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# Christopher And His Kind Isherwood

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## **Diaries: 1939-1960**

Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Best known for *Goodbye to Berlin* -- the inspiration for the Tony and Oscar award-winning musical *Cabaret* -- Christopher Isherwood has always been considered both a literary and a gay pioneer. That is truer now than ever. Readers of his plays, novels, and diaries continue to discover

Isherwood's lasting contribution to twentieth-century culture, literature, autobiographical fiction, and memoir, to gay rights, and to twentieth-century culture.

*Auden and Isherwood*  
Macmillan

To many readers Christopher Isherwood means *Berlin*. The author of *Goodbye to Berlin* (1939), the British Isherwood found fame through the adaptation of that work into the stage play and film *I Am a Camera* and then into the stage musical and film *Cabaret*. Throughout his career he was a keen observer, always seemingly in the right place at the right time. Whether in *Berlin* in the 1930s or in *Los Angeles* in the 1960s and 1970s, Isherwood (1904--86) reflected on his life and his

world and wrote perceptive commentary on contemporary European and American history and culture. His ties to California made him more American than British. "I have spent half my life in the United States," he said. "Los Angeles is a great place for feeling at home because everybody's from someplace else."

Isherwood can be credited for helping make L.A. an acceptable setting for serious fiction, paving the way for John Rechy, Joan Didion, Paul Monette, and Bernard Cooper, among others. The interviews in this volume--two of which have never before been published--stretch over a period of forty years. They address a wide range of topics, including the importance of diary-keeping to his life and work; the interplay between fiction and autobiography; his turning from Christianity to Hinduism; his circle of friends, including W. H. Auden, Aldous Huxley, and E. M. Forster; several important

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places in his life--Berlin, England, and California; and his homosexual identity. These interviews are substantive, smart, and insightful, allowing the author to discuss his approach to writing of both fiction and nonfiction. "More and more," he explains, "writing is appearing to me as a kind of self-analysis, a finding-out of something about myself and about the past and about what life is like, as far as I'm concerned: who I am, who these people are, what it's all about." This emphasis on self-discovery comes as no surprise from a writer who mined his own diaries and experiences for inspiration. As an interviewee, Isherwood is introspective, thoughtful, and humorous. James J. Berg is the program director for the Center for Teaching and Learning, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Chris Freeman is an assistant professor of English at St. John's University. Berg and Freeman are editors of *The Isherwood Century: Essays on the Life and Work of Christopher Isherwood*, which was a finalist for the 2001 Lambda Literary Award for Gay Studies. Christopher Isherwood New Directions Publishing Bremen, 1928. *The Greek Islands*, 1932. London, 1938. California, 1940. Four portraits, four settings, four narrators all named Christopher Isherwood. Here are the postcards home

from a spiritual tourist looking for a new mode of life as well as a new place to live while Europe, and then the world, moves relentlessly toward war. Which of the guides he encounters can lead him to a better future? The businessman, the utopian, the guru, the geisha? Published in 1962, *Down There on a Visit* is based on material from a proposed epic that would also have incorporated *The Berlin Stories*. It is now widely regarded as the most accomplished of Isherwood's novels.

Where Joy Resides Oxford

University Press, USA

Writing at a distance of nearly 40 years from the earlier 'Christopher', Isherwood has succeeded in evoking a comically harassed figure in a tragic decade.

*The Animals: Love Letters Between Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy* Harper Collins Isherwood's classic story of Berlin in the 1930s - and the inspiration for *Cabaret* - now in a stand-alone edition. First published in 1934, *Goodbye to Berlin* has been popularized on stage and screen by Julie Harris in *I Am a Camera* and Liza Minelli in *Cabaret*. Isherwood magnificently captures 1931 Berlin: charming, with its avenues and cafés; marvelously grotesque, with its nightlife and dreamers; dangerous, with its vice and intrigue; powerful and seedy, with its mobs and millionaires —

this was the period when Hitler was beginning his move to power. Goodbye to Berlin is inhabited by a wealth of characters: the unforgettable and "divinely decadent" Sally Bowles; plump Fraulein Schroeder, who considers reducing her Buste relieve her heart palpitations; Peter and Otto, a gay couple struggling to come to terms with their relationship; and the distinguished and doomed Jewish family, the Landauers.

*Down There on a Visit*

North Point Press

A classic of 20th-century fiction, *The Berlin Stories* inspired the Broadway musical and Oscar-winning film *Cabaret*. First published in the 1930s, *The Berlin Stories* contains two astonishing related novels, *The Last of Mr. Norris* and *Goodbye to Berlin*, which are recognized today as classics of modern fiction. Isherwood magnificently captures 1931 Berlin: charming, with its avenues and cafés; marvelously grotesque, with its nightlife and dreamers; dangerous, with its vice and intrigue; powerful and seedy, with its mobs and millionaires—this is the period when Hitler was beginning his move to power. *The Berlin*

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Stories is inhabited by a wealth of characters: the unforgettable Sally Bowles, whose misadventures in the demimonde were popularized on the American stage and screen by Julie Harris in *I Am A Camera* and Liza Minnelli in *Cabaret*; Mr. Norris, the improbable old debauchee mysteriously caught between the Nazis and the Communists; plump Fräulein Schroeder, who thinks an operation to reduce the scale of her Büste might relieve her heart palpitations; and the distinguished and doomed Jewish family, the Landauers.

*All the Conspirators*  
Faber & Faber  
Excerpt: This is the story of a phenomenon. I will begin by calling him simply that, rather than 'holy man', 'mystic', or 'saint', all emotive words with mixed associations which may attract some readers, repel others. A phenomenon is always a fact, an object of experience. That is how I shall try to approach Ramakrishna... I only ask you to approach Ramakrishna with the same open-minded curiosity you might feel for any highly unusual

human being. Christopher Isherwood unfolds a fantastic story with a calm finesse...  
The Temple Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
"Beyond the wonderful insights ... there is a portrait of the world in the eye of the storm between two world wars. It is a novel of awakening -- awakening to sex, yes ... but also an awakening to the presence of evil in the world and to the possibilities of love and friendship." -- *The Bloomsbury Review*  
Sally Bowles Open Road Media  
Drawing on much contemporary material, including Auden's fascinating unpublished diary, this book places personal experience in the context of the life of a great city: not only its political, artistic and cultural life, but the life of the streets, bars and cafés. It presents portraits of figures, often fascinating in their own right, with whom Auden and Isherwood came into contact, and it demonstrates how, especially in Isherwood's fiction, the raw material of daily existence was

transformed into art. The wide scope of this study, which ranges from poetry and cinema to street violence and prostitution, provides a richly detailed context for its account of two writers engaged in the process of self-definition.

Christopher and His Kind  
Grove Press  
This book remains a classic in gay liberation literature and is one of Christopher Isherwood's greatest achievements. It covers the most memorable ten years in the writer's life, from 1929, when Isherwood left England to spend a week in Berlin and decided to stay there indefinitely, to 1939, when he arrived in America. When the book was published in 1976, readers were deeply impressed by the courageous candor with which he describes his life in gay Berlin of the 1930s and his struggles to save his companion, Heinz, from the Nazis.

*Conversations with Christopher Isherwood*  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
Written with the benefit of unrestricted access to his private archives, letters and manuscripts, a portrait emerges of Isherwood as an exile who has written and lived in search of

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meaning, and a writer whose writings reflect many of his personal obsessions as well as the obsessions of the tumultuous times through which he lived.

Gossip Univ. Press of Mississippi

A witty, appealing, and often outrageous portrait of some of the twentieth century's most influential and creative minds

Subtitled "An Education in the Twenties," *Lions and Shadows* blends autobiography and fiction to describe the inner life of a writer evolving from precocious schoolboy to Cambridge dropout-at-large in London's bohemia. It contains thinly veiled portraits of Christopher Isherwood's contemporaries W. H. Auden, Edward Upward, and Stephen Spender, whose intimate friendships and cult of rebellion shaped the literary identity of England in the 1930s. Witty and outrageous, Isherwood pokes fun at the stars of his generation, above all himself, even as he testifies to their unique early gifts.

Down There on a Visit  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Welcome to sunny suburban 1960s Southern California. George is a gay middle-aged English professor, adjusting to solitude after the tragic death of his young partner. He is determined to persist in the routines of his former life. *A Single Man* follows him over the course of an ordinary twenty-four hours. Behind his British reserve, tides of grief, rage, and loneliness surge—but what is revealed is a man who loves being alive despite all the everyday injustices. When Christopher Isherwood's *A Single Man* first appeared, it shocked many with its frank, sympathetic, and moving portrayal of a gay man in maturity. Isherwood's favorite of his own novels, it now stands as a classic lyric meditation on life as an outsider. Christopher Isherwood Weidenfeld & Nicolson *DIVA* gripping thriller about contemporary gay politics/divDIV Ralph

Eckhart, an unassuming bookstore manager in the East Village, meets Bill O' Connor online and they agree to get together during Ralph's weekend visit to Washington, DC. The two start a heated, long-distance sexual relationship. But Ralph discovers that Bill is a closeted Republican journalist, whose new book trashes liberal women in Washington—including Ralph's speechwriter friend, Nancy—and angrily breaks off the affair. When Bill is found murdered, Ralph becomes the prime suspect. This is a complex psychological and political thriller full of the sexy excitement of "sleeping with the enemy." /div  
The Isherwood Century  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
Christopher Isherwood was an unmatched chronicler of pre-Hitler Berlin, a war reporter, a travel writer, a pacifist, a Hollywood screenwriter, a monk and a grand old man of the emerging gay liberation movement. Peter Parker traces the long journey of a man who never felt at home wherever he lived. Ramakrishna and His Disciples  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
Den engelske forfatters

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(1904-1986) dagbøger  
Lost Years Routledge  
The love story between  
Christopher Isherwood  
and Don Bachardy—in  
their own words The  
English novelist and  
screenwriter  
Christopher Isherwood  
was already famous as  
the author of Goodbye  
to Berlin when he met  
Don Bachardy, a  
California teenager, on  
the beach in Santa  
Monica in 1952. Within  
a year, they began to  
live together as an  
openly gay couple,  
defying convention in  
the closeted world of  
Hollywood. Isherwood  
was forty-eight;  
Bachardy was eighteen.  
The Animals is the  
testimony in letters to  
their extraordinary  
partnership, which  
lasted until Isherwood's  
death in 1986—despite  
the thirty year age gap,  
affairs and jealousy (on  
both sides), the  
pressures of increasing  
celebrity, and the  
disdain of twentieth-  
century America for  
love between two men.  
The letters reveal the  
private world of the  
Animals: Isherwood  
was "Dobbin," a

stubborn old workhorse; and His Kind Macmillan  
Bachardy was the rash,  
playful "Kitty."  
Isherwood had a gift for  
creating a safe and  
separate domestic  
milieu, necessary for a  
gay man in  
midtwentieth-century  
America. He drew  
Bachardy into his semi-  
secret realm, nourished  
Bachardy's talent as a  
painter, and launched  
him into the artistic  
career that was first to  
threaten and eventually  
to secure their life  
together. The letters  
also tell of public  
achievements—the  
critical acclaim for A  
Single Man, the  
commercial success of  
Cabaret—and the  
bohemian whirl of  
friendships in Los  
Angeles, London, and  
New York with such  
stars as Truman  
Capote, Julie Harris,  
David Hockney,  
Vanessa Redgrave,  
Gore Vidal, and  
Tennessee Williams.  
Bold, transgressive, and  
playful, The Animals  
articulates the devotion,  
in tenderness and in  
storms, between two  
uniquely original spirits.  
Christopher Isherwood

Book description to  
come.  
Goodbye to Berlin  
Random House  
From one of America's  
greatest literary critics  
comes Edmund  
Wilson's insightful and  
candid record of the  
1930's, The Thirties:  
From Notebooks and  
Diaries of the Period.  
Here, continuing from  
Wilson's previous  
journal, The Twenties,  
the narrator moves  
from the youthful  
concerns of the Jazz  
Age to his more  
substantial middle  
years, exploring the  
decade's plunge from  
affluence and exploring  
the tenets of  
Communism. His  
personal life is also  
amply represented,  
from his marriage to  
Margaret Canby and  
her subsequent tragic  
death to various erotic  
episodes with  
unidentified women.  
A Meeting by the River  
Random House  
WITH A NEW  
INTRODUCTION BY  
SIMON CALLOW In  
1939, as Europe  
approaches war,  
Isherwood, an

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instinctive pacifist,  
travels west to  
California, seeking a  
new set of beliefs to  
replace the failed  
Leftism of the thirties.  
There he meets Swami  
Prabhavananda, a Hindu  
monk, who will become  
his spiritual guide for  
the next thirty-seven  
years. Late-night  
drinking sessions, free  
love, and the glamour of  
writing for the  
Hollywood studios  
alternate with  
meditation, abstinence  
and the study of  
religious texts in a  
compelling tug of war  
between worldliness  
and holiness.