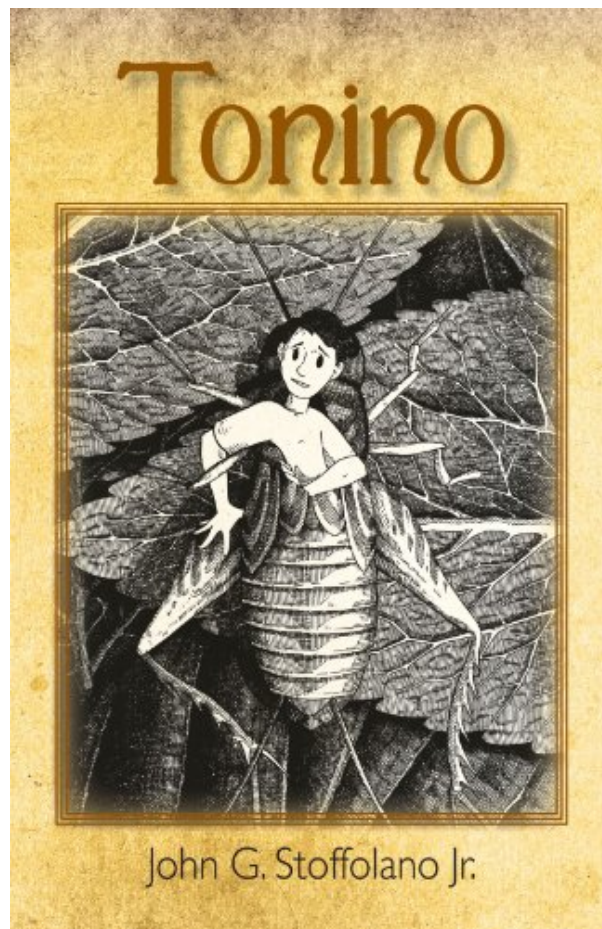


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## About the Author

John G. Stoffolano Jr. is an entomologist. His previous publications include over 150 scientific research articles, ten chapters for various books, and a laboratory manual for beginning entomologists. Stoffolano currently teaches a course at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in cultural entomology.

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Tonino is a young, curious cricket boy, living with his family in Boston. Life is good for young Tonino, but he suspects there's more to the world than his own backyard. He wants to learn about foreign cultures, but mostly he wants to learn about his own family roots. He heads to Italy, where he is surprised to meet the famous Blue Fairy, who was friends with Tonino's ancestor-the cricket guide to Pinocchio. Whereas Tonino's ancestor was put in charge of young Pinocchio's conscience, Tonino is given a much more universal conscience. He is charged with the conscience of the world and the well-being of its environment, a big change to his personal journey. No longer is he looking after the story of his family; now he looks after the story of Mother Earth! Suddenly, he is transported on a worldwide adventure . . . He heads to Puerto Rico and meets the Ta? no people. He visits a monarch in Mexico and cricket warriors in China. In the American Southwest, he learns about the spirit of the cricket "katsina"; in Hawaii, he encounters Pele's rage. It's a lot to take in for the young cricket boy, but ultimately he discovers that seeking his roots is only the beginning in the wide world of biodiversity, cultural diversity, and conservation of both. The boy/cricket is baptized Anthony at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. His parents live in the North End where his mother kept hearing the television advertisement "Anthony, Anthony, It's Prince Spaghetti Day" so they named him Anthony. "Naming him Anthony was straight forward, but naming him Tonino was at the brilliant suggestion of Dr. William Cooley, retired Northampton Ophthalmologist and avid italophile. Dr. Cooley sent Dr. Stoffolano a short novel by an Italian author named Rodari about a young boy, Tonino, who tries to become invisible so that he could avoid problems with his teacher. Rodari (1920-1980) was

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- Used Book in Good Condition

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.  
Science and Magic, an Engaging Tale

By Faith Deering

Tonino is an engaging tale of a shape shifting cricket who travels around the world learning life's lessons. Written by John Stoffolano, a professor of entomology with a strong interest in the relationship between insects and human culture, the story is a tribute to Carlo Collodi and the classic tale of Pinocchio and his conscience, Grillo Parlante, the talking cricket. Transforming between boy and cricket, Tonino has adventures that take him from his home in Boston's North End to Italy (where he discovers his family roots) then, joined by a female cricket companion, on to the American Southwest, Hawaii, New Zealand, China and Japan.

As an entomologist, Stoffolano seamlessly blends insect biology and science into Tonino's travels. As a humanist, he has created a story that is rich in family values, respect for generations, and the importance of leaving a legacy. Tonino's quest, Professor Stoffolano's interesting entomological asides, the charming illustrations and the useful bibliography, make this book an appealing read for all ages.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Insects get a good rap!

By Win Lavallee

It's about time that insects were given a good rap! John Stoffolano's recent book, Tonino, breaks new ground regarding the use of insects, a cricket, to illustrate the need for humans to understand world cultures and engage serious thinking on pending world catastrophes, such as global warming. In a fantasy framework, Tonino is an exceptional cricket who morphs from insect to human and back and makes a world tour in which we learn much about human culture and insect life. As a fellow entomologist, I am impressed by the way that Stoffolano has carefully adhered to factual data and accurate biology yet weaves some most interesting fiction. This is a book to be enjoyed by general readers, young and old.

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