TRUMAN CAPOTE

THE PARTY TO WHICH YOU WERE NOT INVITED
TRUMAN CAPOTE

• Born 1924, peak of “career” in the 60’s
• Wrote *In Cold Blood*, the first nonfiction novel, and the novella *Breakfast At Tiffany’s*
• Indulgent public figure
• Final project: *Answered Prayers*
THE CONVERSATION

• Gerald Clarke’s biography *Capote*
• Deborah Davis’s *Party of The Century*
• William Todd Schultz’s psychobiography *Tiny Terror: Why Truman Capote (Almost) Wrote Answered Prayers*
• Almost all literary scholarship about *In Cold Blood*
MY PROJECT

• Big Question, Simplified: Why did Truman Capote write *Answered Prayers*?
  • More accurately: What was Truman Capote’s “life’s work”?

• *Answered Prayers* manuscript in Truman Capote Papers at New York Public Library Library Archives
  • “Yachts and Things”
  • Interviews

• Interpretation: The Black And White Ball
“My name is P. B. Jones, and I’m of two minds…I could just as well tell you nothing, or very little, for I consider myself a reporter in this matter, not a participant, at least not an important one. But it’s [just] easier to start with me”
INTERPRETATION:
THE BLACK AND WHITE BALL

- Parallels to *Answered Prayers*
- People: Old Money, the Capital, and New Hollywood
- Time: Vietnam
- Reception (divided)
  - Newspaper and Magazine coverage
  - Journalists