

## APPENDIX I

### BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Donald Patrick Conroy is an American writer who was born in Atlanta, Georgia on October 26, 1945. He was the first of seven children of a young Marine officer from Chicago and a Southern beauty from Alabama. Conroy moved frequently to military bases throughout the South, and Conroy eventually attended The Citadel, a military college in Charleston, South Carolina. Following graduation, Conroy taught English and psychology at Beaufort High School. And in 1969 he took a job teaching underprivileged children in a one-room schoolhouse on Daufuskie, a small island about three miles off the South Carolina mainland. Conroy married Barbara Bolling Jones, a young Vietnam widow with two daughters, Jessica and Melissa, whom Conroy adopted. They would welcome a third daughter, Megan, the following year. After just a year of teaching on Daufuskie, Conroy was fired for his unconventional teaching practices, including his refusal to allow corporal punishment of his students, and for his clashes with the school's administration.

Pat Conroy's first book entitled *The Boo* (1970), followed with his second book *The Water is Wide*, which was published in 1972 and was recognized with an award from the National Education Association for its unflinching depiction of institutionalized racism in the public school system. It was adapted as a film entitled *Conrack* directed by Martin Ritt in 1974. In 1973, Conroy moved to Atlanta, where Pat wrote *The Great Santini*, published in 1976. The novel, which was later made into a film starring Robert Duvall. The publication of *The Great Santini* book that so painfully exposed his family's secret. Especially his childhood that particularly his difficult relationship with his father, a fighter pilot who regularly beat his wife and children. His next novel entitled *The Lords of Discipline*, which was published in 1980 and was the third of Conroy's books to be adapted as a film.

Conroy remarried and moved from Atlanta to Rome, where his fourth daughter, Susannah, was born. It was here that he began to work in earnest on *The Prince of Tides*, which, when published in 1986, became his most successful book. Reviewers immediately acknowledged Conroy as a master storyteller and a poetic and gifted prose stylist and sold five million copies in print. In 1991, *The Prince of Tides* was released as a film by actor/director/producer Barbara Streisand, and Conroy received an Oscar nod for his work in adapting the novel for film. His next books are *Beach Music* (1995), *My Losing Season* (2002), *The Pat Conroy Cookbook* (2004), *South of Broad* (2009), Just a year later, Conroy released *My Reading Life* (2010), In 2013, Conroy published *The Death of Santini*. Subtitled

*“The Story of a Father and His Son”*. Conroy was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in January 2016, and succumbed to the disease on March 4, 2016. He is buried in a small cemetery on St. Helena Island near the Penn Center.

## **APPENDIX II**

### **SINOPSIS OF THE STORY**

The novel set in New York City and the low-country of South Carolina, *The Prince of Tides* opens with Tom Wingo as the main character on this novel. Tom Wingo is a middle-aged man with a wife and three young daughters who has recently lost his job as a high school English teacher and football coach. He learns that his twin sister, Savannah, has attempted suicide yet again. Tom agrees to go to New York City, where Savannah lives, to look her until she is well again. Before Tom leaves his home in South Carolina, he learns that his wife is having an affair with another man.

In New York Tom stays at Savannah's apartment when Savannah is coma in the hospital. He meets with her psychiatrist, Susan Lowenstein, and agrees to unravel a history of violence, abandonment, commitment, and love. And Tom realizes that trying to save his sister is perhaps his last chance to save himself. Pat Conroy moves from present to past, tracing the amazing history of the Wingos from World War II through the final days of the war in Vietnam and into the 1980s. Susan and Tom grow close during all the time they spend together talking about Savannah. They are very different people: Susan is a Jewish, wealthy psychiatrist who lives in New York City while Tom is a Catholic teacher who grew up poor in rural South Carolina. They develop a relationship of mutual comfort and respect. Susan tells Tom about her shaky marriage and her husband's affair with another woman.

Tom recounts his sad and horrific childhood for Susan in hopes that it might help Susan to help Savannah get better. Tom spent his youth on Melrose Island with his mother, father, Luke (his older brother) and Savannah. Their father was a shrimper who drank a lot and pushed his family around. Henry (Tom's father) beat his wife and his children very frequently. Tom tells Susan many stories of their childhood. The worst story is during their graduation year in high school, Tom, his mother and Savannah were each raped by a group of escaped convicts. Luke saved the day by unleashing their pet tiger on the men. Savannah, Tom and Luke killed the men. Their mother made them bury the men and clean their home before their father returned. They were not ever allowed to speak of the incident again.

Tom says the worst thing that happened to their family was Luke's death. This is the incident that caused Tom to have a nervous breakdown and lose his job. Luke was shot to death when he refused to leave Melrose Island after the government bought the county to build plants for weapons development. Luke hid

on the island and caused havoc including blowing up bridges and killing four men. An FBI agent approached Tom and Savannah and asked them to offer Luke a deal of only a few years in prison in exchange for his cease-fire. Luke did agree to the deal, but when he was on his way to surrender, he was shot and killed by a soldier who did not know about the agreement. When Tom returns to South Carolina he and his wife reconcile. Savannah recovers from her suicide attempt. At the novel's conclusion, it appears that despite all that has happened, everyone will be all right.