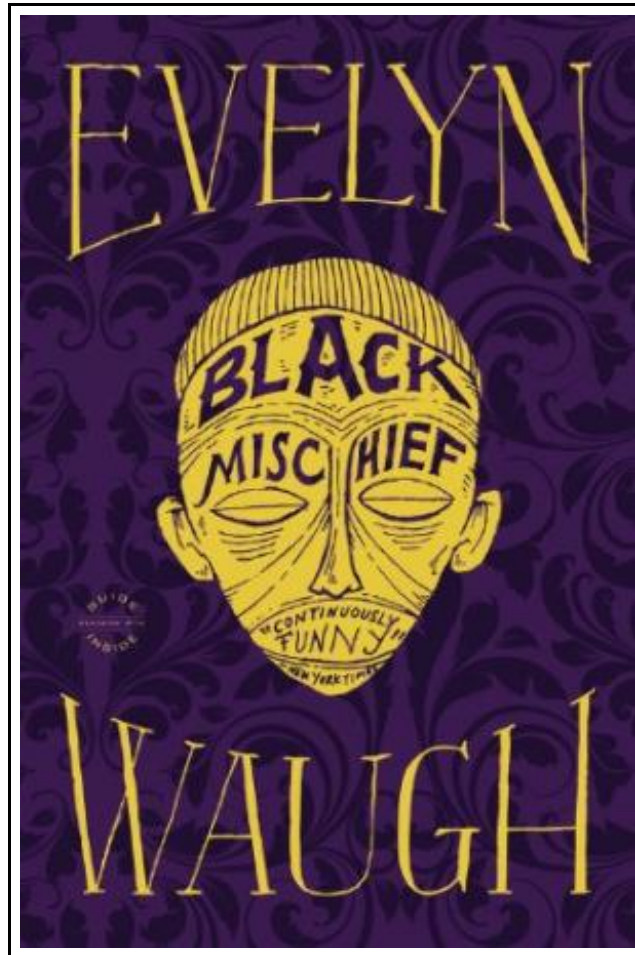


## Black Mischief



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### **Reviews**

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## BLACK MISCHIEF

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Back Bay. 1 Paperback(s), 2012. soft. Book Condition: New. With this third novel, published in 1932, Evelyn Waugh was established as a master satirist. Set on the fictional equatorial island of Azania, it chronicles the efforts of Oxford-educated Emperor Seth, assisted by Englishman Basil Seal, to modernize his kingdom of Arabs, Africans, Armenians, French, English, and Indians, all of whom come in for a good skewering. The pair's adventures include the issuance of homemade currency, the staging of a "Birth Control Gala," and the rightful ruler's demise at his own rather long and tiring coronation ceremonies. Named one of the era's "great masters of English prose" by Time and others, Waugh produced 16 novels, as well as several volumes of short fiction, biography, memoir, and essays. A Handful of Dust, Scoop, and Brideshead Revisited were all selected by the Modern Library as among the 100 best novels of the 20th century, while the Sword of Honor trilogy Men at Arms, Officers and Gentlemen, and Unconditional Surrender was deemed "the one genuine masterpiece to come out of World War II" (New Republic). This fine trade paperback edition, part of a uniform series of Waugh from Back Bay, includes a readers' guide and supplemental material. "To achieve greatness, in the opinion of this devotee of the genre, satire must be rooted not only in a genuine love for the object being satirized but also in an awareness of the object's relation to the entire human condition, regardless of race, color, creed, or geography. Black Mischief, it seems to me, does this to a larger degree than any of the half-dozen other near-great pieces of satire written in English in my time, all of them, by the way and by a not-so-odd coincidence, composed by the same Mr. Waugh." New York Herald Tribune 312.

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