



'Fierce, smart, always amusing' author P J O'Rourke dies, aged 75

BY RUTH COMERFORD

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Grove Atlantic has paid tribute to its author P J O'Rourke, who has died aged 75 following complications caused by lung cancer.

The author passed away on 15th February, his publisher announced. A journalist and political satirist, Patrick Jake O'Rourke wrote more than 20 books on subjects including politics, cars, etiquette and economics, including his two number one *New York Times* bestsellers, *Parliament of Whores* and *Give War a Chance*.

He was born in Toledo, Ohio, on 14th November 1947. He attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and graduate school at Johns Hopkins where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. After receiving an MA in English, O'Rourke worked at small newspapers in Baltimore and New York.

In the 1970s, he became editor-in-chief of *National Lampoon*, where he created with Doug Kenney the now classic 1964 *High School Yearbook Parody*. He was the foreign affairs desk chief for *Rolling Stone*, a position that enabled him to expose the hypocrisies of world politics from the Persian Gulf to the Philippines.

He was also a regular correspondent for the *Atlantic Monthly*, and his writing appeared in publications including *Automobile Magazine*, *Esquire*, *Vanity Fair*, *Car and Driver*, the *Daily Beast*, and the *Weekly Standard*.

In the early 1990s he left Washington DC for New Hampshire where he continued to write. He was the H L Mencken Research Fellow at the Cato Institute, a regular panelist on NPR's "Wait Wait . . . Don't Tell Me" programme, and editor-in-chief of the web magazine *American Consequences*.

He is survived by his wife Tina O'Rourke and three children.

Morgan Entrekin, chief executive officer and publisher of Grove Atlantic, said: “P J was one of the major voices of his generation. He was also a close friend and partner for more than 40 years. P J’s loyalty and commitment to first Atlantic Monthly Press and then Grove Atlantic enabled me to keep the company independent. For that I will forever be in his debt. His insightful reporting, verbal acuity and gift at writing laugh-out-loud prose were unparalleled.

"From his classics *Modern Manners* and *Parliament of Whores* to *How the Hell Did This Happen?*, a result of his dismay at the 2016 election—P J kept providing fierce, smart, always amusing reports on the American condition. His passing leaves a huge hole in my life both personal and professional. My thoughts and prayers are with Tina and their children.”