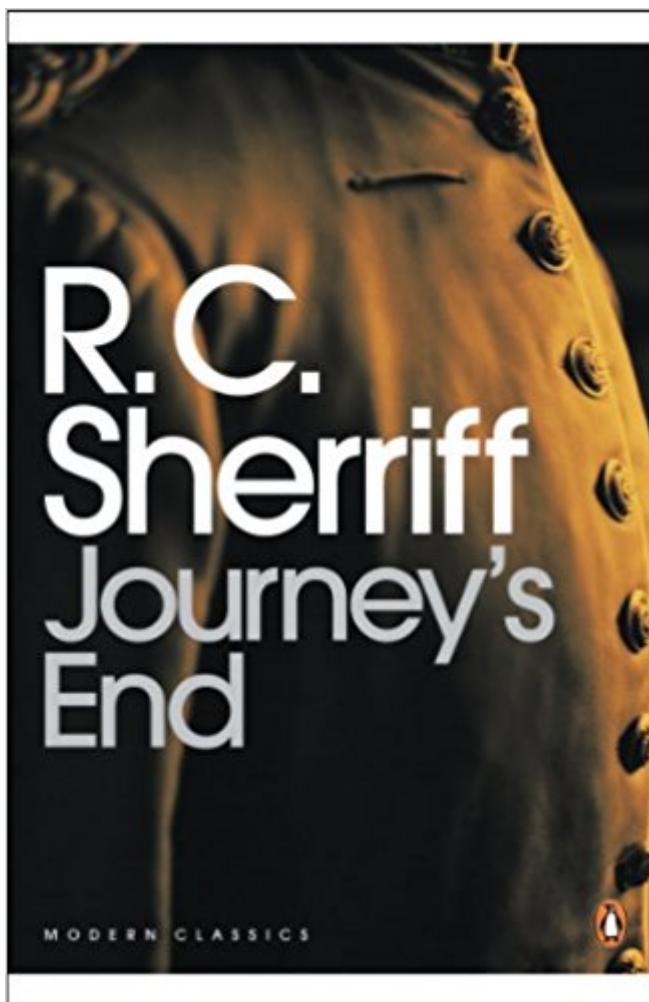


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Modern Classics Journeys End (Modern Classics (Penguin))



Synopsis

Hailed by George Bernard Shaw as 'useful [corrective] to the romantic conception of war', R.C. Sherriff's *Journey's End* is an unflinching vision of life in the trenches towards the end of the First World War, published in Penguin Classics. Set in the First World War, *Journey's End* concerns a group of British officers on the front line and opens in a dugout in the trenches in France. Raleigh, a new eighteen-year-old officer fresh out of English public school, joins the besieged company of his friend and cricketing hero Stanhope, and finds him dramatically changed. Laurence Olivier starred as Stanhope in the first performance of *Journey's End* in 1928; the play was an instant stage success and remains a remarkable anti-war classic. R.C. Sherriff (1896-1975) joined the army shortly after the outbreak of the First World War, serving as a captain in the East Surrey regiment. After the war, an interest in amateur theatricals led him to try his hand at writing. Following rejection by many theatre managements, *Journey's End* was given a single performance by the Incorporated Stage Society, in which Lawrence Olivier took the lead role. The play's enormous success enabled Sherriff to become a full-time writer, with plays such as *Badger's Green* (1930), *St Helena* (1935), and *The Long Sunset* (1955); though he is also remembered as a screenplay writer, for films such as *The Invisible Man* (1933), *Goodbye Mr Chips* (1933) and *The Dam Busters* (1955). If you enjoyed *Journey's End*, you might like Robert Graves's *Goodbye to All That*, available in Penguin Modern Classics. 'Its unrelenting tension, and its regard for human decency in a vast world of human waste, are impressive and, even now, moving' Clive Barnes

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

R.C. Sherriff (1896-1975) joined the army shortly after the outbreak of the First World War, serving as a captain in the East Surrey regiment. After the war, an interest in amateur theatricals led him to try his hand at writing. Following rejection by many theatre managements, *Journey's End* was given a single performance by the Incorporated Stage Society, in which Lawrence Olivier took the lead role. The play's enormous success enabled Sherriff to become a full-time writer, with plays such as *Badger's Green* (1930), *St Helena* (1935), and *The Long Sunset* (1955); though he is also remembered as a screenplay writer, for films such as *The Invisible Man* (1933), *Goodbye Mr Chips* (1933) and *The Dam Busters* (1955).

Timeless classic, brilliantly written, the characters could be any nationality engaged in war. As in intense situations where people are grouped together who normally would not find themselves so, there is the measure of each man summed up beautifully and poignantly. The kinship of where they are and what they are about makes for interesting reading. The simple set, and the small group of characters deepen as do the shadows, darken as does the night, and awaken with the dawn's light. Subtle humor keeps the spirits of the men alive, but tempers flare, cowardice is contained, and glory is achieved in different forms to each man. The ending in particular, leaves the reader with much to think about; to admire the human spirit, as well as to mourn within the human condition, and finally, that which can be lost senselessly.

The theatrical power of "Journey's End" is only heightened by the humor in the details of each day's living in the face of certain death. The playwright's craft in characterization and circumstance raises the work past the "war play" genre to the level of human tragedy for its period and for all time. Lucky, too, for anyone interested, that there is a first-rate production on view this season (2005) at the Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, just over the border north of Niagara Falls.

Impeccably clean writing. Humane and vivid. I am intrigued to read more of the author's works. Highly recommend this play.

Received well ahead of schedule. Good condition. Read details about the Whale/Clive collaboration and have to have the book.

Human beings in a different time, a different place. Unlike the "warfare" that we know today, the few events are intensely personal.

The shipping on this item was totally worth the price, the item was in excellent condition and the price was even better. If I needed to buy another book I would probably visit first before any other website

Great classic.

Seems like a good Mike

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