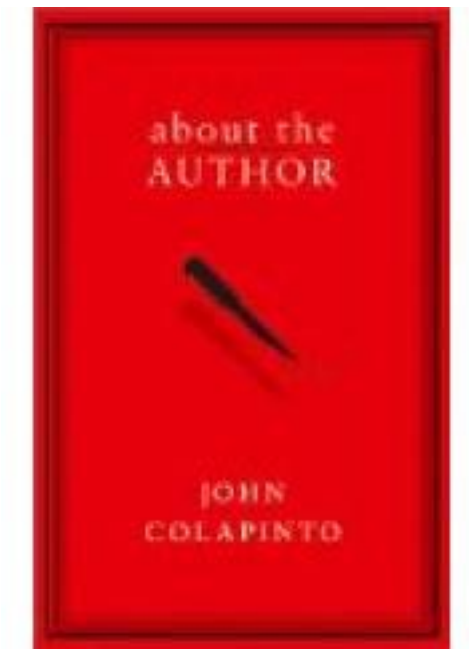


About the Author



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For reasons that will become obviousi¼Œ I find it difficult to write about
Stewart. Welli¼Œ I find it difficult to write about anythingi¼Œ God knows.
But Stewart presents special problems. Do I speak of him as I later
came to know himi¼Œ or as he appeared to me before I learned the truthi¼Œ
before I stripped away the mask of normalcy he hid behind? For so
long he seemed nothing but a footnote to my lifei¼Œ a passing reference
in what I had imagined would be the story of my swift rise to literary
stardom. Ibdays not only haunts every line of this statement but isi¼Œ
ill a sensei¼Œ its animating spiriti¼Œ its reason for being.
We were roommates. I moved into Stewart Church s New York
apartment in the fall after my graduation from the University of
Minnesota. In his Roommate Wanted ad in the Village Voicei¼Œ he had
described himself as a \"First-year law student at

Columbia Univer-
>sit> i¼E\" and he looked every inch of it: tall and thin¼E with a
doleful¼E high-
>cheek-boned face¼E carrot hair cropped close against the
sides of his
>narrow skull¼E and greenish eyes that seemed rubbed to dullness
from
>the hours spent scouring the microscopic print of his casebooks. Not
>that any of this was exactly a bad thing. It was just that Stewart did not
>fit my
initial idea of the kind of person I would end up living with in
>Mallhattan. I was an
aspiring author and thus viewed my every action
>;¼Eld utterance with an eye to
how they would appear when fixed in
>imperishable print. As such¼E I considered
myself to inhabit a highcr
>piano of existence than people like Stewart. He so
clearly belonged to
>the trudging armies of nonartists¼E of mere human beings:
the workaday
>drones who live out their unobjectionable lives¼E then pass¼E
unremem-
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