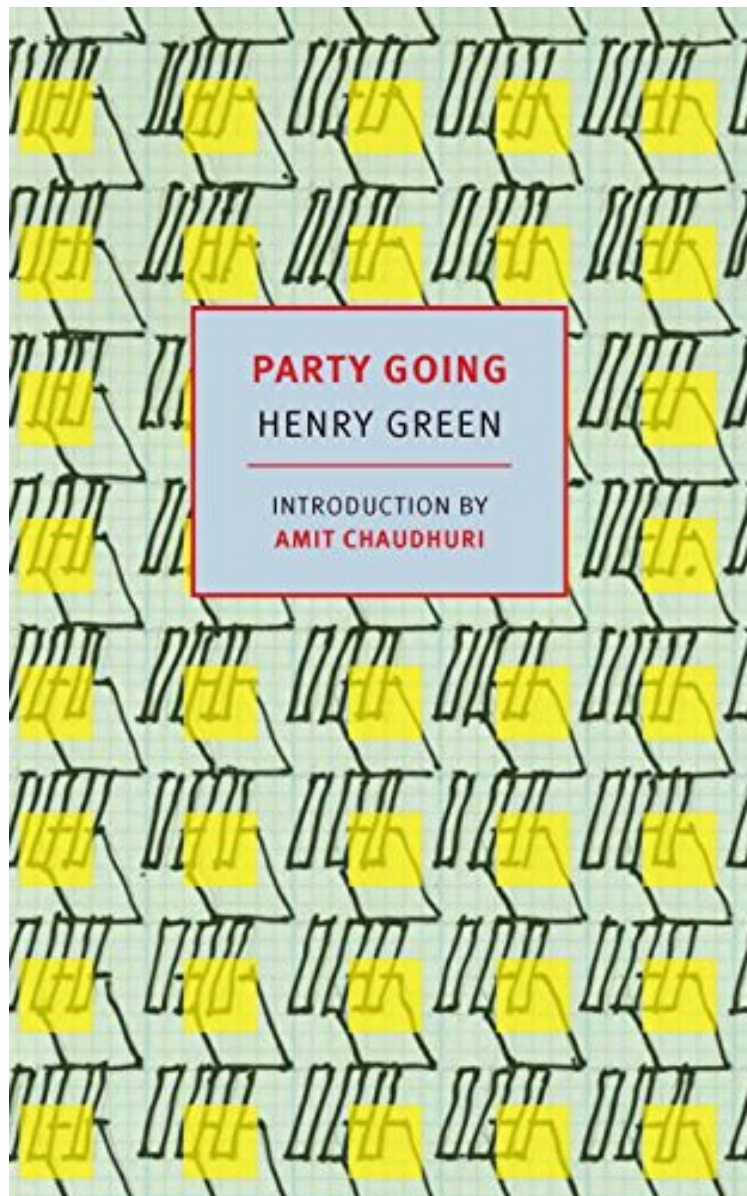


(Download pdf) Party Going (NYRB Classics)

## Party Going (NYRB Classics)

*Henry Green*

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**Henry Green : Party Going (NYRB Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Party Going (NYRB Classics):

A modernist "masterpiece" (The New York Times) that will appeal to fans of Downton Abbey and The Great

*Party Going*, published in 1939, is Henry Green's darkly comic valediction to what W. H. Auden famously described as the "low dishonest decade" of the 1930s. London is sunk in an impenetrable fog. Traffic has come to a halt. Stranded in the train station and the hotel connected to it are a group of bright young things waiting to catch a train to the Continent, where their enormously rich friend Max is throwing a party. Green's characters worry and wonder and wander in and out of each other's company (and arms and beds), in pursuit of and pursued by their own secrets and desires.

"Green's novels are sufficiently unlike any others, sufficiently assured in their perilous, luminous fullness, to warrant the epithet incomparable...they have become, with time, photographs of a vanished England.... Green's human qualities—his love of work and laughter; his absolute empathy; his sense of splendor amid loss—make him a precious witness to any age. —John Updike "The most gifted prose writer of his generation." —V. S. Pritchett "Each of Green's books stands apart from the others as a separate feat in itself." —Alan Pryce-Jones, *The Observer* "Party Going [is] Green's masterpiece, about a huge assortment of people who are literally in a fog...stylish, unusual, sharply observed, funny (at times darkly so) and fashioned in a slightly eccentric way that seemed to suggest the obliqueness, the fluidity, the improvised quality of life itself." —Charles McGrath, *The New York Times Book* "Party Going [is] dazzling in the poetry of its prose, a masterpiece of literary impressionism.... Green paints an unforgettable portrait of a doomed, amoral world whose characters, trapped in the fog, are somehow waltzing blithely towards oblivion.... Within a few years it had acquired a distinguished retinue of literary admirers—including Auden, Isherwood and Eudora Welty." —Robert McCrum, *The Guardian* "Party Going is quite simply beautifully written—its observation of human behaviour, speech and thought is wonderful and pushes beyond the realistic to become even more real, as metaphors, shadings of language and personalities expand to colour each other and their surroundings. Its evocation of a fog-locked pre-war London is crackling with atmosphere, at once deeply real and deeply dreamed, disturbing." —A. L. Kennedy, *Folio Prize Blog* "Kipling in India, Lawrence in Mexico, Joyce in Trieste, they are all and immediately more central to what has become English literature, to what we expect when we open a book, than this bizarre and beautiful comedy that is Henry Green's great masterpiece." —Tim Parks, *The New York of Books* "The originality and wit of every sentence calls out for quotation. But the strange thing is that, after reading *Party Going*, it does not seem like a book controlled by its language. Rather, it seems like a book in which the language is so perfectly contrived for its purpose that we might forget that it is written at all." —Philip Hensher, *The Times* (London)

**Author** Henry Green (1905–1973) was the pen name of Henry Vincent Yorke. Born near Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, England, he was educated at Eton and Oxford before working in his family's engineering firm for most of his life while also writing novels. During World War II, Green served on the London Fire Brigade. He wrote nine novels between 1926 and 1952. Amit Chaudhuri is the author of six novels, the latest of which is *Odysseus Abroad*. He is also a critic, musician, and composer. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. In 2013, he was awarded the first Infosys Prize in the Humanities for outstanding contribution to literary studies.