Graham Greene: A Life in Letters

This absorbing autobiography in letters offers a remarkable window into the life of one of the greatest novelists of our time. The Best Book of the Year. --David Lodge, The Guardian [UK]

One of the undisputed masters of twentieth-century English prose, Graham Greene (1904-1991) wrote tens of thousands of personal letters. This exemplary volume presents a new and engrossing account of his life constructed out of his own words. Impeccably edited by scholar Richard Greene, the letters—including many unavailable even to his official biographer—give a new perspective on a life that combined literary achievement, political action, espionage, travel, and romantic entanglement. The letters describe his travels in such places as Mexico, Vietnam, and Cuba, where he observed the struggles of mankind with a compassionate and truthful eye. Letters to friends such as Evelyn Waugh and Muriel Spark offer a glimpse into the literary culture in which he wrote, while others reveal the agonies of his heart. The sheer range of experience contained in Greene's correspondence defies comparison. 8 pages

My Personal Review:
A nicely edited selection of the letters of the English novelist and public figure.

Those with a special interest in Graham Greene and his career will enjoy these often-short letters written to a multitude of friends, lovers, and fellow artists, such as the Waughs (Evelyn and Auberon), Catherine Walston and Michael Korda.

The letters themselves are well written but are often more straightforward communications than pieces of polished literary prose. Fans and students of Mr. Greenes work will benefit from the scattered background material
and insights to his many published efforts, such as The Comedians and The Power and the Glory.

Graham Greene, while a solid believer in free speech, was certainly on the left fringe of Cold War politics and an anti-American having expressed, as an example, support for Manuel Noriega of Panama with such a thought as ...if I have to choose between a drug dealer and American imperialism I prefer the drug dealer.

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