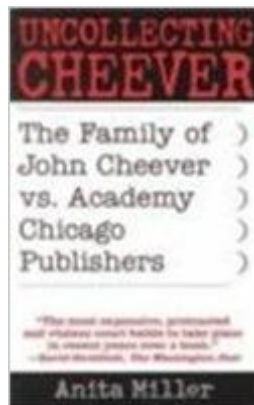




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# Uncollecting Cheever: The Family Of John Cheever Vs. Academy Chicago Publishers



## Synopsis

Ten years ago, publishers, authors, scholars, and the reading public watched anxiously the results of two lawsuits involving the family of John Cheever, famed short story writer, and Academy Chicago Publishers, a small publishing house. At stake was not only a collection of Cheever's lesser-known short stories, valued for their literary merit and historical value, but also the definition of intellectual property. In a dramatic re-telling, Anita Miller draws us into the case, creating vivid portraits of the participants and the tensions between them while also shedding light on key issues of our time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a lawyer I would recommend this book be required reading in law school. It dramatically illustrates how inadequate our court system is in dealing with the issues presented. This matter should have been handled in mediation without all the hoops and hurdles required in a civil action. While the author does no favors for her side or that of the Cheever family, her narrative makes clear who the real culprits are - the lawyers with their posturing, their subpoenas, their gotcha questions, their general duplicity making sure that the real facts are not brought out and that a real equitable finding is not reached. It ought to make the critical reader angry.

In 1987 an agent for Academy Chicago Publishers suggested it publish the Uncollected Stories of John Cheever. When his widow signed the agreement, it looked like a coup for this small publisher. But when the number of stories greatly exceeded what Mrs. Cheever expected, she and her

children tried to call off the deal. A legal battle quickly began in Chicago and New York courts. Anita Miller does a superb job of recounting the behind the scenes legal wrangling and disastrous courtroom scenes, at the same time providing many insights into the publishing industry. A must read for fans of lawsuit accounts like *Civil Action*, and for those interested in publishing and publishing law.

What started out as a worthy effort by a small press to collect hard-to-find stories by one of the great American writers of this century results in bitter lawsuits, huge costs, a lesser book, and an unfortunate lesson in the realities of publishing today. Hooray for those intrepid souls like the Millers who toil in literary vineyards for the love of the art more than financial gain.

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