

Oscar Wilde: Unveiling the Literary Genius and His Masterpieces in Oxford World Classics

Oscar Wilde, the enigmatic Irish writer, playwright, and poet, left an indelible mark on the literary landscape of the Victorian era. His wit, eloquence, and sharp social commentary continue to resonate with readers today. Oxford World Classics proudly presents a comprehensive collection of Wilde's major works, offering a comprehensive exploration of his literary genius.

The Picture of Dorian Gray

Wilde's most famous novel, "The Picture of Dorian Gray," is a haunting tale of beauty, morality, and the dangers of unchecked desire. The protagonist, Dorian Gray, sells his soul for eternal youth and beauty, while his portrait ages and bears the burden of his sins. This Gothic masterpiece explores themes of identity, art, and the pursuit of pleasure at any cost.



Oscar Wilde - The Major Works (Oxford World's Classics) by Oscar Wilde

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
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The Importance of Being Earnest

Wilde's most celebrated play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," is a sparkling comedy of mistaken identities and social satire. The play follows two young men, Jack and Algernon, who create alter egos to escape their social obligations. Wilde's witty dialogue and sharp observations on Victorian society make this play a timeless classic.

Salome

Wilde's only play written in French, "Salome," is a biblical tragedy based on the story of Salome's dance for King Herod. The play's sensual language, erotic themes, and exploration of the destructive power of desire have made it both controversial and captivating.

Lady Windermere's Fan

"Lady Windermere's Fan" is a witty and satirical comedy of manners that exposes the hypocrisy and double standards of Victorian society. The play follows the story of Lady Windermere, a young woman who must confront her husband's infidelity. Wilde's astute observations on marriage, morality, and social expectations make this play a thought-provoking and entertaining spectacle.

A Woman of No Importance

"A Woman of No Importance" is a subtle yet poignant drama that explores themes of morality, social stigma, and the importance of forgiveness. The play follows the story of Mrs. Arbuthnot, a woman who faces ostracism and

judgment due to her unconventional past. Wilde's exploration of Victorian social norms and the complexities of human relationships makes this play both moving and insightful.

An Ideal Husband

"An Ideal Husband" is a political comedy that delves into the themes of corruption, morality, and the pursuit of power. The play follows the story of Sir Robert Chiltern, a successful politician who is blackmailed over a past indiscretion. Wilde's witty dialogue and sharp political satire make this play a thought-provoking exploration of the complexities of human nature.

The Ballad of Reading Gaol

"The Ballad of Reading Gaol" is a powerful and moving poem that reflects on Wilde's own experiences of imprisonment. The poem is a meditation on death, injustice, and the redemptive power of human compassion. Wilde's evocative language and emotional depth make this poem a haunting and unforgettable work of literature.

De Profundis

"De Profundis" is a long and introspective letter that Wilde wrote from prison to his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas. In this letter, Wilde reflects on his imprisonment, his faith, and the meaning of suffering. It is a powerful and moving document that offers a glimpse into Wilde's inner thoughts and struggles.

Essays and Lectures

Wilde's essays and lectures are a treasure trove of his wit, wisdom, and literary criticism. His essays on art, literature, and society are insightful,

thought-provoking, and often provocatively original. His lectures on aestheticism, the importance of beauty, and the nature of truth are considered essential reading for anyone interested in the Victorian era.

Reviews

Wilde's reviews of contemporary literature, theater, and art provide a fascinating insight into his own literary and artistic sensibilities. His perceptive observations, critical wit, and incisive analysis make his reviews a valuable resource for understanding the literary landscape of his time.

Letters

Wilde's letters are a rich source of biographical information, literary insights, and personal anecdotes. His correspondence with friends, family, and fellow writers reveals his wit, charm, and the complexities of his personal life. The letters also shed light on Wilde's literary and artistic influences, his travels, and his relationships with influential figures of his time.

Additional Works

In addition to the major works mentioned above, Oxford World Classics also includes a collection of Wilde's other writings, such as "The Soul of Man Under Socialism," "The Importance of Being Earnest and Other Plays," "The Picture of Dorian Gray and Other Stories," and "Salome and Other Plays." These additional works offer a comprehensive overview of Wilde's literary output and his multifaceted genius.

Oxford World Classics' collection of Oscar Wilde's major works provides an unparalleled opportunity to explore the genius of one of the most celebrated writers of the Victorian era. From his haunting novels to his witty plays, from his eloquent essays to his moving poetry, Wilde's works offer a

rich tapestry of literary delights. Whether you are a seasoned Wilde enthusiast or a newcomer to his writing, this collection is an essential addition to any bookshelf.



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