

For today there's a sure and certain way to test for freshness before you buy

Chase & Sanborn COFFEE

SO THE HARDER A WIFE WORKS, THE CUTER SHE LOOKS!

GOSH, HONEY, YOU SEEM TO THRIVE ON COOKING, CLEANING AND DISTINGUISHING! AND I'M ALL TUCKERED OUT BY CLOSING TIME. WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

VITAMINS, DARLING! I ALWAYS GET MY VITAMINS

Kellogg's PEP

Vitamins for pep! PEP for vitamins!*

WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING

*There's no way
like the
American Way*



In Cold Blood Genre

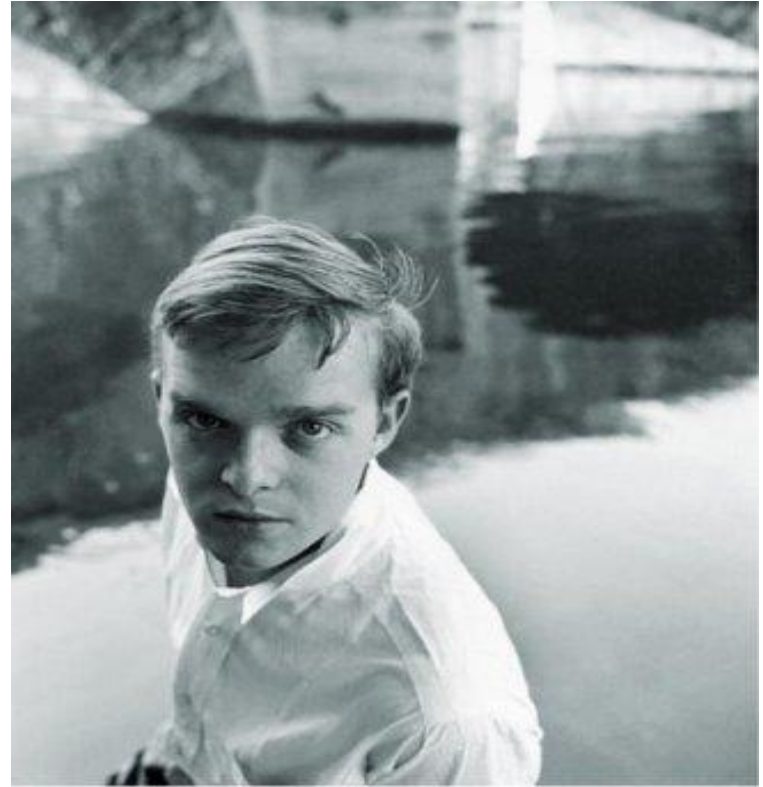
- Capote created a new genre with this book: the nonfiction novel.
- Capote saw journalism getting stale. He wanted to bring it back to life.
- He combined journalism and fiction to report the facts using actual court documents and artifacts, and studied those involved to characterize them as people.



The “Non-Fiction Novel”?

- Celebrity author believes he has invented a new *genre*, “faction”
- **Genre:** French for form, literary type
- Use of quotation marks (“Out there” and (“pronounced ‘Ar-kan-sas’ River”)) denotes outsider perspective
- Is the reporting objective or partial?

Outside looking
in cold blood...



too brief a treat

THE LETTERS OF TRUMAN CAPOTE

EDITED BY GERALD CLARKE AUTHOR OF CAPOTE: A BIOGRAPHY

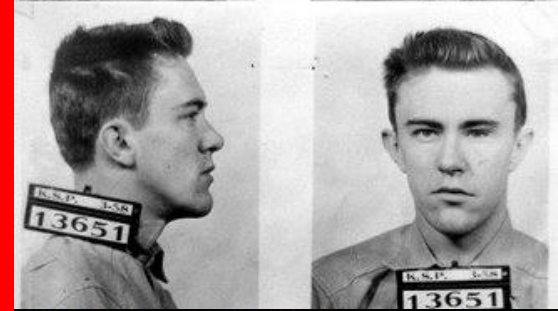
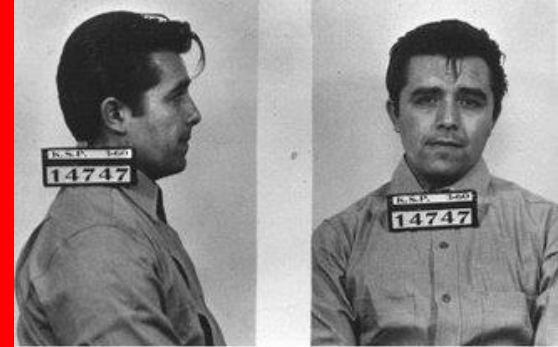
“The village of Holcomb stands on the high wheat plains of western Kansas, a lonesome area that other Kansans call “out there.” ...Like the waters of the river, like the motorists on the highway, and like the yellow trains streaking down the Santa Fe tracks, drama, in the shape of exceptional happenings, had never stopped there.”

~Truman Capote - *In Cold Blood*



Themes

- Nature vs. Nurture
- Retribution & Revenge
- Sexuality
- Fate
- Loss of Innocence/
Destruction of the American Dream



What to annotate for...

- *Ethos*
- *Pathos*
- *Logos*
- *Claim*
- *Counter claim*
- *Rhetorical question*
- *Tone*
- *DIDtLS (*especially imagery)*
- *Foreshadowing*
- *Symbolism*

“At the time, not a soul in sleeping Holcomb heard them—four shotgun blasts that, all told, ended six human lives. But afterward the townspeople, theretofore sufficiently unfearful of each other to seldom trouble to lock their doors, found fantasy re-creating them over and again—those somber explosions that stimulated fires of mistrust, in the glare of which many old neighbors viewed each other strangely, and as strangers.”

~ Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*



Capote on the Imagination

“Mrs. Clare’s notions conformed with those of very few. ‘Around here,’ according to the proprietor of one Garden City hardware store, ‘locks and bolts are the fastest-going items. Folks ain’t particular what brand they buy; they just want them to *hold*.’”
Imagination, of course, can open any door – turn the key and let the terror walk right in.” ~Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*

