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The Diaries of Evelyn Waugh, Evelyn Waugh, Penguin Books, Limited, 1979, 014004647X, 9780140046472, . .

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Cockburn Sums Up An Autobiography, Claud Cockburn, 1981, , 269 pages. .

Journals 1990-1992 , Anthony Powell, 1997, Biography & Autobiography, 235 pages. .

The Life of Evelyn Waugh A Critical Biography, Douglas Patey, Nov 28, 2001, Biography & Autobiography, 456 pages. In this lively and just account, Douglas Patey follows Evelyn Waugh's career from the comfortable middle-class home he was anxious to flee, through his escapades at Oxford, his

Evelyn Waugh: portrait of a country neighbour , Frances Lonsdale Donaldson (Lady.), 1967, , 124 pages. .

Nature , Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1929, American literature, 86 pages. .

Love from Nancy the letters of Nancy Mitford, Nancy Mitford, Charlotte Mosley, 1993, Literary Collections, 538 pages. From the best-selling author of The Pursuit of Love and The Sun King comes a collection of her witty letters to Evelyn Waugh, Harold Acton, Christopher Sykes, Robert Byron, and

The Unquiet Grave A Word Cycle, Cyril Connolly, Palinurus, 1951, History, 142 pages. Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. Hesperides Press are republishing these

Evelyn Waugh a biography, Christopher Sykes, 1977, Literary Criticism, 618 pages. .

Evelyn Waugh and his world , David Pryce-Jones, 1973, Biography & Autobiography, 248 pages. .

The Picturesque Prison Evelyn Waugh and His Writing, Jeffrey M. Heath, 1982, Biography & Autobiography, 334 pages. This study of the life and works of Evelyn Waugh traces the novelist's pursuit of his vocation and his long retreat from a world which he came to regard as a spiritual dungeon

Evelyn Waugh A Literary Life, David Wykes, Oct 1, 1999, Literary Criticism, 224 pages. Waugh's life and his literary life exist in fascinating, dynamic relationship. Virtually all of his fiction was autobiographical, yet he maintained that his novels were

The Sense of an Ending Studies in the Theory of Fiction : with a New Epilogue, Frank Kermode, 2000, Fiction, 206 pages. Lectures delivered as the Mary Flexner Lectures, Bryn Mawr College, fall

1965, under the title: The long perspectives..

Evelyn Waugh: 1924-1966 , John Howard Wilson, 2001, Biography & Autobiography, 198 pages. This book is a literary biography focusing on the first third of Evelyn Waugh's life. Between his birth in 1903 and the end of his formal education in 1924, Waugh grew up in

Will this do? the first fifty years of Auberon Waugh : an autobiography, Auberon Waugh, 1991, Biography & Autobiography, 288 pages. .

The sword of honour trilogy , Evelyn Waugh, Frank Kermode, 1994, Fiction, 710 pages. Satire over forhold i England under 2. verdenskrig..

The son of a publisher, Waugh was educated at Lancing and Hertford College, Oxford, and worked briefly as a schoolmaster before becoming a full-time writer. As a young man, he acquired many fashionable and aristocratic friends, and developed a taste for country house society that never left him. In the 1930s he travelled extensively, often as a special newspaper correspondent; he was reporting from Abyssinia at the time of the 1935 Italian invasion. He served in the British armed forces throughout the Second World War, first in the Royal Marines and later in the Royal Horse Guards. All these experiences, and the wide range of people he encountered, were used in Waugh's fiction, generally to humorous effect; even his own mental breakdown in the early 1950s, brought about by misuse of drugs, was fictionalised.

Waugh had converted to Roman Catholicism in 1930, after the failure of his first marriage. His traditionalist stance led him to oppose strongly all attempts to reform the Church; the changes brought about in the wake of the Second Vatican Council of 1962â€“65, particularly the introduction of the vernacular Mass, greatly disturbed him. This blow, together with a growing dislike for the welfare state culture of the postwar world and a decline in his health, darkened his final years, although he continued to write. To the public at large he generally displayed a mask of indifference, but he was capable of great kindness to those he considered his friends, many of whom remained devoted to him throughout his life. After his death in 1966, he acquired a new following through film and television versions of his work, such as *Brideshead Revisited* in 1981.

After attending Sherborne School and New College, Oxford, Arthur Waugh began a career in publishing and as a literary critic. In 1902 he became managing director of Chapman and Hall, publishers of the works of Charles Dickens.[4] He had married Catherine Raban (1870â€“1954)[5] in 1893; their first son Alexander Raban Waugh (always known as Alec) was born on 8 July 1898. Alec Waugh later became a novelist of note. At the time of his birth the family were living in North London, at Hillfield Road, West Hampstead where, on 28 October 1903, the couple's second son was born, "in great haste before Dr Andrews could arrive", Catherine recorded.[6] On 7 January 1904 the boy was christened Arthur Evelyn St John Waugh, but was known in the family and in the wider world as Evelyn.[7][n 1]

In 1907 the family left Hillfield Road for Underhill, a house which Arthur had built in the village of North End, Hampstead, in close proximity to Golders Green,[8] then a semi-rural area of dairy farms, market gardens and bluebell woods.[9] Evelyn received his first lessons at home from his mother, with whom he formed a particularly close relationshipâ€“Arthur Waugh was a more distant figure, whose bond with his elder son Alec was such that Evelyn often felt excluded.[10][11] In September 1910 Evelyn began as a day pupil at Heath Mount preparatory school. He was by then a lively child of many interests, who had already written his first complete story, "The Curse of the Horse Race".[12] Waugh spent six relatively contented years at Heath Mount; on his own assertion he was "quite a clever little boy", who was seldom distressed or overawed by his lessons.[13] Physically pugnacious, he was inclined to bully weaker boys; among his victims was the future society photographer Cecil Beaton, who never forgot the experience.[12][14]

Outside school, Waugh and other children in the neighbourhood performed dramatic works usually written by him.[15] On the basis of a belief then being fostered in the press that the Germans were

about to invade England, he organised his friends into a gang called "The Pistol Troop", which built a fort, went on manoeuvres and paraded in makeshift uniforms.[16] After the First World War broke out in 1914, Waugh and other boys from Heath Mount's Boy Scout troop were sometimes employed at the War Office as messengers. He hung about in the corridors hoping to get a glimpse of Lord Kitchener, but never did.[17] Family holidays were usually spent with the Waugh aunts at Midsomer Norton, in a house lit by oil lamps that Waugh recalled with delight many years later.[18] At Midsomer Norton he became deeply interested in high Anglican church rituals—the first stirrings of the spiritual dimension that would later dominate his life—and served as an altar boy at the local Anglican church.[19] During his last year at Heath Mount Waugh devised and edited a school magazine, *The Cynic*. [12]

Alec Waugh, like his father, had gone to school at Sherborne, and it was assumed that Evelyn would follow. However, in 1915, Alec was asked to leave, after a homosexual relationship came to light. He departed for military training and, while waiting for his commission to be confirmed, wrote a novel of school life, *The Loom of Youth*, which was published by Chapman and Hall. The novel, which alluded to homosexual friendships in what was recognisably Sherborne, caused a public sensation and offended the school sufficiently to make it impossible for Evelyn to go there. Much to his annoyance, he was sent in May 1917 to Lancing, in his view a decidedly inferior establishment.[17]

Waugh soon overcame his initial aversion to the school and settled down. He began to establish a reputation as an aesthete and, in November 1917, had an essay "In Defence of Cubism" accepted by the arts magazine *Drawing and Design*—his first published article.[21] Within the school, he became mildly subversive, mocking the school's cadet corps and founding the Corpse Club "for those who were weary of life".[22] The end of the war saw the return to the school of younger masters such as J. F. Roxburgh, who encouraged Waugh to write and predicted a great future for him.[23] A biography of Roxburgh (who went on to be first headmaster of Stowe School) was the last work given a literary review by Waugh, in *The Observer* on 17 October 1965.[24] Another mentor, Francis Crease, taught Waugh the arts of calligraphy and decorative design; some of the boy's work was good enough to be used by Chapman and Hall on book jackets.[25]

In his later years at Lancing, Waugh achieved conventional success, becoming a house-captain, editor of the school magazine, president of the debating society, and winning numerous art and literature prizes.[22] He also shed most of his religious beliefs.[26] He started a novel of school life, untitled, but after around 5,000 words, the attempt was abandoned.[27] He ended his schooldays by winning a scholarship to Hertford College, Oxford, and left Lancing in December 1921.[28]

Waugh arrived in Oxford in January 1922. He was soon writing to old friends at Lancing about the pleasures of his new life; he informed Tom Driberg: "I do no work here and never go to Chapel".[29] During his first two terms he generally followed convention; he smoked a pipe, bought a bicycle, chewed sweets, and gave his maiden speech at the Oxford Union, opposing the motion that "This House would welcome Prohibition".[30] Waugh wrote reports on Union debates for both Oxford magazines, *Cherwell* and *Isis*, and acted as a film critic for *Isis*. [31][32] He also became secretary of the Hertford College debating society, "an onerous but not honorific post", he told Driberg.[33] Although Waugh tended to regard his scholarship as a reward rather than a stepping-stone to academic success, he did sufficient work in his first two terms to pass his "History Previous", or preliminary examinations.[34]

The arrival in Oxford in October 1922 of the sophisticated Etonians Harold Acton and Brian Howard changed Waugh's Oxford life. Acton and Howard rapidly became the centre of an avant-garde circle known as the Hypocrites, whose artistic, social and homosexual values Waugh adopted enthusiastically;[35] he later wrote: "It was the stamping ground of half my Oxford life".[36] He began drinking heavily, and embarked on the first of several homosexual relationships, the most lasting of which were with Richard Pares and Alastair Graham.[22][37] He continued to write reviews and short stories for the university journals, and developed a reputation as a talented graphic artist, but formal study largely ceased.[22] This neglect led to a bitter feud between Waugh and his history tutor, C. R. M. F. Cruttwell, dean (and later principal) of Hertford College. When Cruttwell advised

him to mend his ways, Waugh responded in a manner he admitted later was "fatuously haughty",^[38] from which point relations between the two descended into mutual hatred.^[39] Waugh continued the feud long after his Oxford days, by using Cruttwell's name in his early novels for a succession of ludicrous, ignominious or odious minor characters.^[40]^[n 2]

Waugh's dissipated lifestyle continued into his final Oxford year, 1924. A letter written that year to a Lancing friend, Dudley Carew, hints at severe emotional pressures: "I have been living very intensely these last three weeks. For the last fortnight I have been nearly insane ... I may perhaps one day in a later time tell you some of the things that have happened."^[41] He did just enough work to pass his final examinations in the summer of 1924 with a third class degree, a poor result which led to the loss of his scholarship. This effectively prevented him from returning to Oxford to complete the nine terms' residence that, under the University's statutes, were necessary before his degree could be awarded, so he left without one.^[n 3] Back at Underhill he began a novel, *The Temple at Thatch*, and worked with some of his fellow-Hypocrites on a film, *The Scarlet Woman*, which was shot partly in the gardens at Underhill. He spent much of the rest of the summer in the company of Alastair Graham; after Graham departed for Kenya, Waugh enrolled for the autumn at a London art school, Heatherley's.^[43]

Waugh began at Heatherley's in late September 1924, but became bored with the routine and soon abandoned his course.^[44] He spent weeks partying in London and Oxford before the overriding need for money led him to apply through an agency for a teaching job. Almost at once he secured a post at Arnold House, a boys' preparatory school in North Wales, beginning in January 1925. He took with him the notes for his novel, *The Temple at Thatch*, intending to work on it in his spare time. Despite the gloomy ambience of the school, Waugh did his best to fulfil the requirements of his position, but a brief return to London and Oxford during the Easter vacation only exacerbated his sense of isolation.^[45]

In the summer of 1925 Waugh's outlook briefly improved, with the prospect of a job in Pisa as secretary to the Scottish writer Charles Scott Moncrieff who was engaged on the English translations of Proust's works. Believing that the job was his, Waugh resigned his position at Arnold House. He had meantime sent the early chapters of his novel to Acton for assessment and criticism. Acton's reply was coolly dismissive, so that Waugh immediately burnt his manuscript; shortly afterwards, before he had left North Wales, he received the news that the Moncrieff job had fallen through.^[46] These twin blows were sufficient for him to consider suicide. He records that he went down to a nearby beach and, leaving a note with his clothes, walked out to sea. An attack by jellyfish changed his mind, and he returned quickly to the shore.^[47]

In December 1927 Waugh and Evelyn Gardner became engaged, despite the opposition of Lady Burghclere, who felt that Waugh lacked moral fibre and kept unsuitable company.^[58] Among their friends they quickly became known as "He-Evelyn" and "She-Evelyn".^[22] Waugh was at this time dependent on a £4-a-week allowance from his father, and the small sums he could earn from book reviewing and journalism.^[59] The Rossetti biography was published to a generally favourable reception in April 1928: J. C. Squire in *The Observer* praised the book's elegance and wit; Acton gave cautious approval; and the novelist Rebecca West wrote to express how much she had enjoyed the book. Less pleasing to Waugh was the *Times Literary Supplement's* references to him as "Miss Waugh".^[55]

When *Decline and Fall* was completed, Duckworth objected to its "obscenity", but Chapman and Hall agreed to publish it.^[60] This was sufficient for Waugh and Gardner to bring forward their wedding plans. They were married in St Paul's Church, Portman Square, on 27 June 1928, with only Acton, Alec Waugh, and the bride's friend Pansy Pakenham present.^[61] The couple made their home in a small flat in Canonbury Square, Islington.^[62] The first months of the marriage were overshadowed by a lack of money, and by Gardner's poor health, which persisted into the autumn.^[63]

In September 1928 *Decline and Fall* was published to almost unanimous praise. By December the book was into its third printing, and the American publishing rights were sold for \$500.^[64] In the

afterglow of this success Waugh was commissioned to write travel articles in return for a free Mediterranean cruise, which he and Gardner began in February 1929 as an extended, delayed honeymoon. The trip was disrupted when Gardner contracted pneumonia and was carried ashore to the British hospital in Port Said. The couple returned home in June after her recovery. A month later, without warning, Gardner confessed that their mutual friend, John Heygate, had become her lover. After an attempted reconciliation failed, a shocked and dismayed Waugh filed for divorce on 3 September 1929. The couple apparently met again only once, during the process for the annulment of their marriage a few years later.[65]

Waugh's biographer, Christopher Sykes, records that after the divorce friends "saw, or believed they saw, a new hardness and bitterness" in Waugh's outlook.[66] Nevertheless, despite a letter to Acton in which he wrote that he "did not know it was possible to be so miserable and live",[67] Waugh soon resumed his professional and social life. He finished his second novel, *Vile Bodies*, [68] and wrote articles including (ironically he thought) one for the *Daily Mail* on the meaning of the marriage ceremony.[67] Between September and January 1930, when the novel was published, Waugh moved between the various houses of his friends, a practice he was to continue as he was to have no settled home for the next eight years.[68]

Vile Bodies, a satire on the Bright Young People of the 1920s, was published on 19 January 1930 and was Waugh's first major commercial success. Despite its quasi-biblical title, the book is dark, bitter, "a manifesto of disillusionment", according to biographer Martin Stannard.[69] As a best-selling author Waugh could now command larger fees for his journalism.[68] Amid regular work for *The Graphic*, *Town and Country* and *Harper's Bazaar*, he quickly wrote *Labels*, a detached account of his honeymoon cruise with She-Evelyn.[68]

On 10 October 1930 Waugh, representing several newspapers, departed for Abyssinia to cover the coronation of Haile Selassie. He reported the event as "an elaborate propaganda effort" to convince the world that Abyssinia was a civilised nation, concealing the truth that the emperor had achieved power through barbarous means.[75] A subsequent journey through the British East Africa colonies and the Belgian Congo formed the basis of two books; the travelogue *Remote People* (1931) and the comic novel *Black Mischief* (1932).[76] Waugh's next extended trip, in the winter of 1932â€“33, was to British Guiana (now Guyana) in South America, possibly taken to distract him from a long and unrequited passion for the socialite Teresa Jungman.[77] On arrival in Georgetown, Waugh arranged a river trip by steam launch into the interior. He travelled on via several staging-posts to Boa Vista in Brazil, and then took a convoluted overland journey back to Georgetown.[78] His various adventures and encounters found their way into two further books: his travel account *Ninety-two days*, and the novel *A Handful of Dust*, both published in 1934.[79]

Waugh's social circle in the 1930s expanded and he relied on aristocratic friends for places to stay when he returned from his travels. Amongst his acquaintances were Diana Guinness and Bryan Guinness (dedicatees of *Vile Bodies*), Lady Diana Cooper and her husband Duff Cooper,[90] Nancy Mitford who was originally a friend of Evelyn Gardner's,[91] and the Lygon sisters. Waugh had known Hugh Patrick Lygon at Oxford; now he was introduced to the girls and their country house, Madresfield Court, which became the closest that he had to a home during his years of wandering.[92] In 1933, on a Greek islands cruise, he was introduced by Father D'Arcy to Gabriel Herbert, eldest daughter of the late explorer Aubrey Herbert. When the cruise ended Waugh was invited to stay at the Herbert family's villa in Portofino, where he was introduced to Gabriel's 17-year-old sister, Laura Herbert.[93]

On his conversion, Waugh had accepted that he would be unable to remarry while Evelyn Gardner was alive. However, he wanted a wife and children, and in October 1933 began proceedings for the annulment of the marriage on the grounds of "lack of real consent." The case was heard by an ecclesiastical tribunal in London, but a delay in the submission of the papers to Rome meant that the annulment was not granted until 4 July 1936.[94] In the meantime, following their initial encounter in Portofino, Waugh had fallen in love with Laura Herbert.[95] He proposed marriage, by letter, in Spring 1936.[96] There were initial misgivings from the Herberts, an aristocratic Catholic family; as a further complication, Laura Herbert was a cousin of Evelyn Gardner.[22] Despite some

family hostility the marriage took place on 17 April 1937.[97]

As a wedding present the bride's grandmother bought the couple Piers Court, a country house near Stinchcombe in Gloucestershire.[98] Their first child, a daughter, Maria Teresa, was born on 9 March 1938 and a son, Auberon Alexander, on 17 November 1939.[99] Between these events, *Scoop* was published in May 1938 to wide critical acclaim.[100] In August 1938 Waugh, with Laura, made a three-month trip to Mexico after which he wrote *Robbery under Law*, based on his experiences there. In the book he spelled out clearly his conservative credo; he later described the book as dealing "little with travel and much with political questions".[101]

At the outbreak of the war in September 1939, Waugh left Piers Court and moved his young family to Pixton Park in Somerset, the Herbert family's country seat, while he sought military employment.[102] He also began a novel, in a new style using first-person narration.[103] Work on this project ceased when in December Waugh was commissioned into the Royal Marines and began training at Chatham naval base.[104] The novel was never completed; fragments were eventually published under the title *Work Suspended*. [105]

Waugh was soon involved in a daily training routine that left him with "so stiff a spine that he found it painful even to pick up a pen".[106] In April he was promoted temporarily to captain and given command of a company,[107] but even after the German invasion of the Low Countries his battalion was not called into action.[108] Waugh's inability to adapt to regimental life meant that he soon lost his command and became the battalion's Intelligence Officer. In this role he finally saw action, as part of the force sent in August 1940 to Dakar in Western Africa to support an attempt by Free French troops to install General de Gaulle as leader there. Hampered by fog, and misinformed about the extent of the town's defences, the mission was a failure, and on 26 September the British forces withdrew. Waugh commented that "Bloodshed has been avoided at the cost of honour." [109][110]

In November 1940 Waugh was posted to a commando unit and after further training became a member of "Layforce" under Brigadier Robert Laycock.[109] In February 1941 the unit sailed to the Mediterranean, where it participated in an unsuccessful attempt to recapture Bardia, on the Libyan coast.[111] In May the force was required to assist in the evacuation of Crete; Waugh was shocked by the disorder, loss of discipline and, as he saw it, cowardice of the departing troops.[112] On the roundabout journey home in July by troopship Waugh wrote *Put Out More Flags*, a novel of the early months of the war written in his familiar 1930s style.[113] Back in England, more training and waiting followed, until in May 1942 Waugh was transferred, on Laycock's recommendation, to the Royal Horse Guards.[114] On 10 June 1942 Laura gave birth to a fourth child, Margaret.[115][n 4]

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