



**SANTA CLAUS VS.
JOHNNY CRAWFORD**

STORY

DENNIS COOPER

"A DISQUIETING GENIUS."—VANITY FAIR

SANTA CLAUS VS. JOHNNY CRAWFORD

SHORT STORY

DENNIS COOPER



HarperCollins e-books

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Jerk” previously appeared in the book *Jerk* (Artspace Books, 1993).

“Ugly Man” and “The Boy on the Far Left” previously appeared in Scott Treleaven’s art catalog *Some Boys Wander by Mistake* (Kavi Gupta Gallery, John Connelly Presents, and Marc Selwyn Fine Art, 2007) and in *Dennis Cooper: Writing at the Edge* (Sussex Academic Press, 2008).

“Graduate Seminar,” “Santa Claus vs. Johnny Crawford,” “The Worst (1960–1971),” and “Three Boys Who Thought

Experimental Fiction Was for Pussies” previously appeared in *Dennis Cooper: Writing at the Edge* (Sussex Academic Press, 2008).

“Knife/Tape/Rope” was originally the text of a performance art work of the same name created and directed by Ishmael Houston-Jones in 1985.

“One Night in 1979 . . .” previously appeared in the anthology *Thrills, Pills, Chills, and Heartache: Adventures in the First Person* (Alyson Press, 2004).

SANTA CLAUS VS. JOHNNY CRAWFORD

Johnny's psychiatrist gives him troubling news: Generous, gift-giving Santa Claus is in fact his sexually abusive father. Wracked with disbelief, Johnny runs outside and has a nervous breakdown. Supported by his psychiatrist, Johnny angrily confronts his lying, two-faced father. Johnny's father tells him to look on the bright side: Santa Claus has the hots for him. Standing outside his father's bedroom door, Johnny thinks, "Just because he's Santa Claus doesn't make sexual abuse okay. But on the other hand . . ."

About the Author

DENNIS COOPER is the author of the George Miles Cycle, an interconnected sequence of five novels that includes *Closer*, *Frisk*, *Try*, *Guide*, and *Period*. His post-George Miles Cycle novels include *My Loose Thread*, *The Sluts*, which won France's Prix Sade and the 2005 Lambda Literary Award for Best Men's Fiction, and his most recent work, the highly acclaimed *God, Jr.* He divides his time between Los Angeles and Paris.

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