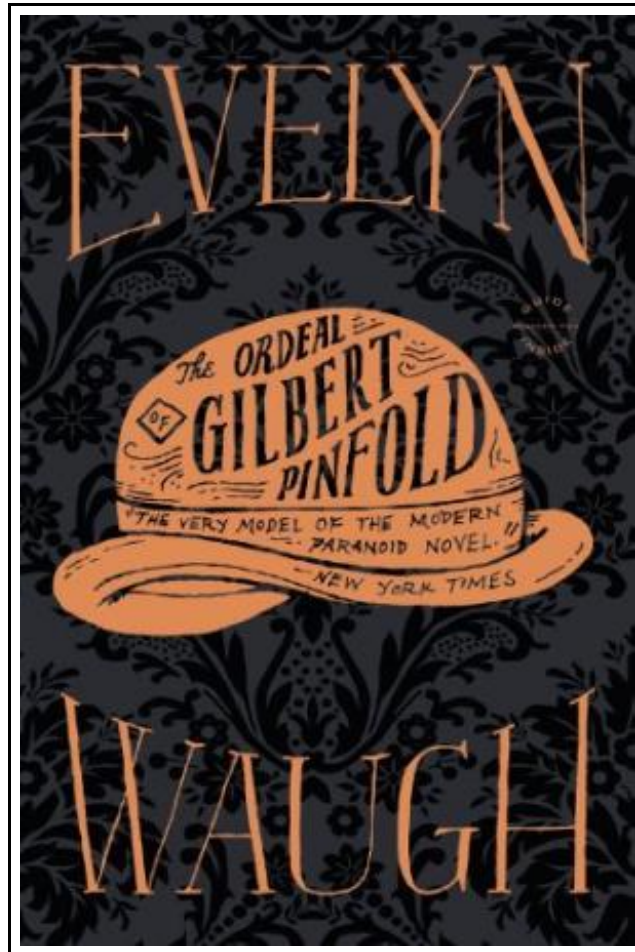


The Ordeal of Gilbert Pinfold



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Reviews

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THE ORDEAL OF GILBERT PINFOLD



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 out of World War II" (New Republic). This fine trade paperback edition, part of a uniform series of Waugh from Back Bay, includes a readers' guide and supplemental material. "The Ordeal of Gilbert Pinfold is a masterpiece of self-portraiture, one of the very best in English fiction." John Bailey "Waugh's 'portrait of the artist in middle age' . is a genuine gothic horror, a gargoyle to terrify anyone who has ever contemplated a literary career. The acid bath so often prepared for others has now found its way into his own tub. Waugh draws an intimate picture of a distinguished author at bay." NYTBR...



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