AN AGE LIKE THIS: 1920-1940

George Orwell is a major figure in twentieth-century literature. The author of Down and Out in Paris and London, Nineteen Eighty-four, and Animal Farm, he published ten books and two collections of essays during his lifetime -- but in terms of actual words, produced much more than seems possible for someone who died at the age of forty-six and was often struggling against poverty and ill health. His essays, letters, and journalism are among...



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Reader's Opinions

I'm torn about what rating to give it, because while the first 3/4 of the book was interesting to me, it wasn't really good, whereas in the last few long essays he clearly found a form which really, really suited him. In the end I decided on four stars, both because I got a lot of pleasure from his early book reviews and letters and...

If George Orwell had died just a few years earlier, his biggest claims to fame, Animal Farm and 1984, would never have been written. In this parallel universe, he would have been remembered (if at all) for his non-fiction. Orwell wrote a number of earlier novels, but none of them has ever set the world alight. However, many readers have...