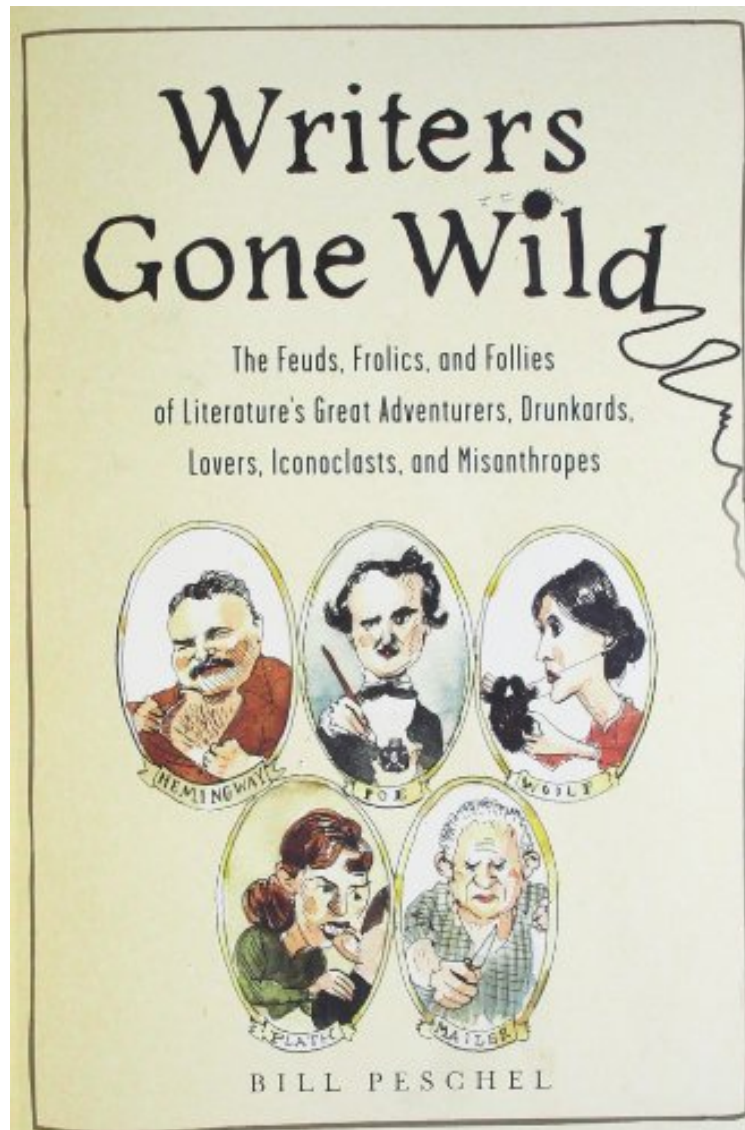


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Writers Gone Wild: The Feuds, Frolics, and Follies of Literature's Great Adventurers, Drunkards, Lovers, Iconoclasts, and Misanthropes

Bill Peschel

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Bill Peschel : Writers Gone Wild: The Feuds, Frolics, and Follies of Literature's Great Adventurers, Drunkards, Lovers, Iconoclasts, and Misanthropes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Writers Gone Wild: The Feuds, Frolics, and Follies of Literature's Great

Adventurers, Drunkards, Lovers, Iconoclasts, and Misanthropes:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Delightful, well-written, and well-edited. This is a fun read
By Bonnie Britt
Bill Peschel has tapped into the craft he learned as a journalist to produce short pieces on the most familiar literary names of our time and in history. Well beyond mentioning what each of them produced that made them famous, Peschel gives us the nuggets that tell us something about the character of each of these writers. He's grouped these deliciously gossipy stories into topical areas shown in the table of contents. Some of these topics include dramatic debuts, public embarrassments, frauds and hoaxes, crime and punishment, war, bad craziness, alcohol and drugs, and the joy of sex.
Writers Gone Wild: The Feuds, Frolics, and Follies of Literature's Great Adventurers, Drunkards, Lovers, Iconoclasts, and Misanthropes by Bill Peschel is both thoughtful and thoroughly entertaining. I can pick it up, read a few pages, and set it down, pick it up a few hours later, read a few more pages, and never miss a beat.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. TSK, TSK...
By Anglophile
This book was hilarious. I had to shake my head several times at the bad behavior of these people. Was informative too.
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Peschel has done a bang-up job
By Amazing Blair Peery
In his Writers Gone Wild, Mr. Peschel has captured the essence of each literary faux pas in a pithy and well-written essay that is a delight to read. That such famous and near-famous literary figures have stooped to the petty and the infamous is a startling revelation, and Peschel has done a bang-up job of ferreting out these telltale tidbits. They are designed to be stand-alone pieces, so you can plunge in wherever your heart fancies. But they have been categorized into the following sections for those of us who delight in taxonomy: "On the Job", "Off the Job", and "Everything Else". Each section has six or seven chapters where stories are again roughly grouped by type with wonderfully intriguing titles such as "Public Embarrassments" and "The Joy of Sex". (At this point I'll mention that Writers Gone Wild is thoroughly indexed. So if you go to the back and look up, say, George III, King, you'll be referred to page 176 - the first page of the "Joy of Sex" chapter. Interesting!)
Another reviewer mentioned that it's perfect because you can read one essay between appointments, but I'm afraid I sat and devoured a third of the book at one go. It's like potato chips. I CAN eat just one - but why ever would I? I give the book five out of five stars. Well done!

Truth is stranger than fiction. If you've imagined famous writers to be desk-bound drudges, think again. Writers Gone Wild rips back the (book) covers and reveals the seamy underside of the writing life. Insightful, intriguing, and irresistibly addictive, Writers Gone Wild reveals such fascinating stories as: * The night Dashiell Hammett hired a Chinese prostitute to break up S. J. Perelman's marriage (and ran off with his wife). * Why Sylvia Plath bit Ted Hughes on the cheek. * Why Ernest Hemingway fought a book critic, a modernist poet, and his war correspondent/wife Martha Gellhorn (but not at the same time). * The near-fatal trip Katherine Anne Porter took while high on marijuana in Mexico. * Why women's breasts sent Percy Bysshe Shelley screaming from the room. * The day Virginia Woolf snuck onto a Royal Navy ship disguised as an Abyssinian prince. Pull up a chair, turn on good reading light, and discover what your favorite writers were up to while away from their desks. Sometimes, they make the wildest characters of all.

About the Author
Bill Peschel is a lifelong reader whose five thousand-book library keeps his home in Hershey, Pennsylvania, firmly anchored to the earth. When not collecting weird and wild stories, he edits news articles and designs pages at the Harrisburg Patriot-News.