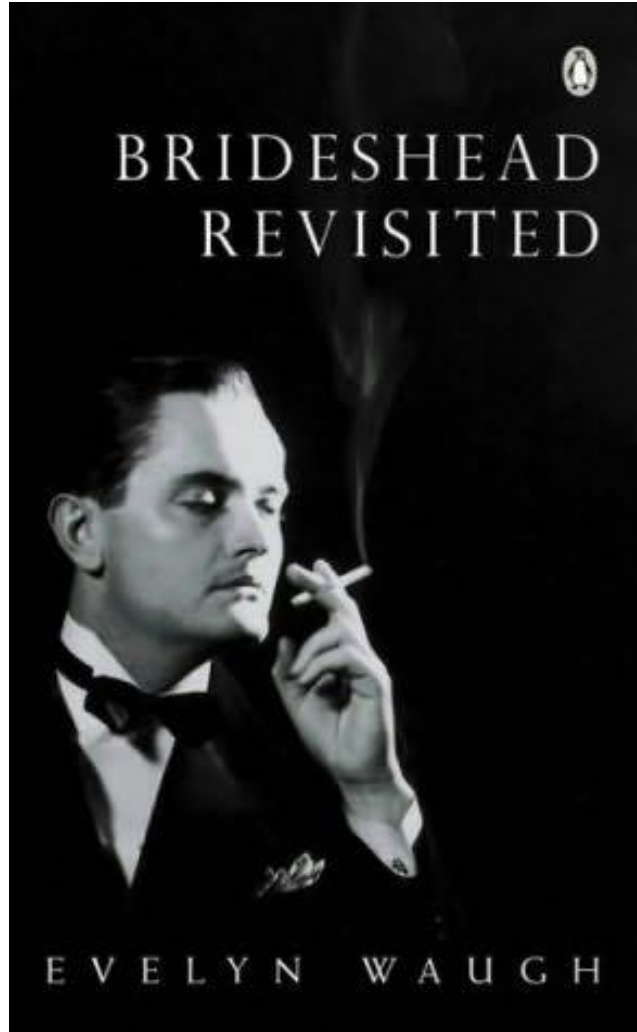


## **A Summary of *Brideshead Revisited: The Sacred and Profane Memories of Captain Charles Ryder* by Evelyn Waugh**



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Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1999

ISBN: 0-316-92634-5

[You can purchase the full text on Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/Brideshead-Revisited-Evelyn-Waugh/dp/0316926345)

## About the Author

Evelyn Arthur St. John Waugh was born in England, October 28, 1903. Waugh was not Catholic by birth, but rather Anglican. His own father was an Anglican clergyman and, as a young boy, Waugh had a firm love of the Anglican faith rooted in his heart.

Waugh was sent to Heath Mount preparatory school, and then to Lancing College. Here he lost the faith of his boyhood. After Heath Mount and Lancing, Waugh attended Hertford College at Oxford University in 1922. In 1924 he achieved a third-class degree, but left the university without accepting it.

After leaving Oxford, Waugh began to establish himself as a world renowned author. The first work that he published was *Decline and Fall* in 1928. Then in 1930, after a long search, and traveling through Catholic Europe, Evelyn Waugh discovered the truth of the Catholic Church and converted. Waugh wrote one of his most popular novels, *Brideshead Revisited*, in 1945. Evelyn Waugh would continue to write until his death in 1966 on April 10<sup>th</sup> at Combe Florey.

## General Overview

Captain Charles Ryder is an officer in the British Forces during World War II. Despite his original infatuation with the army he has now become disenchanted with that way of life. During a routine relocation practice Charles finds himself at a home in the English countryside that occupied much of his time as a youth. Now, run down and intended for the use of officers' quarters, Charles find himself gazing at the house and reflecting on his past.

Years ago Charles had been a student at Oxford, where he met Sebastian Flyte, a wealthy young lord who is constantly looking for pleasure and fun. The two young men become close friends and eventually Sebastian takes Charles to his home, Brideshead.

Despite the one visit Charles pays to Brideshead, Sebastian keeps his family a secret from Charles and the life at Brideshead remains a mystery. However, one summer Sebastian breaks his foot and requests that Charles come and stay with him at Brideshead, during this time Charles gradually meets the Marchmain family. After this extended visit, Charles frequently returns to the Marchmain home, much to the disapproval of Sebastian.

Sebastian eventually becomes an alcoholic and he and Charles go their separate ways. Charles leaves Oxford and goes to Europe to become a painter, and eventually, he becomes a famous architectural painter. He marries, and at one point, leaves England to paint in the jungles of South America.

When he returns from South America, Charles meets Julia, Sebastian's sister, on the ship back to England. He proceeds to have an affair with Julia that results in the divorce of both Charles from his wife and Julia from her husband. The illicit couple to live at Brideshead until it is possible for them to marry.

While they are at Brideshead, Lord Marchmain, Sebastian and Julia's father, returns after a very long absence to die in the Marchmain home. Just before Lord Marchmain dies, he converts to Catholicism. Though she still loves Charles, Julia sees the error of her ways and leaves Charles. Although it is never mentioned, the reader comes to the understanding that after Julia leaves, Charles also converts to Catholicism.

## Prologue

The company, to which Captain Charles Ryder belongs, is in the process of moving camp. Charles reflects on the fact that he no longer has any fantasies about life in the army; there is nothing there for him. He is

disillusioned with the life of the modern world and longs for the grandeur and splendor that existed before the war. He feels that the future is represented in one of the petty officers, Hooper. Hooper is a quick youth, but fails to see the beauty behind things, even life.

As his company prepares to leave, they are inspected by one of the superior officers. Charles is reprimanded for leaving behind garbage in a ditch. After the officer leaves, Hooper points out that the garbage was there even before their company arrived. Charles methodically orders soldiers to clean up the mess.

The company leaves by train that night. The soldiers are unaware of their destination, some hope that they are actually going to the front, but Charles is not so enthusiastic. While on the train there is a drill for an air raid. The men onboard methodically go through the motions of the drill. The company arrives before dawn and the men set up camp.

When Charles awakes in the morning and walks outside he is amazed to realize that he has been in this place before. They are encamped on a great estate with a large manor house. The sight of the house and the grounds brings back a flood of memories to Charles Ryder.

## Book One: Et In Arcadia Ego

### Chapter One

The first memory that Charles revisits is a particular afternoon spent with Lord Sebastian Flyte of the Marchmain Family. This particular afternoon the two young men are escaping the hustle and bustle of Eight Weeks at Oxford by going to visit a friend who Sebastian calls Hawkins. On their way they have a picnic of strawberries and champagne.

When Charles first came to Oxford, he was advised by his cousin, Jasper, as where to live, how to dress, and who to socialize with. Charles was instructed to avoid Roman Catholic's, as their groups were always questionable, but Charles found one of the most interesting people in Oxford to be a Roman Catholic, Lord Sebastian Flyte.

Sebastian is known in Oxford for being whimsical. For example, Sebastian carries a large bear under his arm which he had named Aloysius. Even the way that Charles meets Sebastian was unusual. Sebastian, after an evening of heavy drinking, puts his head in the front window of Charles' apartment and is sick. Sebastian sends flowers, and an apology with an invitation to a luncheon party the very next day.

At the luncheon party Charles has his first opportunity to meet and talk with Sebastian. Charles finds him just as agreeable as he imagined. Here at the party Charles also meets others in Sebastian's circle, including Anthony Blanche, a blatant homosexual.

The scene returns to the afternoon drive. In the afternoon the young men arrive at the stately home of Sebastian. Charles is enchanted with the place, but Sebastian seems indifferent, if not repulsed by the house of his family. Immediately upon arrival Sebastian takes Charles to meet Hawkins, who turns out to be the ancient family nanny.

Nanny Hawkins lives in the dome of the huge house, where the nursery was when the children of the Marchmain family were young. Nanny Hawkins tells Sebastian that he has just missed his sister Julia who drove down from the city to visit. Sebastian seems relieved to have missed an opportunity to visit with his sister.

As most of the large house is closed up, Sebastian shows Charles a few rooms, and the family chapel. After visiting the chapel, Sebastian abruptly suggests that they leave and return to Oxford. On their way down the drive, they pass a car in which Julia is inside.

In the car, Sebastian apologizes for the way he acted, he blames his actions on his family. Charles, whose mother died when he was very young and has no other siblings, finds Sebastian's actions strange and unusual.

## Chapter Two

Charles's cousin Jasper arrives to reprimand Charles for associating with Sebastian. He also reprimands him for the extravagant lifestyle he has acquired since he began associating with Sebastian. Jasper has heard reports that Charles and Sebastian have been found drunk at all hours of the day. Charles does not deny any of the accusations; neither does he seem to repent of his lifestyle, nor his friendship with Sebastian.

Charles spends his Easter vacation with a friend named Collins, touring Ravenna. Sebastian communicates with Charles by letter, but the letters are very impersonal and uninformative. Because of Charles' love of art, which he shares with Collins during their trip, Collins is inspired years later to write a book about Byzantine Art.

Charles reflects that the extravagance of the life he lived as a young man is a result of his deprived childhood. As a young man, he lives the life of a child – only his toys are much different objects, such as champagne and cigars

Charles goes to dinner with Anthony Blanche, it is an extravagant affair and Anthony does most of the talking. Anthony tells how he was dragged out of bed and mocked by a bunch of boys for his homosexuality. Using reverse psychology, Anthony gets the better of the rouges, but he still gets put in a fountain. Anthony also talks about Sebastian, about his religious scruples and about his ability to recognize beauty. Anthony also talks about Sebastian's family. Anthony doesn't really give any insight as to how the Marchmains really are, but Charles is interested in this family that Sebastian tries to hide from him. Anthony makes Lady Marchmain out to be a horrible person, Julia to be a heartless girl, Lord Marchmain as Byronic.

After his dinner with Anthony Blanche, Charles returns to his apartment and has a fitful night of sleep. The next morning is Sunday, and, instead of going to Church, Charles goes to meet Sebastian. While he is talking to Sebastian, Charles discovers Anthony is not always the most truthful person and decides not to believe what Anthony has said about the Marchmains.

## Chapter Three

Because of the extravagant lifestyle that he insists on living, Charles soon finds that his funds have run out. So instead of living abroad during his long vacation, Charles returns home to his father. His father is not exactly delighted to see Charles and takes amusement in Charles' predicament. Charles waits for Sebastian to write, but only hears from him once in a very impersonal letter. As the vacation progresses Charles relationship with his father deteriorates, his father frequently tries to irritate Charles, and succeeds. However, the monotony is broken with a telegram of great urgency from Sebastian asking Charles to come to Brideshead at once.

Charles leaves immediately to go to his friend. The tone of Sebastian's message makes it appear as if he was on his death bed and Charles fears for his friend. When he arrives at the station Julia is there to take Charles to Brideshead. Charles is struck by Julia's resemblance to Sebastian. But, on the way to Brideshead, Julia tells Charles that the only thing wrong with Sebastian is that he has broken his foot while playing croquet. Charles is indignant at first, but Sebastian acts as if nothing is wrong and he with Sebastian and Julia settle down to dinner. After Charles is situated, Julia leaves. Charles and Sebastian have all of Brideshead all to themselves.

## Chapter Four

Charles and Sebastian spend their time at Brideshead in luxury. Sebastian explains the history of the house and encourages Charles to paint the enormous fountain that is in front of the house. Charles is an amateur painter and he gives the finished picture to Nanny Hawkins. The two young men also find some oil paints and Charles agrees to try painting a small office room in the house. He begins to decorate a panel in the room.

Charles and Sebastian also learn a little about wine tasting and set about sampling the wine in the vast cellars of Brideshead. Although they always started with good intentions, they almost always end up drunk after the tasting sessions.

There is one thing that intrigues Charles, and that is Sebastian's Roman Catholic faith. He seems to live the life of a heathen and yet he will not leave his faith behind. Charles cannot understand why it is such a problem for Sebastian to believe one thing and yet act another way. Sebastian tries to explain it to Charles, but Charles does not understand.

After a time, Brideshead (who is also called Bridey), Sebastian's older brother, and Cordelia, Sebastian's younger sister, come to visit. Bridey is very strict about his Catholic faith, he follows it exactly. Young Cordelia, who is no less exact about her faith, is a more personable and approachable about her faith. Sebastian explains that his family approaches their faith in different ways. Bridey, Cordelia and their mother are very fervent. Julia and Sebastian often stray from the fold, and their father is excommunicated.

At dinner, Bridey questions Charles about his faith. Charles explains that he is not an atheist, but agnostic. Cordelia in her sweet and simple way tells Charles she will pray for him.

The very next day Sebastian decides to go to Venice and to take Charles along with him. They go to visit Lord Marchmain and his mistress, Cara. Cara takes the boys sightseeing and has some very interesting conversations with Charles. She explains Lord Marchmain to him, a man full of anger. She says that Lord Marchmain left Lady Marchmain, not because she did not love him, but that she loved him the wrong way. Cara also comments on Charles and Sebastian's close relationship. She says that such relationships between young men lead to greater love when they are older. Cara also notices Sebastian's drinking habits and fears that he drinks too much.

Charles and Sebastian return to England just before the next term begins at Oxford. Charles stops at home and his father reprimands him for not writing, saying he was very concerned about Sebastian, not Charles.

## Chapter Five

The next term Sebastian and Charles spend at Oxford is a quiet one. They stay in the shadows instead of the rambunctious parties and outings they used to attend. The set of friends that the two men used to move with gradually breaks apart.

Sebastian has also had a talking to by Monsignor Bell, his local chaplain. Sebastian feels that his mother is trying to restrict his freedoms and he resents it very much. Lady Marchmain also tries to recruit Charles to help regulate Sebastian's drinking. The meeting between Charles and Lady Marchmain makes a dent in Charles' friendship with Sebastian, for Sebastian feels that he cannot trust Charles.

Charles also meets Julia's wealthy friend, Rex Mottram, one morning when Charles stopped by Sebastian's room. Charles invites the couple to lunch at his place, since that is what he and Sebastian were planning to do. Before Rex and Julia leave, Julia invites Charles and Sebastian to a party in the city. The two young men agree to go.

Charles and Sebastian end up getting very drunk, they start drinking even before they get to the party. In the middle of the party they leave with a friend, Boy Mulcaster, to go to a pub called the Old Hundredth. There Boy Mulcaster talks with a girl that he has met there before and two other sickly looking girls come to talk with Sebastian and Charles. After a while one of the girls suggests going back to her place, and the group agrees. Sebastian, in spite of his intoxicated state, decides to drive. They almost get into an accident, they are noticed by the police and Charles, Sebastian and Boy Mulcaster are arrested and taken to jail.

Once they are in jail, Sebastian suggests that they get in contact with Rex; he would be the right man to get them out of jail with as little notice as possible. Rex comes and gets the young men out of jail. Rex explains that Sebastian, because he was driving the car, might be imprisoned for reckless driving. But he assures them that he will do his best to keep the worst from happening. Rex succeeds in preventing Sebastian from going to jail, and Sebastian gets off with a reprimand and a fine of a few pounds.

But Rex cannot save Sebastian from the repercussions at home. Lady Marchmain is justifiably upset, and arranges to have a sort of overseer, Mr. Samgrass, look out for Sebastian while he is at school. School also hears about the incident and Sebastian has to undergo a series of interviews with different authorities.

Charles spends Christmas with the Marchmains; during this time Lady Marchmain take the opportunity to talk to Charles about Catholicism. It is her obvious intention to convert him, and Sebastian does not like this.

Mr. Samgrass continues to haunt Sebastian during the Spring Term. But as the term progresses, Sebastian drinks more and more. Charles spends Easter vacation with the Marchmains at Brideshead, but this time there is a disaster. Sebastian gets drunk every day and makes several scenes with his family. Lady Marchmain tries to get Charles to help Sebastian, but Charles feels that would only drive him to drink more. Lady Marchmain is familiar with Sebastian's drunken ways, for she has seen them before in her husband. Before Charles leaves she gives him a book that was written by her brother.

Charles reads the book that Lady Marchmain gave him on the train back to Oxford. It is about her family and the sacrifices they made for society. Back at Oxford, Sebastian asks Charles which side he is on, his or his mother's. Charles assures Sebastian that he will always be on his side.

The term begins quietly, but Lady Marchmain comes to visit Charles and ask him about Sebastian's drinking. Charles honestly answers that Sebastian has not been drinking. But later in the day Sebastian chooses to get drunk, and Lady Marchmain does not believe Charles. Lady Marchmain says that Sebastian may remain at Oxford if he lives with Monsignor Bell. Sebastian refuses, and he and Charles get hopeless drunk that night as a sort of farewell.

Lady Marchmain leaves in the morning and she takes Sebastian with her. Bridey and Charles sort through and pack Sebastian's things. Charles tries to explain to Bridey that Sebastian is fine until some member of the family starts fussing over Sebastian and religion.

After Bridey has left, Charles seriously thinks about his college career. He realizes that the only reason he stayed on in Oxford was because of Sebastian. So he talks to his father about leaving Oxford and studying art. Charles explains that he wants to study art abroad and his father agrees.

Lady Marchmain sends Charles a letter telling him that Sebastian has left Brideshead to see his father in Venice. After visiting with his father, Sebastian, under the care of Mr. Samgrass, will go tour of Levant. She explains that Sebastian might be back next term to Oxford, but that he will not be living with Charles, as the two had planned. She tells Charles that she hopes to see him at Christmas when Sebastian returns.

## Chapter Six

It is Christmas and Mr. Samgrass is telling all about the excitement he and Sebastian had while on tour. Lady Marchmain invited Charles to Brideshead for a visit. Despite Mr. Samgrass's exiting tales, Charles soon realizes that Sebastian was not with him during his adventures. Mr. Samgrass lost Sebastian for while he was on tour and only found him recently. Lady Marchmain does not know anything about the incident, or at least she does not appear to.

Sebastian, Charles and Cordelia go to visit Nanny Hawkins in the nursery. The old woman is just as she always is, never changing, and she is very happy to see the "children."

The three leave the nursery. Cordelia goes to her dinner, and Sebastian and Charles make their way towards cocktails. When they get to room where cocktails are usually served they find that there is no cocktail tray. Sebastian goes upstairs to dress, but Charles waits below. There he is met by Brideshead who explains that cocktails will no longer be served because of Sebastian, but if Charles wants anything the butler will bring it to him.

Charles goes upstairs to dress and finds that Sebastian has found something to drink. Sebastian says that he got it out of his flask, and Charles leaves him to finish dressing and goes down himself to the drawing-room.

Julia is in the drawing room and explains that Sebastian was drunk earlier, hence no more cocktails. She also confirms Charles' suspicions that Mr. Samgrass lost Sebastian while they were on tour. The party goes into dinner where the drinks are carefully monitored by Lady Marchmain. Sebastian does not appear to be drunk, but the family is worried about a scene. Later Sebastian explains to Charles how he escaped from Mr. Samgrass when they were on tour. It turns out that while he was missing, he was drunk most of the time.

The next day everyone except for Charles goes hunting. The family is happily surprised that Sebastian wants to go hunting too. However, Sebastian asks Charles for money just before he leaves, and Charles gives it to him. Later Sebastian drops out of the hunt and stops by a pub where he proceeds to get drunk.

While the others are hunting, Charles starts painting another panel in the office where he painted the first one during his first stay at Brideshead. Julia comes in to talk to him while he paints; they talk about Sebastian. After Julia has gone Lady Marchmain comes to watch Charles paint, she also talks about Sebastian. Brideshead come home early from the hunt and also talk to Charles about Sebastian. Brideshead tries to explain to Charles that it is immoral for Sebastian to get drunk all the time, but Charles does not understand.

Rex Mottram comes that evening. He also talks about Sebastian and suggests a psychologist. Then Lady Marchmain finds out that Sebastian did not spend the afternoon hunting, but stopped at the first pub he saw and became intoxicated. Sebastian comes home and is immediately ushered off to bed. Lady Marchmain questions Charles later about supplying Sebastian with money for drinks. Charles admits to it, he leaves a little later for Paris

Back in Paris, Charles continues studying art. He receives a letter from Cordelia telling him that Sebastian snuck whiskey and got drunk again. Rex is taking him to see a German psychologist.

Rex makes a sudden visit to Charles a week later. Rex quickly admits that he has lost Sebastian and he was hoping that Sebastian had come to see Charles. Charles tells Rex that he has not seen Sebastian. Rex asks Charles to dinner and Charles agrees to go. They dine at a small but expensive restaurant and Rex tells Charles what has happened lately at Brideshead.

Rex tells Charles that Lady Marchmain is feeling guilty about her treatment of Charles. When Mr. Samgrass started interfering between Julia and Rex, Julia betrayed Mr. Samgrass to Lady Marchmain, and Mr. Samgrass was sent packing. Cordelia had been sneaking whisky to Sebastian. Moreover, although she does not look it, Lady Marchmain is very sick and does not have long to live. Rex also tells Charles that the Marchmains are on their way to financial ruin. Rex also tells Charles that he wants to marry Julia, but Mrs. Marchmain would never approve because of an affair he had with another lady.

Things return to normal for Charles. He reads of Julia and Rex's engagement in the papers. Then he reads of their marriage, which turned out to be a very quiet affair.

## Chapter Seven

Because of Julia's standing as a Catholic in the English aristocracy, it was understood that she would probably not marry well if she married at all. When Rex Mottram appeared in her life, he seemed like an answer to a prayer. Rex was the rich fashionable man that Julia dreamed about, but he was not Catholic. To make matters worse, he had also been involved in a scandalous affair with a woman by the name of Brenda Champion.

Despite Lady Marchmain's disapproval, Julia and Rex became engaged. Julia made an effort to keep her engagement with Rex chaste, but when she found out that he had started seeing Brenda Champion again, she lost all sense of propriety. Even though Lady Marchmain disapproved of the match, the distant Lord Marchmain gave Julia his approval.

Rex told Julia that he hoped to have a big wedding in the Church, but Julia pointed out that because he was protestant they could only have a very small one. Rex then told Julia he would convert just so they could have a big wedding. So preparations were made for Rex to join the Church.

Because Rex's reasons for joining the faith were so artificial, he did not do very well in his studies. However, in the course of Rex's catechesis, it was discovered that he had a wife whom he had divorced. The Marchmains tried to explain that a Catholic could not marry a divorced person. Moreover, if the wedding was to go on as planned Rex would need to get an annulment, which could take some time. In the end, Julia and Rex were married outside the Church, much to the disapproval of all the Marchmains.

## Chapter Eight

Charles came back from Europe during the General Strike in hopes of finding help and glory. When he arrives, however, he found things pretty much as they always were. He meets up with Boy Mulcaster and Anthony Blanche, and goes with them to a party.

Charles enrolls in the Defense Corps in hopes of helping the country against the strike. The only thing the Corps ever does is break up a riot. However, because he joined, Julia finds out that Charles was in England and asks him to come up to Brideshead.

Lady Marchmain is very ill and on her deathbed. Charles goes to Brideshead to see her before she dies. When he arrives Lady Marchmain is so weak he will not be able to see her at all. Julia delivers a message from the sick room to Charles. Lady Marchmain, via Julia, apologizes for her behavior towards Charles. Then she asks if Charles could find Sebastian, apparently he is missing again and no one knows where he is.

Charles leaves to find Sebastian and makes his way to Morocco. There he finds Sebastian in a dirty little city. Charles is directed to a small house and is told that it belongs to Sebastian. In the house he finds a German youth that Sebastian has been caring for. Apparently the young man shot his foot in order to get out of the army, the wound of which has never healed. But Sebastian is not at home, he is in the hospital.



Charles finds Sebastian in the local hospital where he is being taken care of by the brothers. He has withered away to almost nothing because of his drinking and he is very weak. Charles informed Sebastian that his mother was dying and Sebastian appears to be indifferent to this news. Charles sends a telegram to Brideshead saying that he has found Sebastian but he is not strong enough to travel. Even after his mother has died, Sebastian makes it clear that he intends to stay in Morocco with Kurt, the young man who shot his foot. His excuse is that Kurt needs him.

Charles returns to Brideshead. There Bridey questions him about Sebastian's situation and it is decided that Sebastian should remain where he is. Bridey also tells Charles that his father is planning to pull down the house. Before it is destroyed though, Bridey asks Charles if he will paint the house, since architectural painting is Charles' specialty. Cordelia comes to visit with Charles and she tells him that the chapel has been closed and the Blessed Sacrament removed. She also tells him she wants to be a nun.

## Book Two: A Twitch Upon the Thread

### Chapter One

Years have passed and Charles has become a famous architectural painter. He is just returning from a year long journey through South America to paint houses there. He meets his wife at the end of his journey and the two ready to sail across the ocean back to England. Their marriage was under strain even before Charles left for South America and things have not changed much since.

Once they are on the ship ready to head back to England, Charles finds out that Julia Mottram is there too. Charles later meets Julia who is waiting for her maid to unpack her things. Charles is struck by her beauty, charm, and her sadness.

That evening Charles' wife, Celia, hosts a party. The room is full of people that Charles barely knows, and Julia does not come. Charles sees Julia later at dinner. As the dinner progresses and so does the weather, dinner is interrupted as people leave to return to their cabins. Charles, Celia and Julia go to the lounge, but Celia leaves soon after, as the weather is making her feel ill.

Celia stays in bed for almost the remainder of the trip, but Charles is not affected by the weather, neither is Julia. The bad weather continues and Charles and Julia continue to become better acquainted. Julia tells Charles that her marriage with Rex has been gradually deteriorating. Before the storm is over, their relationship becomes adulterous.

Celia feels better towards the end of the trip; Julia and Charles meet less frequently but make plans to meet in England.

### Chapter Two

Once they reach London, Celia has arranged a private viewing of Charles' new pieces from South America. The people that file through the gallery are considered friends by Celia, but the atmosphere is very impersonal. Anthony Blanche hears about the showing and comes to see Charles' work.

Anthony takes Charles to a homosexual bar, and the two of them talk for a while. Anthony is impressed with Charles' paintings from South America. Anthony also seems to know about Charles' affair with Julia. Later Charles meets Julia, and he tells her that he thinks Celia suspects.

Charles goes with Julia to Brideshead; there she and Rex have been living since their marriage. Rex has become a big politics man, and the house is full of his friends. Charles and Julia wonder together how long they will be “safe.”

### Chapter Three

Charles lives at Brideshead with Julia for almost two years. Rex is still there too, but he does not seem to mind Charles’ continual presence. One day Bridey comes down for a visit with some very interesting news.

It turns out that Bridey is to be married. Charles and Julia ask why he has not brought his bride with him to announce the good news. Bridey blankly states that he could not bring his future bride to a place where people are living in sin. Julia is terribly offended and runs out of the room and Charles follows after her.

Charles finds Julia sitting near the huge fountain in the front of the house. Charles tries to comfort her, but Julia will not let him. She also explains that what Bridey said was completely true, that is why it hurt her so much.

When the couple comes back inside Bridey also tells them that he will be moving in the house after he gets married. As the heir to Brideshead, he has the perfect right to do this. Rex needs to find a new place to live and so do Charles and Julia.

Charles and Julia go outside one more time that evening, this time just for a short walk. Julia tells Charles that Sebastian has returned to the Church. Afterwards Julia goes to bed.

### Chapter Four

Charles is in the process of securing a divorce from his wife. He plans to marry Julia and his wife plans to marry another man. When Charles tells his father that he is getting a divorce so he can marry another woman, his father wonders why he is even bothering about getting married at all.

Rex is not too pleased with the idea of divorcing Julia. He feels that they should just continue on as they have. But in the end Rex concedes but says it might take some time.

In the meantime, Julia and Charles are still at Brideshead and Cordelia comes to pay them a visit. It has been twelve years since Charles has last seen Cordelia and upon meeting her, he finds her very plain, even to the point of ugliness. She has been working as a nurse in Spain after the convent did not work out for her. The three of them go to visit Nanny Hawkins, who is still living upstairs in the dome of Brideshead. Nanny comments on Bridey’s choice of wife, a rather large and vulgar woman. Cordelia tells her that she saw Sebastian and that he is living with some monks.

Julia later asks Charles why it seems he has forgotten Sebastian since they were such good friends. Charles replies that Sebastian was a forerunner to Julia. Julia asks Cordelia to tell her more about Sebastian, but Cordelia defers answering until the morning.

The next day Cordelia tells Charles about Sebastian. She had heard that he was dying and went to his aid. There she found him in the infirmary of some missionary fathers. Apparently Sebastian had gone to the fathers and asked to be taken in as a monk. The good men refused his request since it was obvious that he was a drinker. Sebastian returned and asked to become a novice, and he was refused again. Finally someone found him passed out in front of the monastery, at first they thought he was drunk, but it turns out that he was very ill.

The fathers took him and put him in the infirmary. Soon after, Cordelia found him and stayed with him until the worst was over.

Cordelia also found out that his friend Kurt had almost been restored to health. While he was with Kurt, Sebastian was practically sober. But when the two went to Greece, Kurt was put in prison for some misdemeanor and there the German authorities found him and forced him back to Germany. Sebastian followed Kurt to Germany, but he could not find his friend anywhere. When he did find him, Kurt was in the army and almost brainwashed with Hitler's ideas. After talking to Sebastian, Kurt tried to get out of the army, but was caught and put in a concentration camp. Kurt hanged himself the first week he was there.

Cordelia said that the fathers planned to make Sebastian some sort of under-porter and Sebastian would probably live there for the rest of his life.

## Chapter Five

Charles' divorce case is just about ready to be heard. At Brideshead there is a lot of disruption as Rex moves out, Bridey and his new wife prepare to move in, and Julia and Charles prepare to move to London. But all the hubbub of moving comes to a cease with the announcement that Lord Marchmain is coming to Brideshead. The household staff prepare for the coming of the long absent Lord. Bridey and his wife find other accommodations. Julia and Charles move back to Brideshead in order to be there when Lord Marchmain arrives.

When Lord Marchmain does arrive with Cara, all are shocked at his altered appearance. His robust figure seems to have aged overnight. Lord Marchmain quickly gives orders for a bed to be set up in the Chinese drawing-room. Once the preparations have been made, Lord Marchmain goes to bed.

Cara admits that Lord Marchmain has come home for no other purpose than to die. But he is very fearful of death, evening employing people to sit with him while he sleeps. The doctors cannot say how long he has to live, but it is certain that Lord Marchmain is dying.

While he is in bed, Lord Marchmain decides that he does not want to leave the house to Bridey. He is not pleased with the woman Bridey chose for his wife. So Lord Marchmain tells Charles and Julia that he will leave the house to them.

As Lord Marchmain draws closer to his death, Bridey insists that he see a priest. Charles objects, he thinks it will only upset the old gentleman. Julia does not see why her father should not see a priest, and Cordelia and Cara agree. The priest is sent for, but Lord Marchmain refuses to see him. Charles is triumphant that he knew Lord Marchmain would not see the priest. After the priest has left the others try to explain to Charles why Lord Marchmain must see a priest before he dies, but Charles does not understand.

Lord Marchmain continues to get worse and worse. He starts talking to himself, almost to assure himself that he is still alive. At one point he asks Cordelia, who is his almost constant companion, what happened to the chapel he built for his wife. Cordelia tells him that they closed it after the death of Lady Marchmain.

Finally, it becomes very clear that Lord Marchmain does not have long to live. Julia is very insistent that her father have a priest. Charles objects, saying that if Lord Marchmain sees a priest again it will only hasten his death. But Julia does not listen and sends for Father Mackay. Father is not worried about seeing Lord Marchmain, and goes to see him, confident that he will repent of all his sins.

Lord Marchmain is unconscious when Father goes to him. The priest begins the last rites. As he is performing the ritual, Charles prays, probably for the first time, for the forgiveness of Lord Marchmain's sins. He also

prays for a sign for Julia, that she might know her father is saved. To the astonishment of all, Lord Marchmain, who up to this point had been catatonic, silently makes the sign of the cross. That evening Lord Marchmain dies.

After Lord Marchmain dies, Julia and Charles meet secretly out by the fountain. Charles knows that Julia is going to tell him that they cannot be together. Julia explains that she cannot go on living a life of sin; she must either turn to God now, or run from Him for the rest of her life.

## Epilogue

Back at the army camp Charles gives some orders about setting up camp and then goes to look at the house. At the house he finds that some of the old staff still lives there. He meets one of the housemaids taking a cup of tea to Nanny Hawkins. Charles asks if he might take the tea to Nanny Hawkins himself, and the housemaid gives him the cup.

Nanny Hawkins is the same as ever, only older looking. She tells Charles the news of the family. Lord Brideshead is away with the yeomanry, and his wife is living with her children in London. Julia and Cordelia together help in the war, both the women are in Palestine.

Charles leaves Nanny Hawkins and finds that his men have been slacking on the job. He then goes to visit the chapel. There he finds the tabernacle light burning once more. He leaves the chapel with a happy countenance.