

# NOW IN PAPERBACK

**“The roaring,  
rollicking,  
foot-stomping  
wonder”\* of 1980**

## **A CONFEDERACY OF DUNCES**

**A novel by JOHN KENNEDY TOOLE**



\*Chicago Sun-Times

**Eighteen years ago**, eight major publishing houses received a bulky manuscript. A novel about a slovenly self-proclaimed genius in New Orleans who is forced into a 9 to 5 job at a pants factory.

It was rejected by all eight publishers.

And the author of *A CONFEDERACY OF DUNCES*, John Kennedy Toole, gave up.

But his mother didn't. She continued to send the manuscript out. And continued to get it back...

**Five years ago**, she sent it to Walker Percy. He read it, proclaimed it "a major achievement," and convinced Louisiana State University Press it should be published...

**A year ago**, the cloth edition of *A CONFEDERACY OF DUNCES* came off press. It hit the bestseller lists in 5 major cities and went into 6 printings. It was bought by The Book-of-the-Month Club and by 20th Century-Fox for a major motion picture...

**And the critics raved... and raved...**

**"A masterwork of comedy** that astonishes with its inventiveness... A grand comic fugue."

—*N.Y. Times Book Review*

**"This is rich, outrageous,** hilarious, moving stuff, alive with vivid characters and true-to-life settings."

—*Washington Star*

**"An astonishingly good novel,** radiant with intelligence and artful high comedy."

—*Newsweek*

**"The dialogue is superbly mad.** You simply sweep along, unbelievably entranced."

—*Boston Globe*

**"If a book's price is measured against the laughs it provokes, this is the bargain of the year."**

—*Time*

**A P.E.N./Faulkner Award nominee** for "the most distinguished work of fiction published by an American writer" in 1980.

**Now it's in paperback**—for everyone who missed it before!

\$3.50, available at your local bookstore  
**GROVE PRESS**