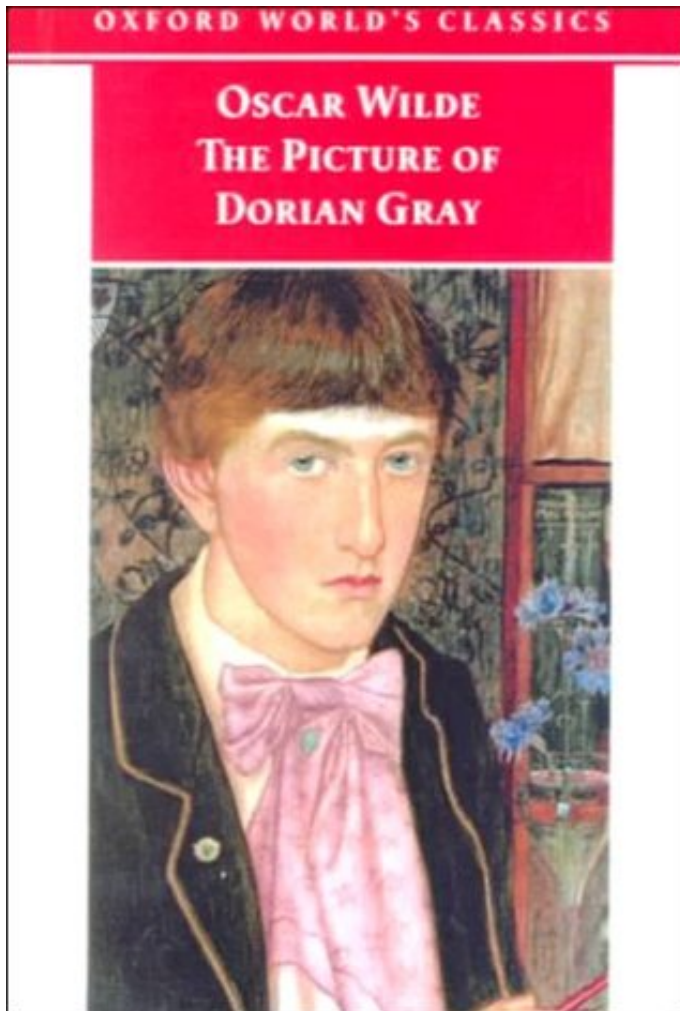


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# Oscar Wilde

## Picture of Dorian Gray



Title: Picture of Dorian Gray

Author: Oscar Wilde

Format: Hardcover

Language: English

Pages: 236

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0606172475

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 5.7 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

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."

## Insightful reviews

Manny: "My dear Jordan!" said Lord Rayner expansively, as the butler discreetly closed the door behind his young visitor. "Really, it is too good to see you again! And what brings you to Cambridge?"

"Oh, this and that," said the lad, flinging himself casually onto a priceless Ikea divan. "By the way, has there been some mistake in the casting? I thought I was female?"

"Well, since we're doing *Dorian Gray*, I hoped you would have no objection to reversing your gender," said his host. "And besides, is there anything quite as female as an attractive young man?"

"How could one disagree?" murmured the lad, as a becoming blush suffused his ivory cheek. "So, aren't you glad I persuaded you to read it?"

**The rest of this review is available elsewhere (the location cannot be given for Goodreads policy reasons)**

Henry Avila: "A face without a heart", so said Shakespeare in Hamlet. But it applies to the portrait of Dorian Gray, more readily. When the young gentleman Dorian Gray, from a wealthy

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aristocratic family, in Victorian England, has his picture completed, something is missing, Basil Hallward, the painter senses it. And insists that no one sees his greatest work, except a few people ... The witty Lord Henry Wotton, Dorian's soon to be best friend, seems amused, a shy artist! All three are fascinated by the painting, discussing it at length, in Mr.Hallward's house. The lord is a notorious man, with a well- deserved evil reputation, warned by many, to stay away from him. Gray's a lonely orphan, needs excitement in his dreary life, Wotton tells Dorian to have fun, while he is still young, it will not last long. Mr.Gray has good looks, and like a moth to a flame, the boy can't resist. Dorian wishes that the portrait ages, while he remains young, as time goes by, Dorian would give his soul for that! Lord Henry laughs at the oath, strangely his request is fulfilled shortly afterwards. Dorian meets a beautiful seventeen- year- old actress, both fall madly in love, later the nervous Sibyl Vane, gives a really bad performance, in front of Gray , and his two friends, the young gentleman is crushed , and so disappointed, he leaves her. Sibyl then kills herself, James her brother , has pledged to liquidate anyone who harms his sister, he will cause Mr.Gray much concern subsequently. The wicked lord tells the distraught youth, to forget about it, "Eternal youth, infinite passion, pleasures subtle and secrets, wild joy and wilder sins". All this and only the picture to show its evil, a great bargain Dorian feels. Rumors abound about Dorian, they the people, look at his face and see only purity, Gray continues his hedonistic life, murder , another suicide and a killing results ... In a locked, quiet, dark room, upstairs, at his home, where the curious Mr.Gray, keeps the picture, it Grotesquely Changes, whenever more wickedness, is committed by the owner. The ugly side of Dorian, only he sees... Later into the shadows , Dorian goes, to get opium, he wants salvation through drugs, blackout his memories, but gloom is everywhere, a thick atmosphere of foreboding, intense desperation, and immense helplessness, prevails. Reaching for something, that will save his poor soul, make him feel worthwhile, that life has some meaning, is all lost? A mournful torrent rushes Dorian forward, always forward, into the abyss, the darkness, the endless unknown regions, next oblivion? The light is going out, Dorian must face his destiny, he couldn't escape himself ...

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Emily May: "The sitter is simply the accident, the occasion. it's not he who's printed through the painter; it is extremely the painter who, at the colored canvas, finds himself. the explanation i cannot show this photo is that i'm afraid that i've got proven in it the key of my very own soul." And so starts off this story of artwork and sin. i'd hugely suggest first observing the motion picture Wilde starring the fantastic Stephen Fry, it's a movie which takes the viewers on a trip in the course of the lifetime of the tormented writer, from the beginnings of his status to his later incarceration for "gross indecency" - a cost used to imprison members while it was once most unlikely to turn out sodomy. Wilde was once sentenced to 2 years not easy labour and died now not lengthy after being freed as a result of illnesses received in the course of these years. Wilde's tale from a twenty-first century perspective, it's unhappy and scary to grasp this guy was once in some way sentenced to loss of life for being gay. The "hard labour" prescribed used to be performed in a number of methods yet some of the most universal was once the treadmill:This computing device made prisoners stroll always uphill for hours on finish and had many long term results on people's health.Why do i feel it's a must to recognize this? Because,

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as Wilde claims, in each piece of artwork there's extra of the artist than whatever else. and that i think this can be very true of the image of Dorian grey greater than probably the other fictional paintings i have read. during this novel, Wilde explores the character of sin, of morality and immorality. The homoerotic undertones among Dorian Gray, Basil Hallward and Lord Henry Wotton are, I think, the author's little expression of his personal mystery "sins" inside his work. not often does a piece of fiction so deeply appear to replicate components of the author's life. By 1891, whilst the image of Dorian grey was once published, Oscar Wilde had met and fallen in love with Lord Alfred Douglas and so they had began a semi-secret affair, through which I suggest that many have been suspicious of the connection yet did not argue with Wilde's claims that they shared a Socrates/Plato love that's among a detailed instructor and student. The idolisation of Dorian Gray's early life and beauty, his tendency to be suggest at random, those features all healthy with the outline and character of Lord Alfred Douglas. For me, there's no genuine query to whether a part of Dorian is intended to be Mr Wilde's lover. I imagine in case you familiarise your self with Oscar Wilde, this turns into a truly own novel, even more than simply a traumatic horror tale the place a guy sells his soul. yet even with none extra information, i believe this can be a unhappy and haunting e-book that tells of the pleased naivete of juvenile and the unhappy knowledge of maturity.

Jason: i'm really not certain even if this novel is so ideal I may still want Wilde had written more, or no matter if this novel is so ideal I will be thankful it stands alone. Wilde was once an aesthete? this can be a paintings of aestheticism? Hardly. the image of Dorian grey is a gripping and honest morality tale, advised with beauty, and approximately beauty, yet finally pushed by way of the quasi-Gothic nightmare that rests underneath all that's appealing within the ebook and all that's stated concerning the pursuit of good looks through its fundamental characters. Wilde's writing is beautiful. whatever of good looks in the *mise en scène* is captured through Wilde and depicted with beauty. Dorian grey is attractiveness in human form. His buddy Basil Hallward, a painter, sees Dorian's attractiveness and is pushed to painting it on canvas. in line with Dorian's wish, he'll stay beautiful, and Basil's portrait will undergo the ravages of his soul. Basil's homoerotic fascination with Dorian, and its expression in his portrait of Dorian, will unwittingly result in tragedy. via Basil, Dorian befriends Lord Henry Wotton, who impresses upon Dorian the correct of beauty. And, past that, the enjoyment of beauty. Of looking for that which pleases the senses. Of hedonism. a method of life Dorian takes at its purest. Hedonism regardless the price. own excitement in particular else. finally the price of this kind of life, and the sins Dorian commits within the identify of it, come grossly to light, in what's in lots of methods the easiest of stories of correct and wrong. Why is the radical so strong if it's, arguably, so simple? a number of reasons. Dorian's want isn't really a international idea to males of any age. Lord Wotton's philosophy is alluring and, in lots of ways, persuasive. attractiveness pleases man. All guy has in terms of figuring out the realm is his senses. All that triggers them and satisfies them (or more) is the easiest guy can take from the world. Wilde knows. whilst (and whilst not) feeding the reader a compelling philosophy of beauty, he feeds the reader through the wonderful thing about his prose. really literally, Wilde's writing pleases the senses. a number of senses, in fact. the attention in its words. yet greater than the eye, as Wilde's eye, and his remedy of the realm in the novel, reaches past it. That the wonderful thing about the writing is on par with the perspectives on aesthetics placed forth within the novel as a counterbalance to its ethical substance makes this a singular purely Wilde may have written. there is higher prose in Anglo-American fiction (or not). No such prose, however, is as amazing

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and of such calculated splendor and attract as Wilde's. The novel's abounding good looks offers the strength that animates its subject of fake beauty. That abounding attractiveness is Wilde's specific gift, and the guts of 1 of the simplest novels within the Anglo-American canon.

Trevor: this can be one other of these books I've been aspiring to learn for a while and saved placing off. even if I've a very sturdy explanation for placing this one off, as an excellent good friend of mine, who died a number of years ago, spoke to me approximately this ebook and that i used to be anxious that may make it difficult to learn for rather different reasons. He acknowledged that once he learn this ebook as a tender guy it made him convinced that he used to be now not homosexual. Now, that during itself used to be adequate to make me all for the book. it is a publication which may merely were written via a gay male and it's a booklet approximately homosexuality in very many ways. The obsession with formative years and wonder is sort of a cliché of gay obsessions – notwithstanding the 'dandy', the conceit of men, is far extra universal now, I think. we're more and more a tradition keen about appearance. i'm wondering if interpreting the e-book and seeing this obsession used to be the article that confident my pal he was once no longer homosexual, if that used to be the article that made him say, 'no, that's no longer me'. Or relatively if it was once the expression of wish very early within the ebook for Dorian grey through Basil, his painter and ardent admirer, that confident him. Lord Harry is a kind of speaking table calendars, in fact, except Hamlet, i feel it might be challenging to discover a e-book with extra quotable rates in line with page. a few of them are deliciously humorous and others are only one of these illumination fit struck in a gloomy room makes. there have been moments during this book, as there are in different works via Wilde, whilst one will get a sense of premonition of his destiny – it's difficult to think about a sadder tale than that of the final years of his life, or one who makes extra simple how particularly silly are societies that punish humans for his or her sexuality. There will be little or no i couldn't forgive Wilde for, really after he wrote the significance of Being Earnest – this book, his merely novel, is almost as good. Our sins usually are not rather displayed as truly on our faces as is believed here, yet our lives do mark us – it's a pity that during our obsession with formative years that we overlook how appealing our scars might be and that love, actual love, the affection that touches us so much deeply, is whilst one other accepts our scars and loves us for them, instead of inspite of them. One of the main quotable rates during this ebook is an assault on realism in fiction – "That is the explanation I hate vulgar realism in literature. the fellow who may well name a spade a spade could be pressured to take advantage of one. it's the simply factor he's healthy for." I comprehend this is often rarely a 'realistic' tale – I mean, it truly is a delusion and takes liberties with 'reality' as a way to touch upon the realm during the type of a fantasy – yet like several such tales concentrated on anything that's essentially 'over-the-top' it's contained in a shell that struck me as remarkably realistic. there has been no time whilst I felt Wilde was once calling a spade an enforce for cultivation or a few such foolish phrase. His writing is often transparent and to the point. the main 'flowery' language is likely to be whilst he's describing the perfumes grey turns into involved in and seeks to appreciate 'what there has been in frankincense that made one mystical, and in ambergris that stirred one's passions', yet even this can be infrequently as romantic or much less genuine than TS Eliot's (that so much 'modern' of writers) "In vails of ivory and colored glass / Unstoppered, lurked her unusual man made perfumes," Even at his such a lot flowery, Wilde is rarely 'unrealistic'. I got here to this booklet waiting for it to be a lot 'sillier' than it grew to become out to be. I've no proposal why i assumed this – maybe simply because I knew that the critical inspiration of the e-book used to

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be guy has a wierd courting with a portray in that he remains younger whereas the portray will get old. however the e-book wasn't approximately as foolish as i assumed it should be. i actually did take pleasure in it.

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