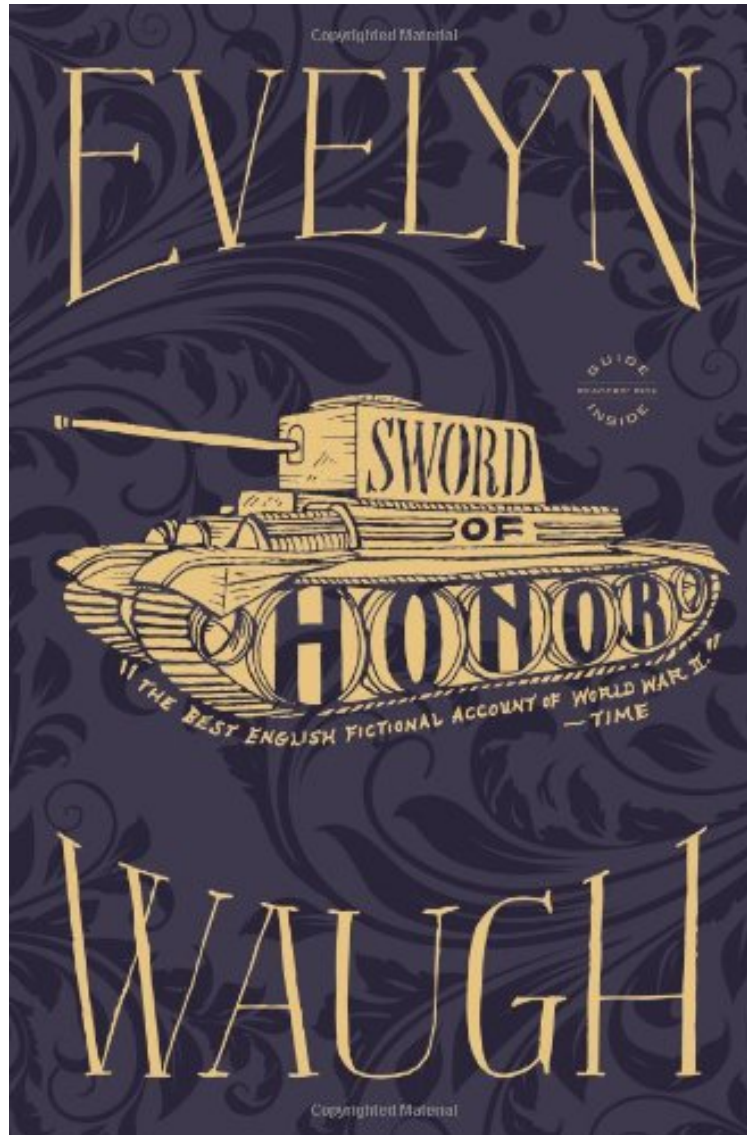


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Sword of Honor

Evelyn Waugh

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Evelyn Waugh : Sword of Honor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sword of Honor:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Waugh, what is he good for? By Francis O Walker Absolutely something, as he attempts to address the fundamental question of what, if anything, in war is good In Sword of Honor he paints a lucid, unemotional yet engaging mural of combatants, families, the times, social strata, venues, monotony, waste and political backdrop of the second-world war—as lived by individuals. Violence and suffering, although

present, are subplots, characterized by randomness more than intent. It contrasts nicely with John Keegan's *The Face of Battle*, which characterizes a typical combatant's internecine experience; here Waugh captures the inter-combat experience of participants and non-participants caught up in the maelstrom. And unlike Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*, which has all the subtlety of a Stuka dive-bomber (Like all things German, very efficient but goes on far too long—Evelyn Waugh as cited by Atkinson: *The Day of Battle*.) *Sword of Honor* captures the insanities of war and its flawed constituents with an unerring appreciation of the humane. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Not just a period piece

By Paul Boyles I have only recently been introduced to Evelyn Waugh and of the several books that I have read this is my favorite. This is three books in one, but I could not imagine reading it any other way. While the book is set in World War II and is written from the perspective of the British aristocracy, the book is far deeper than this perspective. It really highlights the irony and lunacy of war without the pompous criticism found in most books of this type. It is far, FAR better than *Catch-22*. But what struck me as a deeper theme of the book is that of a man who perseveres in the Faith despite the insanity that the world throws at him, be it war or deeper cultural shifts. That theme certainly is as current today as when the book was written. The last line of the book is possibly the best ending to a book I have ever read. It is at once ironic, heartbreaking, and inspiring - it is the whole of what I have found in Evelyn Waugh.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Unconventional masterpiece

By Reviewer One of the finest books I've ever had to pleasure to read - Waugh's is at the top of his game as far as his character's and dialogue. The book essentially is a satire of military while also being a heart-breaking character study. Guy Crouchback is a wonderful protagonist full of realistic motivations, but I find the supporting characters really make the book shine. From the blustering Apthorpe to the hilarious De Zousa - they all enhance the world that Waugh builds. Major Hound's odyssey on Crete is one of my favorite book passages ever. An incredible work - obviously highly recommended.

This trilogy spanning World War II, based in part on Evelyn Waugh's own experiences as an army officer, is the author's surpassing achievement as a novelist. Its central character is Guy Crouchback, head of an ancient but decayed Catholic family, who at first discovers new purpose in the challenge to defend Christian values against Nazi barbarism, but then gradually finds the complexities and cruelties of war overwhelming. Though often somber, *Sword of Honor* is also a brilliant comedy, peopled by the fantastic figures so familiar from Waugh's early satires. The deepest pleasures these novels afford come from observing a great satiric writer employ his gifts with extraordinary subtlety, delicacy, and human feeling, for purposes that are ultimately anything but satiric.

"*Sword of Honour* was the climax of Waugh's career as a novelist . . . Here in his final work there run together the two styles, of mischief and gravity, that can be noted in his writing from the beginning . . . He may justifiably have thought of it as crowning his work." —Frank Kermode

"*Sword of Honor* now clearly emerges as Mr. Waugh's main achievement to date, and the one piece of English fiction about World War II which is certain to survive." —*Times Literary Supplement*

About the Author Evelyn Waugh (1903-1966), whom *Time* called "one of the century's great masters of English prose," wrote several widely acclaimed novels as well as volumes of biography, memoir, travel writing, and journalism. Three of his novels, *A Handful of Dust*, *Scoop*, and *Brideshead Revisited*, were selected by the Modern Library as among the 100 best novels of the twentieth century.