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The Ordeal of Gilbert Pinfold

By Waugh, Evelyn.

Back Bay. 1 Paperback(s), 2012. soft. Book Condition: New. Gilbert Pinfold is a reclusive Catholic novelist suffering from acute inertia, in this late work from Evelyn Waugh "the very model of the modern paranoid novel" (NYTimes). In an attempt to defeat insomnia, Pinfold has been imbibing an unappetizing cocktail of bromide, chloral, and crème de menthe. He books a passage on the SS Caliban and, as it cruises towards Ceylon, he begins hearing sounds coming through the ceiling of his cabin: wild jazz bands, barking dogs, and loud revival meetings. He is convinced that an erratic public-address system is letting him hear everything that goes on aboard ship, until instead of just sounds he hears voices, talking in the most frighteningly intimate way about him. Named one of the era's "great masters of English prose" by Time and others, Waugh produced 16 novels, as well as several volumes of short fiction, biography, memoir, and essays. A Handful of Dust, Scoop, and Brideshead Revisited were all selected by the Modern Library as among the 100 best novels of the 20th century, while the Sword of Honor trilogy Men at Arms, Officers and Gentlemen, and Unconditional Surrender was deemed "the one genuine masterpiece to come..."



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