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A Confederacy Of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole (Louisiana State University) 338 pages, hardcover, \$12.95 Few novels have the strength to capture you on the first page and hold you captive until the end. This mystery satire is one of those rare, fascinating novels. Set in New Orleans in the late 1960s, the story centers around Ignatius, a pudgy thirty year old boy who hangs onto his mother's apron strings with one hand and reaches out with the other to experience the world full of paradoxes.

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