

In Print



RITA MAE BROWN,
author of *Rubyfruit Jungle*,
has written a new novel.



Sweeping through three generations and the years 1909 to 1980, *Six of One* tells the stories of "the women who, in any small town, become the subjects of a lot of gossip and legend, both affectionate and malicious." It is a celebration of life itself, and Rita Mae Brown writes with "the same effervescent yet secure trust in her local characters that Eudora Welty feels for hers."²

"The jaunty, naturalistic tone that made Brown's earlier novel *Rubyfruit Jungle* such a success is at work again. This is a lively and very lovely book."
—Publishers Weekly

SIX OF ONE. Celebrate.
\$9.95
1. New York Magazine
2. Kirkus Reviews

Harper & Row
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1817

Hollywood's Finest

Oh, the sad young writers who trooped out to Hollywood to milk the movie gold and stayed to watch their dreams of glory shrivel like so many raisins in the decadent sun. The stories that surround these often brilliant wordsmiths have become the stuff on which legends are made: it's all *Paradise lost* and F. Scott Fitzgerald drunk...again. *Mank, the Wit, World and Life of Herman Mankiewicz*, written by former *Life* magazine staffer Richard Meryman, is part of that literature of doom; it's a fascinating biography which reminds us once again just how far the mighty can fall.

Mankiewicz, as every good film student knows, co-wrote *Citizen Kane* with Orson Welles. A few years ago, Pauline Kael spent thousands of words proving it was Mank and not Orson who was responsible for the

brilliance of Kane, and other critics then spent an equal number of words trying to prove otherwise. The debate will probably never be settled and *Mank* does little to solidify the opposing sides. However, it does offer a major contribution to that controversy; the biography proves without question that Mankiewicz, the man, possessed one of the most brilliant minds ever to toil for the movies.

Oscar Wilde, that master of the aphorism, once wrote, "I only put my talent into my writing, my genius I reserve for my life," and certainly that statement sums up everything we ultimately need to know about Mank as well. The book is one incredible story after another, all testimony to the writer's wit, cunning, and perception. He was, without doubt, his own best creation. Meryman, like other writers, again brings the famed Algonquin Round Table to life, but this time those clever souls aren't revered—Meryman exposes them for the pain and cruelty that they inflicted, often on themselves. He also makes it very clear that cer-

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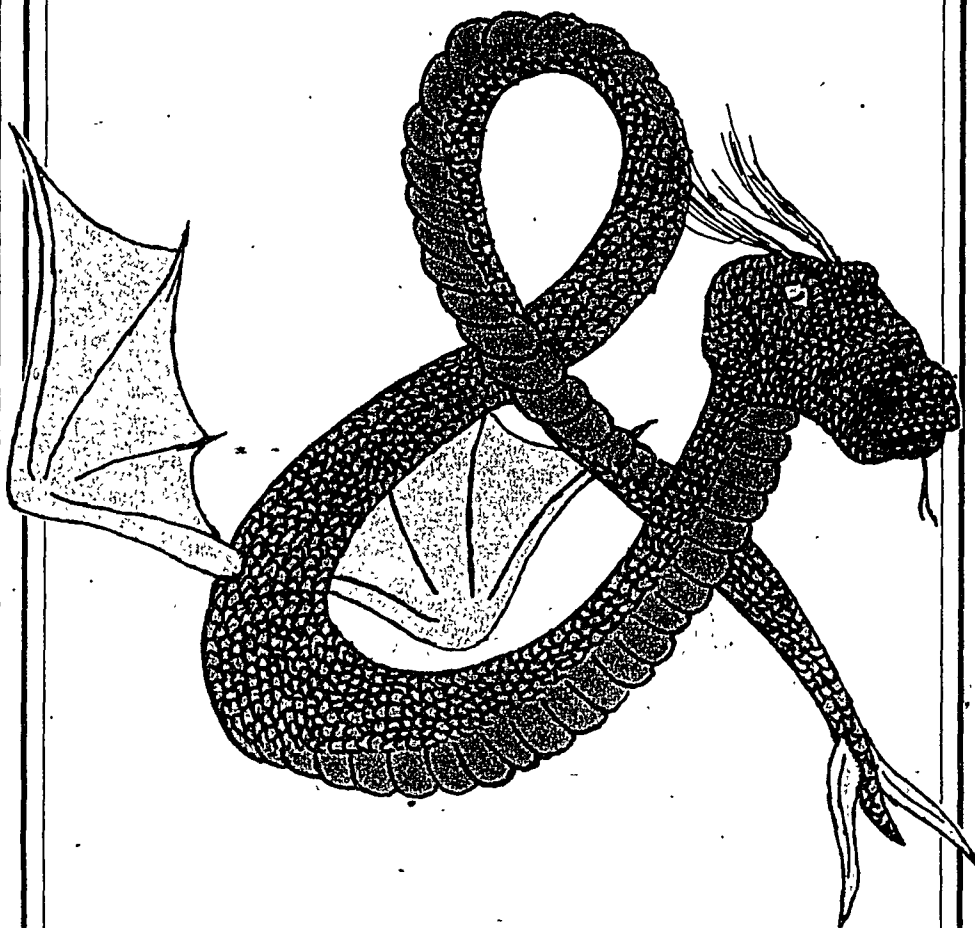
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Edward Hobin of Knoxville, Tennessee created this scaly Ampersand of the Month; he says he's not in college, but studies mechanical drawing and machine design.

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