



Coward Plays: 2: Private Lives; Bitter-Sweet; The Marquise; Post-Mortem (World Classics) (Vol 2)

By Noël Coward

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Coward Plays: 2: Private Lives; Bitter-Sweet; The Marquise; Post-Mortem (World Classics) (Vol 2) By Noël Coward

The plays in this volume demonstrate the extraordinary skill and versatility Coward's writing achieved in the late 1920s.

The volume contains

his best-loved classic, *Private Lives*, which was an immediate hit when it was first staged in 1930. Coward's sparkling dialogue and repartee have ensured the play's popularity ever since. Of *Bitter-Sweet* in 1929 Noël Coward wrote that it was "a musical that gave me more complete satisfaction than anything else I had yet written. Not especially on account of its dialogue or its lyrics or its music or its production but as a whole." *The Marquise* is an "eighteenth century comedy" filled with maids and duels, whilst *Post-Mortem* is a vilification of war that contains some of Coward's most powerful writing.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Noël Coward was born in 1899 in Teddington, Middlesex. He made his name as a playwright with *The Vortex* (1924), in which he also appeared. His numerous other successful plays included *Fallen Angels* (1925), *Hay Fever* (1925), *Private Lives* (1933), *Design for Living* (1933) and *Blithe Spirit* (1941). During the war he wrote screenplays such as *Brief Encounter* (1944) and *In Which We Serve* (1942). In the fifties he began a new career as a cabaret entertainer. He published volumes of verse and a novel (*Pomp and Circumstance*, 1960), two volumes of autobiography and four volumes of short stories: *To Step Aside* (1939), *Star Quality* (1951), *Pretty Polly Barlow* (1964) and *Bon Voyage* (1967). He was knighted in 1970 and died three years later in Jamaica.

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