The Devil's Candy: The Bonfire Of The Vanities Goes To Hollywood

Julie Salamon


If you're going to do The Bonfire of the Vanities, you would have to make it a lot darker and more cynical, but because it was such an expensive movie, we tried to humanize the Sherman McCoy character, a very unlikeable character, much like the character in The Magnificent Ambersons. We could have done that if we'd been making a low-budget movie, but this was a studio movie with Tom Hanks in it. The controversies surrounding the film were detailed in a book called The Devil's Candy: The Bonfire of the Vanities Goes to Hollywood (1991), written by Julie Salamon, who herself was the film critic for The Wall Street Journal and wanted to write a book about the adaptation of the novel. She was granted much access to the filming of Bonfire.