



Modern Classics Loved One (Penguin Modern Classics)

Evelyn Waugh

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Subtitled *An Anglo-American Tragedy*, Evelyn Waugh's *The Loved One* is a witty satirical novel on artistic integrity and the British expat community in Hollywood, published in Penguin Modern Classics. The more startling for the economy of its prose and plot, this novel's story, set among the manicured lawns and euphemisms of Whispering Glades Memorial Park in Hollywood, satirizes the American way of death and offers Waugh's memento mori. Following the death of a friend, poet and pets' mortician Dennis Barlow finds himself entering into the artificial Hollywood paradise of the Whispering Glades Memorial Park. Within its golden gates, death, American-style, is wrapped up and sold like a package holiday. There, Dennis enters the fragile and bizarre world of Aimée, the naïve Californian corpse beautician, and Mr Joyboy, the master of the embalmer's art... A dark and savage satire on the Anglo-American cultural divide, *The Loved One* depicts a world where love, reputation and death cost a very great deal. 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 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 *The Loved One*, you might like Waugh's *Vile Bodies*, also available in Penguin Modern Classics. 'The master of black comedy' Sunday Times 'One of the funniest and most significant books of the century' Alice Thomas Ellis, Daily Telegraph

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