**Conversations with the Conroys**
*Interviews with Pat Conroy and His Family*
Edited with an Introduction by Walter Edgar
Afterword by Nikky Finney

A *New York Times* best-selling author of eleven novels and memoirs, Pat Conroy is one of America’s most beloved storytellers and a writer as synonymous with the South Carolina lowcountry as pluff mud or the Palmetto tree. As Conroy’s writings have been rooted in autobiography more often than not, his readers have come to know and appreciate the once-secret dark familial history that has shaped Conroy’s life and work. *Conversations with the Conroys* includes five revealing interviews conducted in 2014–15 with Pat Conroy and four of his six siblings: brothers Mike, Jim, and Tim and sister Kathy. In confessional and often comic dialogs, the Conroys openly discuss the perils of being raised by their larger-than-life parents, USMC fighter pilot Col. Don Conroy (the Great Santini) and southern belle Peggy Conroy (née Peek); the complexities of having their history of abuse made public by Pat’s books; the tragic death of their youngest brother, Tom; the chasm between them and their sister Carol Ann; and the healing, redemptive embrace they have come to find over time in one another. With good humor and often-striking candor, these interviews capture the Conroys as authentic and indeed proud South Carolinians, not always at ease with their place in literary lore, but nonetheless deeply supportive of Pat in his life and writing.

Edited and introduced by Walter Edgar, *Conversations with the Conroys* includes the first publications of Pat Conroy’s interview with Edgar as the keynote address of the 2014 One Book, One Columbia citywide “big read” program, the unprecedented interview with the Conroy siblings for SCETV Radio’s *Walter Edgar’s Journal*, the resulting live Conroy Family Roundtable held at the 2014 South Carolina Book Festival, and a recent interview in Charleston following Pat Conroy’s induction into the Citadel’s Athletics Hall of Fame. This collection is augmented with an afterword from National Book Award–winning poet Nikky Finney and nearly fifty photographs, many published here for the first time.

October 2015, 152 pages, 50 b&w illus.

---

**Method of payment:**

____ Check or money order (payable to USC Press in United States dollars)

Credit Card:  ____ American Express  ____ Discover  ____ Mastercard  ____ Visa

Account number: ____________________________________________  Exp. date: __________

Signature: __________________________________________________

Name (please print): ________________________________________  Phone: ______________

Shipping address: ____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Send me ______ copy/copies

(hc, 978-1-61117-630-8, $27.95 each) ______

(pb, 978-1-61117-631-5, $19.95 each) ______

SC residents add 8% sales tax ______

Shipping* ______

TOTAL ______

*add $7.50 for first book, $2.00 for each additional book

---

**Walter Edgar** is the Neuffer Professor of Southern Studies Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at the University of South Carolina. He is the author of *South Carolina: A History*, editor of *The South Carolina Encyclopedia*, and host of the radio program *Walter Edgar’s Journal*.