



The Picture of Dorian Gray and Other Writings (Bantam Classics)

By Oscar Wilde

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Flamboyant and controversial, Oscar Wilde was a dazzling personality, a master of wit, and a dramatic genius whose sparkling comedies contain some of the most brilliant dialogue ever written for the English stage. Here in one volume are his immensely popular novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; his last literary work, “The Ballad of Reading Gaol,” a product of his own prison experience; and four complete plays: *Lady Windermere’s Fan*, his first dramatic success, *An Ideal Husband*, which pokes fun at conventional morality, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, his finest comedy, and *Salomé*, a portrait of uncontrollable love originally written in French and faithfully translated by Richard Ellmann.

Every selection appears in its entirety—a marvelous collection of outstanding works by the incomparable Oscar Wilde, who’s been aptly called “a lord of language” by Max Beerbohm.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A lush, cautionary tale of a life of vileness and deception or a loving portrait of the aesthetic impulse run rampant? Why not both? After Basil Hallward paints a beautiful, young man's portrait, his subject's frivolous wish that the picture change and he remain the same comes true. Dorian Gray's picture grows aged and corrupt while he continues to appear fresh and innocent. After he kills a young woman, "as surely as if I had cut her little throat with a knife," Dorian Gray is surprised to find no difference in his vision or surroundings. "The roses are not less lovely for all that. The birds sing just as happily in my garden."

As Hallward tries to make sense of his creation, his epigram-happy friend Lord Henry Wotton encourages Dorian in his sensual quest with any number of Wildean paradoxes, including the delightful "When we are happy we are always good, but when we are good we are not always happy." But despite its many languorous pleasures, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is an imperfect work. Compared to the two (voyeuristic) older men, Dorian is a bore, and his search for ever new sensations far less fun than the novel's drawing-room discussions. Even more oddly, the moral message of the novel contradicts many of Wilde's supposed aims, not least "no artist has ethical sympathies. An ethical sympathy in an artist is an unpardonable mannerism of style." Nonetheless, the glamour boy gets his just deserts. And Wilde, defending Dorian Gray, had it both ways: "All excess, as well as all renunciation, brings its own punishment."

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. First published in 1890 in Lippincott's Monthly Magazine and the following year in novel form, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* categorically changed Victorian Britain and the landscape of literature. An ostentatious, self-confessed aesthete, known for his wit and intellect, Wilde not only had to endure his prose being labeled "poisonous" and "vulgar," but also suffer its use as evidence in the ensuing trial, resulting in his eventual imprisonment for crimes of "gross indecency." Frankel's introduction provides a deft preliminary analysis of the novel itself—exploring etymology and extensive editorial alterations (both accidental and deliberate)—and offers valuable insight into the socio-cultural juxtaposition of aristocratic Victorian society and the London underworld. The original typescript provides the unique opportunity to examine what was considered acceptable in both the US and UK at the time. Intriguing annotations allude to Wilde's influences and enterprising range of reference, incorporating art, poetry, literature, Greek mythology, philosophy, and fashion (certain to inspire further reading; an appendix is provided). Comparisons are drawn between Dorian Gray and Wilde's other literary output, as well as to the work of Walter Pater. Numerous illustrations subtly compliment Frankel's inferences. A fine contextualization of a major work of fiction profoundly interpreted, ultimately riveting. (Mar.)

From School Library Journal

Grade 10 Up—"The Whole Story" format provides illustrations and annotations to the classic text. Ross's lively and sophisticated cartoons add interest, and historical information helps readers place the novel in proper context and gives insight into its characters. The problem with this attractive, glossy layout, however, is that the text and the quotes pulled from it are not always on the same page. Further, some illustrations and notations visually cut into the narrative and may distract readers. For example, a drawing appears on the first page along with the passage, "In the centre of the room, clamped to an upright easel, stood the full-length portrait of a young man of extraordinary personal beauty," but that quote does not appear until the second page of the story. Useful as a supplement to the original novel, but not a replacement for it.

Karen Hoth, Marathon Middle/High School, FL

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ray Ellis:

Hey guys, do you wishes to finds a new book you just read? May be the book with the name The Picture of Dorian Gray and Other Writings (Bantam Classics) suitable to you? The particular book was written by famous writer in this era. Often the book untitled The Picture of Dorian Gray and Other Writings (Bantam Classics)is one of several books that everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new dimension that you ever know before. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to recognise the core of this guide. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world in this book.

Bruce Hardin:

The Picture of Dorian Gray and Other Writings (Bantam Classics) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing The Picture of Dorian Gray and Other Writings (Bantam Classics) yet doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into completely new stage of crucial considering.

Juana Rummel:

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