

# ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET

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## KNIGHT

*Author of 'Lassie, Come Home'*  
*Yorkshireman, Storyteller, Spy*  
by Greg Christie

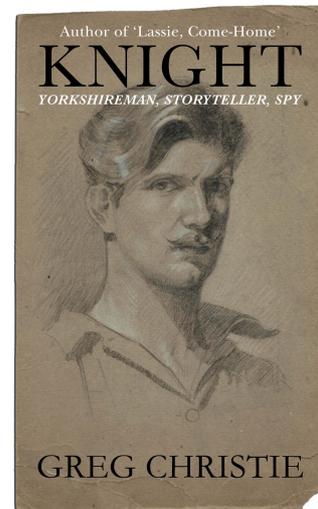
The various threads of Eric Knight's life have been meticulously teased out and woven into an engaging narrative that follows the journey taken by this scrawny lad from Hunslet to the heart of the pre-WWII literary, artistic and political world, partly in Britain, more widely in the USA. The circle of friends and associates uncovered embraces the artists Peter Hurd and Andrew Wyeth, writers such as ee cummings and Ernest Hemingway, movie people like Walt Disney and Frank Capra, as well as an alternative sort of contact from the world of espionage and intelligence: Ian Fleming and O.S.S. chief Bill Donovan. Finally, there was Franklin Delano Roosevelt – and his wife Eleanor, who just happened to be Eric's tennis partner at the U.S. President's Hyde Park retreat.

The epic tale of a talented storyteller whose 'serious' works were lauded by the literary establishment of the day – but whose greatest achievements were overshadowed by his biggest hit.

**About the author...** Fascinated to learn that Eric Knight penned the 'Lassie' stories he had seen on TV, Greg Christie was determined to write his life story. He set about it methodically, taking a degree in English, followed by an M.A. His researches led him to the Knight archive at Yale, where he spent three months as a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellow, then further west to New Mexico and California, where he met Eric's granddaughter Betsy. As he progressed with the book he wrote a number of articles and a BBC Radio documentary based on his findings. By 2014, Greg had lost his sight completely, was reliant on his guide-dog and ready to accept defeat. However, with the collaboration of a friend and fellow writer, and after a break of eight years, he finally managed to complete what amounted to a twenty-year project.

*"A heroic, epic, thrilling story, ... which will enthral, entertain and inform its readers while re-drawing the map of Anglo-American writing in the mid-twentieth century."* Alan Wilkinson, author *Cody, The Medicine Man & Me*

## *In brief*



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**Author:** Greg Christie

**Category:** Biography

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