



# Modern Classics Sword of Honour (Penguin Modern Classics)

*Evelyn Waugh*

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Fictionalising his experience of service during the Second World War, Evelyn Waugh's *Sword of Honour* is the complete one-volume edition of his masterful trilogy, edited with an introduction by Angus Calder in Penguin Modern Classics. Waugh's own unhappy experience of being a soldier is superbly re-enacted in this story of Guy Crouchback, a Catholic and a gentleman, commissioned into the Royal Corps of Halberdiers during the war years 1939-45. High comedy - in the company of Brigadier Ritchie-Hook or the denizens of Bellamy's Club - is only part of the shambles of Crouchback's war. When action comes in Crete and in Yugoslavia, he discovers not heroism, but humanity. *Sword of Honour* combines three volumes: *Officers and Gentlemen*, *Men at Arms* and *Unconditional Surrender*, which were originally published separately. Extensively revised by Waugh, they were published as the one-volume *Sword of Honour* in 1965, in the form in which Waugh himself wished them to be read. Evelyn Waugh (1903-66) was born in Hampstead, second son of Arthur Waugh, publisher and literary critic, and brother of Alec Waugh, the popular novelist. In 1928 he published his first work, a life of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and his first novel, *Decline and Fall*, which was soon followed by *Vile Bodies* (1930), *A Handful of Dust* (1934) and *Scoop* (1938). In 1939 he was commissioned in the Royal Marines and later transferred to the Royal Horse Guards, serving in the Middle East and in Yugoslavia. In 1942 he published *Put Out More Flags* and then in 1945 *Brideshead Revisited*. *Men at Arms* (1952) was the first volume of 'The *Sword of Honour*' trilogy, and won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize; the other volumes, *Officers and Gentlemen* and *Unconditional Surrender*, followed in 1955 and 1961. If you enjoyed *Sword of Honour*, you might like Ford Madox Ford's *Parade's End*, also available in Penguin Modern Classics. 'Marvellous ... one of the masterpieces of the century' John Banville, *Irish Times*

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