

# Party in the Blitz



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著者:Canetti, Elias

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A stunning and unexpected new volume of Elias Canetti's autobiography. A surprise gift to celebrate the Nobel Laureate's 100th birthday.

Nobel Prize winner Elias Canetti, at 85, beset by the desire to come to terms with his years of exile in Britain, wrote *Party in the Blitz*. He waited half a century to confront these memories, perhaps because "in order to be truthful, I should have to track down every needless humiliation I was offered in England, and relive it as the torture it was." *Party in the Blitz* dissects that torture with unrestrained acerbity, recounting the ordeal of being in a new country where not a soul knew his writing. But not one to be ignored, "the godmonster of Hempstead" (as John Bayley dubbed Canetti) soon knew everyone and everyone knew him. Enoch Powell, Bertrand Russell, Iris Murdoch, Empson, Wittgenstein, Kokoshka, Kathleen Raine, Henry Moore, Ralph Vaughn Williams: Canetti knew them all, and in *Party in the Blitz* he mercilessly rakes some of them over the coals. He detested T.S. Eliot and came to bitterly despise Iris Murdoch, with whom he had an affair: Every word of his devastating portrait of her quivers with rage. "He must have been a frequent party-goer," as Jeremy Adler remarks in his excellent afterword, "to judge by the well-informed distaste with which he recalls them." Gorgeously translated by Michael Hofmann, *Party in the Blitz* lives up to Canetti's injunction that "when you write down your life, every page should contain something no one has ever heard about."

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评论

黑Iris

Murdoch那叫一个狠，写Eliot那段感觉是总结了十几年来黑Eliot的各种说法，罗素也没逃掉他的毒舌，但是的确是写人物小传的高手，最重要的是，a true Anglophile。

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“Everything I despise about English life is in her.”

通过默多克我才知道了Canetti,没想到他如此不留情面。书里有Empson家的parties，有酷爱赛车的贵族好友，对艾略特的无情批判，对英国式傲慢和克制的描写。但就像后记里说的，这些轶闻和回忆展现了Canetti自己的personality.

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书评

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