



# My Friendship With Norman Mailer and Gore Vidal: How They Buried the Hatchet

*Carole Mallory*

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## **My Friendship With Norman Mailer and Gore Vidal: How They Buried the Hatchet** Carole Mallory

After their bitter feud Carole Mallory planted the seed in the minds of Gore Vidal and Norman Mailer to have a conversation with each other. This book is the story of how this exciting, history-making interview, a year in the works, a determined Carole Mallory overcame a dubious Norman Mailer and made this famous reunion happen. One major obstacle: Norman Mailer once punched Gore Vidal at a party after a bad review. While still on the floor, Vidal said: 'Once again, words fail Norman Mailer.' Their lengthy literary feud continued. Mailer headbutted Vidal before an appearance on the Dick Cavett TV show after Vidal compared him to infamous, killer Charles Manson. When Mailer said, "Vidal lacks the wound" (referring to his privileged upbringing), Vidal said: "Privileged? You mean more privileged than a fat boy from South Africa." (Mailer's father was born in Cape Town.)

Vidal later claimed he was not the instigator of the antagonism, saying: "Mailer feuded with me. I knew Norman's syndrome. If I was on the cover of Time and he wasn't, my God he would be insulting me in the press. He couldn't stop. He lived for his little swig of PR."

This vivid account rejoices in the civilized reunion of these two geniuses. Carole Mallory finds they were more alike than one might think.

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