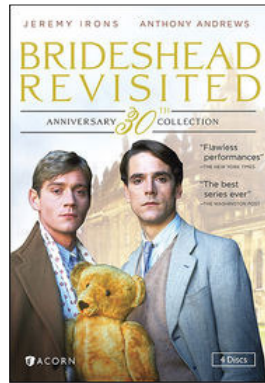


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## “BRIDESHEAD REVISTED ” (The Series) — As Things Were

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“BRIDESHEAD REVISTED”

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Newly re-mastered and released on DVD is one of the classics of gay literature. “Brideshead Revisited” is one of the most popular television series of all time. It is well loved and often misunderstood. Made in 1981 it is the story of huge appeal as it paints a lost world abundant with unspeakable sadness. Written by Evelyn Waugh, the book became an almost instant classic. And it is now also available on Blu ray. The movie preaches against the enervating effects of charm and how they can destroy love and even with that the charm of the film is what carries it. The film begins as a love story and eventually becomes somewhat of a Catholic soap opera. This was the movie that began the career of the noted actor Jeremy Irons who plays Charles Ryder who sits by passively and watches the fall of British aristocracy and of one family in particular. While attending Oxford he falls in love with the irrepressible Sebastian Flyte (Anthony Andrews)). Flyte is charming and the two live out a homosexual relationship which is beautiful but dependent upon alcohol. All is well until Sebastian begins to drink out of despair and we watch him fall apart. Charles, too busy being charmed by Sebastian’s family, does not reach out to him and Sebastian’s mother played admirably by Claire Bloom destroys her entire family while attempting not to notice that she does so. We should be able to understand why Sebastian is so unhappy—is it because he is a homosexual and hiding it or is there some other reason we are not privy to? The script seems to play down the sexual aspect of the boy’s nature but the sex, even if subliminal, is always there although we never know if Sebastian and Charles actually ever have it. It is frustrating that we cannot understand the way they behave and if their acting was not so fine, we would be at a loss in regards to them. Jeremy Irons’ Charles is perverse. He coldly abandons his lover. It is almost as if he fell in love with him without fully understanding his feelings but considering the nature of

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