



CANDY AT FORTY STILL TURNING THEM ON!

Four decades after the novel *Candy* zoomed to the top of the national best-seller lists, was censored and pirated to death, it relives in this rollicking account of its origins and history, recounted by Nile Southern—Terry Southern’s son.

“*Candy* is wicked and morally bracing as all good satire should be.”

—William Styron

“Old poops, puritans, and the politically correct, and our fun-loving attorney general may choke on indignation and outraged sensibilities, but the rest of us must laugh along with these anarchic voices. Such wild metaphors and riffs of fervid imagination, daring to celebrate our frailties and folly, are the stuff of literature and life.” —Peter Matthiessen



Once upon a time, in the 1950s, there was a writer named Terry Southern—who after meeting fellow expatriate in Paris, Mason Hoffenberg—decided to write a book called *Candy*, a satire loosely based on Voltaire’s *Candide*, for legendary rogue publisher Maurice Girodias. The rest is history. . . .

The Candy Men springs from Nile Southern’s discovery in 1995 of a cache of letters between his father Terry Southern, Mason Hoffenberg, and Maurice Girodias. The letters are hilarious, and in addition to following the origin and evolution of the famous sexpot, Candy, they also provide an intimate look at the post-war life of writers in their own words. Secret histories of 1950s Paris and Greenwich Village are revealed along the way.

The Candy Men explores why the “dirty book” *Candy* was such a cultural hit and tracks the changing sexual attitudes of the day, particularly for women. The book depicts literary censorship at home and abroad, and shows how it was finally overcome with the American judiciary’s legalization of erotic literature. It also offers underground histories of *Lolita*, *Naked Lunch*, and *The Ginger Man*, among others. *The Candy Men* is not only the rollicking history of a novel, it is a portrait of one of the most exciting literary and cultural decades of our time.

NILE SOUTHERN • *The Candy Men* • \$27.95 • 6-1/8 X 9-1/4 • 408 pages with 16 pages of b/w photographs • 1-55970-604-X • PUB DATE: May 7, 2004