



J. D. Salinger: A Life

Kenneth Slawenski

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One of the most popular and mysterious figures in American literary history, the author of the classic *Catcher in the Rye*, J. D. Salinger eluded fans and journalists for most of his life. Now he is the subject of this definitive biography, which is filled with new information and revelations garnered from countless interviews, letters, and public records. Kenneth Slawenski explores Salinger's privileged youth, long obscured by misrepresentation and rumor, revealing the brilliant, sarcastic, vulnerable son of a disapproving father and doting mother. Here too are accounts of Salinger's first broken heart—after Eugene O'Neill's daughter, Oona, left him—and the devastating World War II service that haunted him forever. *J. D. Salinger* features all the dazzle of this author's early writing successes, his dramatic encounters with luminaries from Ernest Hemingway to Elia Kazan, his office intrigues with famous *New Yorker* editors and writers, and the stunning triumph of *The Catcher in the Rye*, which would both make him world-famous and hasten his retreat into the hills of New Hampshire. *J. D. Salinger* is this unique author's unforgettable story in full—one that no lover of literature can afford to miss.

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