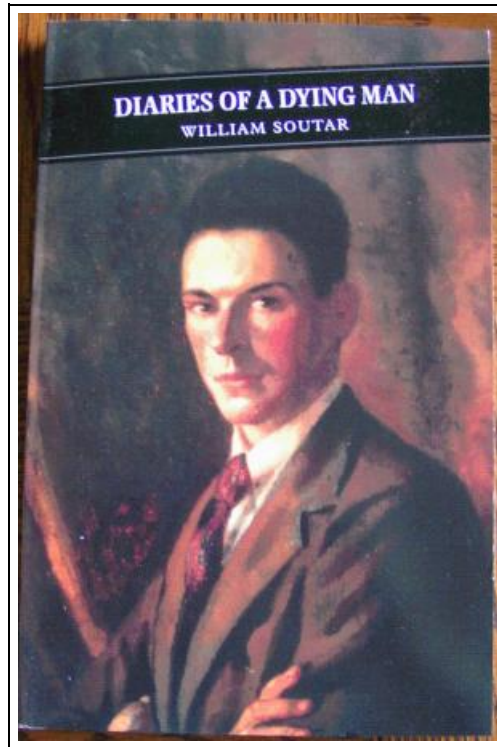


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DIARIES OF A DYING MAN

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Canongate, 2000 9780862413477, 2000. Soft cover. Book Condition: New. NEW paperback. 184 pages. Introduction by Alexander Scott. First published in 1954, ten years after the author's death, this is a wonderful testament to the human spirit. William Soutar was born and educated in Perth, in Scotland. At the age of 32, he became permanently confined to bed due to a progressive disease of the spine. From here, he produced some of the best poetry in Scots and English of his generation, and entertained a lively succession of friends, artists and writers. He recorded all this in his diaries and journals and, finally, in a record that he called *The Diary of a Dying Man*. He died in 1943 after 14 years of confinement. On 31st August 1939, on the eve of war, he wrote: "Learned from the air this morning that Germany had invaded Poland at dawn - already many cities are suffering bombardment; the first bomb fell among civilians hours ago. Now we await our own evacuees and the first intimation that the first bomb has fallen upon London. The greatest catastrophe which has erupted in the world is already a fact although the oncoming surge of it has not as yet broken over us. Outside in the overcast day, the familiar sounds rise up through the quiet. Children are at play nearby, a tradesman's bell is ringing, someone rattles a pail. And in the garden the autumnal beauty still lingers, halted at this hour in stillness - scarcely a leaf moves on the sycamore tree, under the dark green of the hawthorn are still the blue and yellow blooms, a bird skims silently across the smooth stretch of grass. The peace which we have broken so barbarously abides here for yet another day". But usually an entry was more focussed on...

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