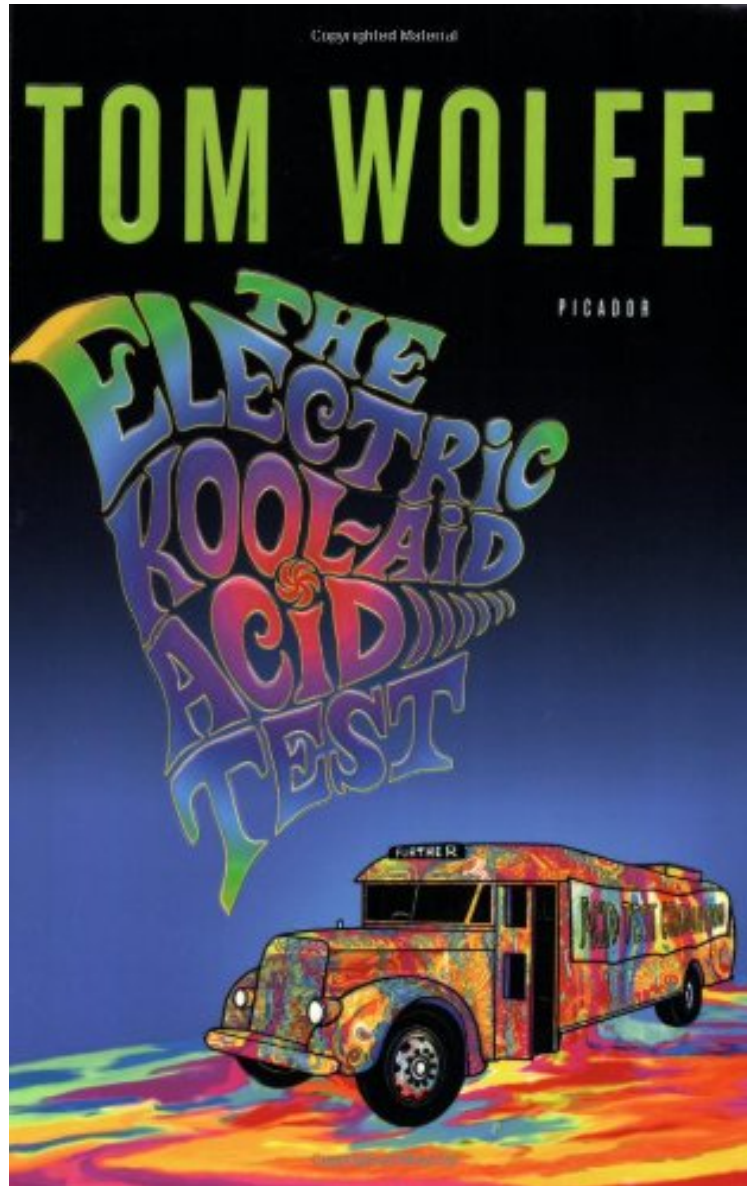


## The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test

Tom Wolfe

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**Tom Wolfe : The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test:

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Tom Wolfe's *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* ushered in an era of New Journalism, "An American classic" (Newsweek) that defined a generation. "An astonishing book" (The New York Times Book Review) and an unflinching portrait of Ken Kesey, his Merry Pranksters, LSD, and the 1960s.

.com They say if you remember the '60s, you weren't there. But, fortunately, Tom Wolfe was there, notebook in hand, politely declining LSD while Ken Kesey and his Merry Pranksters fomented revolution, turning America on to a dangerously playful way of thinking as their Day-Glo conveyance, Further, made the most influential bus ride since Rosa Parks's. By taking *On the Road*'s hero Neal Cassady as his driver on the cross-country revival tour and drawing on his own training as a magician, Kesey made Further into a bully pulpit, and linked the beat epoch with hippiedom. Paul McCartney's *Many Years from Now* cites Kesey as a key influence on his trippy *Magical Mystery Tour* film. Kesey temporarily renounced his literary magic for the cause of "tootling the multitudes"--making a spectacle of himself--and Prankster Robert Stone had to flee Kesey's wild party to get his life's work done. But in those years, Kesey's life was his work, and Wolfe infinitely multiplied the multitudes who got tootled by writing this major literary-journalistic monument to a resonant pop-culture moment. Kesey's theatrical metamorphosis from the distinguished author of *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* to the abominable shaman of the "Acid Test" soirees that launched The Grateful Dead required Wolfe's Day-Glo prose account to endure (though Kesey's own musings in *Demon Box* are no slouch either). Even now, Wolfe's book gives what Wolfe clearly got from Kesey: a contact high. --Tim Appelo Tom Wolfe is a groove and a gas. Everyone should send him money and other fine things. Hats off to Tom Wolfe! Terry Southern*The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* is not simply the best book on the hippies, it is the essential book . . . the pushing, ballooning heart of the matter . . . Vibrating dazzle! The New York TimesSome consider Mailer our greatest journalist; my candidate is Wolfe. Studs Terkel, *Book Week*A Day-Glo book, illuminating, merry, surreal! The Washington Post*Electrifying*. San Francisco ChronicleAn amazing book . . . A book that definitely gives Wolfe the edge on the nonfiction novel. The Village VoiceAmong journalists, Wolfe is a genuine poet; what makes him so good is his ability to get inside, to not merely describe (although he is a superb reporter), but to get under the skin of a phenomenon and transmit its metabolic rhythm. NewsweekFrom the Publisher9 1.5-hour cassettes