

Ireland

Aged fifteen he visited Ireland with a cousin. They witnessed firsthand the effects of The Civil War also The War of Independence as they walked from Waterford to Dublin. [\[vi\]](#)

Marriage

Greene converted to Roman Catholicism in 1926, partly through the influence of his future wife Vivien Dayrell-Browning. They had married during 1927. (*Tikkanen*) [\[vii\]](#)

He converted to Catholicism after he met his future wife, Vivian Daydell-Browning on 26th February 1926. They were married at St. Mary's Church, Hamstead in London on 15th October 1927. They had a son Francis & daughter Lucy Caroline. He found domestic life very tedious as he wished to travel also broaden his horizons. Vivian refused to divorce so he remained estranged from his family. He remarked in later years that *'I think my books are my children.* [\[viii\]](#)

Espionage

Graham Greene was recruited during W.W. 2 into the Foreign Office / M16. He started at Freetown following recruitment by his sister Elizabeth who worked for the organization. He was posted to Sierra Leone. He travelled to Liberia during 1935 then Mexico in 1938 followed by Haiti. [\[ix\]](#)

Journalism

Graham Green moved to London to work for *The Times* as a copy editor from 1926 to 1930. When he departed from *The Times* he worked as a film critic & literary editor for *The Spectator* until 1940. Graham Greene travelled worldwide the next three decades as a freelance journalist whilst he searched out locations for his novels in the process. (*Tikkanen*) [\[x\]](#)

Graham Greene was employed as a private tutor prior to a journalistic career with *The Nottingham Journal.* He then acted as sub-editor of *The Times* newspaper from 1926 to 1930. He was a film critic also journalist for *The Spectator* up to 1940. Graham Green co-edited the magazine *Night and Day.* He supplemented his income with film & book reviews. As a journalist he covered numerous dangerous events that included Kenya's Mau Mau Rebellion, The Vietnam War, Haiti's '*Nightmare Republic,*' the rise of Castro also the Fall of Soviet Russia. Graham Greene penned his *Collected Edition (published in twenty-two volumes between 1970-1982)* [\[xi\]](#)

A collection of his film criticism is available in *Mornings in the Dark: The Graham Greene Film Reader* produced during 1993: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Graham-Greene>

Publications

Graham Green's first published work was a book of verse *Babbling April* 1925. The modest success of his first novel *The Man Within* during 1929 ensured it was adapted as the film titled '*The Smugglers*' in 1947. Greene's first three novels were held to be of little account. His thriller *Stamboul Train* of 1932 was also published as *Orient Express* during 1934. It was followed by three more '*entertainments*' (as he called those particular publications) Graham Green's *A Gun for Sale* in 1936 was actually produced as two films i.e. '*This Gun for Hire*' in 1942, then as '*Short Cut to Hell*' during 1957. *The Confidential Agent* penned in 1939 again was made into a film during 1945. Another '*entertainment*' *The Ministry of Fear* of 1943 was adapted as the film '*Ministry of Fear*' during 1945. (*Tikkanen*) [\[xii\]](#)

A fifth composition *The Third Man* published in novel form during 1949 was originally a screenplay for a classic film directed by Carol Reed. One of Graham Greene's finest novels *Brighton Rock* in 1938 (films 1947 & 2010) shared several elements with his 'entertainments,' but explored the contrasting moral attitudes of its main characters with a new degree of intensity & emotional involvement. Graham Greene's finest novel *The Power and the Glory* 1940 was later published as *The Labyrinthine Ways* yet again this publication was adapted as the film 'The Fugitive' in 1947. (Tikkanen) [xiii]

Another of his best-known novels *The Heart of the Matter* written during 1948 was produced as a film in 1953. Graham Green's *The End of the Affair* 1951 was also produced as one in 1955 & 1999. His next four novels were each set in various third world nations on the brink of political upheaval. The protagonist of *A Burnt-Out Case* in 1961 was set in the Belgian Congo. *The Quiet American* penned in 1956 featured Vietnam: this was made into films during 1958 & 2002. His 1958 work *Our Man in Havana* set in Cuba was adapted into a film during 1959. Graham Greene's last four novels adapted as films were: *The Honorary Consul* in 1973 titled 'Beyond the Limit' in 1983, *The Human Factor* during 1979, *Monsignor Quixote* 1982 also *The Tenth Man* of 1985. Graham Greene published several collections of short stories: among them *Nineteen Stories* in 1947. He revised that as *Twenty-one Stories* during 1954. (Tikkanen) [xiv]

Graham Greene's works included four children's books, twenty-six novels, four travel books, eight plays, ten screen plays, fifteen nonfiction works also two poetry volumes. His first novel *The Man Within* was published during 1929. He disowned his next books as they were unsuccessful: *The Man of Action* 1930 & *Rumour at Nightfall* 1931 !! During 1932 his *Stamboul Train* was his first major achievement; it also was adapted as a film during 1934 titled 'Orient Express' within the U.S.A. Greene wrote two autobiographies *A Sort of Life* (two editions 1925 & 1983) also *Ways to Escape*. His *Power and Glory* was published as *Labyrinthine Way* during 1940. Other titles included *The Quite American* 1958, *Our Man in Havana* set in Cuba during 1958, *The Comedians* 1966. His last four novels were *The Honorary Consul* 1973, *The Human Facto* 1978, *Monsignor Quixote* 1982 & *The Tenth Man* in 1985. [xv]

Plays

Among Graham Green's plays were *The Living Room* (performed in 1952) & *The Potting Shed* (composed in 1957) (Tikkanen) [xvi]

Greene's first play *The Living Room* debuted during 1953:
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Graham-Greene>

Essays

Greene published his *Collected Essays* during 1969. (Tikkanen) [xvii]

Memoir

A Sort of Life penned in 1971 was a memoir to 1931: his *Ways of Escape* 1980 was published as a sequel. (Tikkanen) [xviii]

He penned an intro to Kim Philip's 1968 memoir *My Silent War*. While in Switzerland during 1980 he penned *Doctor Fischer of Geneva or the Bomb Party* that based his themes on a combined philosophic also geographic influence. [xix]

Competitions

During 1949 when *The New Statesman* had a contest for parodies of Greene's writing style, he submitted an entry as N. Wilkinson & he won second prize! His entry *The Stranger's Hand: Entertainment* comprised of the first two paragraphs of a novel apparently set in Italy. His friend, Mario Soldati novelist & film critic, believed it had the makings of a suspense film about spies in Yugoslavia in post war Venice. Graham Greene continued writing but eventually abandon the project. He left it as a substantial fragment that was published posthumously in *The Graham Greene Reader* of 1993 also *No Man's Land* in 2005. During 1965 he entered a similar competition then won an honourable mention. [\[xx\]](#)

Director

Between 1944 to 1948 Graham Greene was director at Eyre & Spottiswoode under chairman Douglas Jerrold. He created *The Century Library* series. It was discontinued following his departure. During 1958 Graham Greene was offered the position of chairman by Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre but he declined the offer. He was a director at The Bodley Head from 1957 to 1968 under Max Reinhardt. [\[xxi\]](#)

Achill Island

From 1946 to 1957 Graham Greene had an affair that lasted thirteen years with the wife of a millionaire farmer & M.P. Lord Henry Walston. He lived with Catherine Walston & her five small children in a traditional stone cottage at Dooagh Achill. It was very basic with no electricity, an outside tap for water also a corrugated iron roof. As they were friends of Ernie O'Malley they spent time also at Burrishoole. Graham Greene once commented that '*I long for somewhere like Achill or Capri who have no telephones.*' Achill was a hugely symbolic place for him: he described it as '*opening of a door*' into a new world. It offered him a peaceful sanctuary that allowed his creative imagination to work. He was enamoured with the islands scenery. Another favourite place was The Old Head Hotel at Louisburgh across Clew Bay from Achill. [\[xxii\]](#)

Awards

Graham Greene collected several literary awards for novels, including the Hawk London Prize in 1941 for *The Power and the Glory*, the 1948 James Tait Memorial Prize for *The Heart of the Matter*, the Shakespeare Prize in Hamburg during 1968 & same year the Edgar Grand Master Award, the 1980 Dos Passos Prize & the 1981 Jerusalem Prize for his works with the themes of human freedom in society. He was awarded Britain's Order of Merit as an author during 1986 for his contribution to literature. [\[xxiii\]](#)

Greene lived in Antibes France from 1966. During 1973 he had an accredited cameo appearance as an insurance company representative in the François Truffaut's '*Day and Night.*' During 1989 he presented John Banville with the GPA Book Award. He received a standing ovation that moved him to tears as he said, '*It was far better than a Nobel Prize.*' [\[xxiv\]](#)

Birthday

On his eighty birthday the family brewery (*founded by his great grandfather during 1799*) presented him with a special edition of its '*St. Edmunds*' ale also with a special label. [\[xxv\]](#)

Dublin

Turtle Bunbury has written that Greene maintained his Irish links until his demise. During the 1970's he visited Joyce's Martello tower in Dublin with Sean O'Faolain: a writer he admired as well as Flann O'Brien & George Birmingham. He met with the SDLP leader Gerry Fitt in Antrim to

consider the Irish question. Years later Greene refused to attend any literary award in Dublin without Gerry Fitt in attendance! He stayed at the Russel Hotel with Katherine Tynan while in Dublin. [\[xxvi\]](#)

Later Years

His final years were spent at Vevey Switzerland with companion Yvonne Cloella. [\[xxvii\]](#)

Demise

Graham Greene's demise occurred on 3rd April 1991 with leukaemia. He is buried in Corseaux Switzerland. [\[xxviii\]](#)

Graham Green's demise occurred in Vevey, Switzerland on 3rd April 1991:
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Graham-Greene>

Footnotes

[\[vi\]](#) Ibid

[\[vii\]](#) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Graham-Greene>

[\[viii\]](#) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Greene

[\[ix\]](#) Ibid

[\[x\]](#) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Graham-Greene>

[\[xi\]](#) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Greene

[\[xii\]](#) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Graham-Greene>

[\[xiii\]](#) Ibid

[\[xxiv\]](#) Ibid

[\[xxv\]](#) Ibid

[\[xxvi\]](#) http://www.turtlebunbury.com/published/published_features/pub_feats_grahamgreene.html

[\[xxvii\]](#) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Greene

[\[xxviii\]](#) Ibid