

(Download free ebook) A Handful of Dust

## A Handful of Dust

*Evelyn Waugh*

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#137860 in Books Evelyn Waugh 2012-12-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .75 x 5.50l, .55 #File Name: 0316216267308 pages A Handful of Dust | File size: 27.Mb

**Evelyn Waugh : A Handful of Dust** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Handful of Dust:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully Written But Very Dark Book By Jeffrey J. Ward Evelyn Waugh, certainly one of the foremost British novelist's of the 20th century, is famous for his satirical accounts of the British aristocracy. This is a dark and misanthropic novel from the Depression era between the wars. Tony Last is portrayed somewhat sympathetically but is at the same time pathetically trying to hold on to the old ways and his

dreary, gothic estate. His frivolous and later estranged wife Brenda is very negatively portrayed--she leaves her husband for the well educated but universally disliked John Beaver. The portrayal of Brenda and John Beaver's mother and other female characters in this novel have caused some critics to call Evelyn Waugh a misogynist. He loves the dying British aristocracy but is, in the same breath, among its most caustic critics.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. **YOU GET TO CHOOSE THE ENDING!**By Gordon Hastings Followers of this blog know that I enjoy delving back among the best known authors and retrieving works that I have not read. Evelyn Waugh's *A Handful of Dust* is one more example. Written in 1934, *A Handful of Dust* is listed as number 34 of the Modern Library's 100 Best English Language Novels of the 20th Century. *A Handful of Dust* is set in 1930s Victorian England, and focuses on the breakdown of the marriage of Tony and Brenda Last. The aristocratic Tony is preoccupied with the maintenance of his family country estate, Brenda is bored with her isolation there and also with Tony. Enter John Beaver, a self-interested and impoverished social climber who invites himself to Hetton ( Tony's estate) for the weekend. The affair with Brenda, who yearns for urban excitement, begins when she takes a flat in London and "goes back to school!" In his introduction to the Everyman's Library publication , William Boyd quotes from Waugh's *Labels*, a travel book Waugh wrote after his own broken marriage. "Fortune is the least capricious of deities, and arranges things on the just and rigid system that no one shall be very happy for very long." Are many great novels autobiographical? You bet! And so the story of infidelity unfolds often reminiscent to me of *Idina Sackville* in *The Bolter* although a littler less tawdry! In an amazing twist, the reader of the Everyman's Library publication of *A Handful of Dust* gets the option of the two endings! When the book was to be serialized in an American magazine they determined Waugh's original ending too dreary so he wrote a new one! I like the latter the best which includes a sort of just rewards for Tony Last. I think it made Waugh feel better. Enjoy! The best known of Waugh's novels is *Brideshead Revisited* ( 1945) and later *Sword of Honor* ( 1952-1961), his World War II Trilogy. *A Handful of Dust* and *Brideshead Revisited* were made into motion pictures. For reviews of more " classics" go to [gordonsgoodreads.com](http://gordonsgoodreads.com) 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very enjoyable read By Loretta Parker I read this book on the suggestion of the Wall Street Journal Book Club. I found the entire book entertaining, highly satirical and rather thought provoking. The best part in my opinion was the final third of the book when Tony goes on the adventure to South America, so unexpected. Read the book and then watch the movie which was beautifully filmed and very well acted. So happy I read this book, I could go into the symbolism and the what I thought the authors intent was, but read it for yourself. You will be pleased.

After seven years of marriage, the beautiful Lady Brenda Last has grown bored with life at Hetton Abbey, the Gothic mansion that is the pride and joy of her husband, Tony. She drifts into an affair with the shallow socialite John Beaver and forsakes Tony for the Belgravia set. In a novel that combines tragedy, comedy, and savage irony, Evelyn Waugh indelibly captures the irresponsible mood of the "crazy and sterile generation" between the wars.

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.