

# The Society of the Crossed Keys: Selections from the Writings of Stefan Zweig, Inspirations for The Grand Budapest Hotel

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### Society of the Crossed Keys

Stefan Zweig was born in 1881 in Vienna, into a wealthy Austrian-Jewish family. He studied in Berlin and Vienna and was first known as a poet and translator, then as a biographer. Between the wars, Zweig was an international bestseller with a string of hugely popular novellas including Letter from an Unknown Woman, Amok and Fear. In 1934, with the rise of Nazism, he left Austria, and lived in London, Bath and New York—a period during which he produced his most celebrated works: his only novel, Beware of Pity, and his memoir, The World of Yesterday. He eventually settled in Brazil, where in 1942 he and his wife were found dead in an apparent double suicide. Much of his work is available from Pushkin Press. Wes Anderson's films include Bottle Rocket, Rushmore, The Royal Tenenbaums, The Life Aquatic, The Darjeeling Limited, Fantastic Mr Fox, and Moonrise Kingdom. He directed and wrote the screenplay for The Grand Budapest Hotel. The World of Yesterday is one of the greatest memoirs of the twentieth century, as perfect in its evocation of the world Zweig loved, as it is in its portrayal of how that world was destroyed. -- David Hare Beware of Pity is the most exciting book I have ever read...a feverish, fascinating novel -- Antony Beevor One of the joys of recent years is the translation into English of Stefan Zweig's stories. -- Edmund de Waal, author of The Hare with the Amber Eyes I defy anyone to read these tasters of Zweig's work without being compelled to read on. Pushkin might as well do their readers all a favour and sell The Society of the Crossed Keys with a complete Zweig back catalogue. Independent ...Anderson hasn't so much adapted Zweig's writings as channeled their spirit, reconstructed their atmospheres and taken up their major obsessions. Los Angeles Review of Books The Grand Budapest Hotel is distinctively and uniquely Zweigian. The Daily Beast Stefan Zweig refuses to go away and seems, in fact, poised for a major comeback... [Wes Anderson and George Prochnick's] spirited give-and-take serves as a lively introduction to the filmmaker's selection of texts TLS

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