

# Oscar Wilde A Biography

[#Oscar Wilde biography](#) [#Irish playwright](#) [#Victorian author](#) [#aesthetic movement](#) [#The Picture of Dorian Gray](#)

Explore the fascinating life and enduring literary legacy of Oscar Wilde, the renowned Irish playwright, poet, and wit. This biography delves into his iconic works, his controversial personal life, and his profound impact on Victorian society and the aesthetic movement.

All research content is formatted for clarity, reference, and citation.

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## Oscar Wilde

The fullest, most textural, most accurate—most human—account of Oscar Wilde's unique and dazzling life—based on extensive new research and newly discovered materials, from Wilde's personal letters and transcripts of his first trial to newly uncovered papers of his early romantic (and dangerous) escapades and the two-year prison term that shattered his soul and his life. "Simply the best modern biography of Wilde." —Evening Standard Drawing on material that has come to light in the past thirty years, including newly discovered letters, documents, first draft notebooks, and the full transcript of the libel trial, Matthew Sturgis meticulously portrays the key events and influences that shaped Oscar Wilde's life, returning the man "to his times, and to the facts," giving us Wilde's own experience as he experienced it. Here, fully and richly portrayed, is Wilde's Irish childhood; a dreamy, aloof boy; a stellar classicist at boarding school; a born entertainer with a talent for comedy and a need for an audience; his years at Oxford, a brilliant undergraduate punctuated by his reckless disregard for authority . . . his arrival in London, in 1878, "already noticeable everywhere" . . . his ten-year marriage to Constance Lloyd, the father of two boys; Constance unwittingly welcoming young men into the household who became Oscar's lovers, and dying in exile at the age of thirty-nine . . . Wilde's development as a playwright. . . becoming the high priest of the aesthetic movement; his successes . . . his celebrity. . . and in later years, his irresistible pull toward another—double—life, in flagrant defiance and disregard of England's strict sodomy laws ("the blackmailer's charter"); the tragic story of his fall that sent him to prison for two years at hard labor, destroying his life and shattering his soul.

## Oscar Wilde

In this long-awaited biography, Wilde the legendary Victorian - brilliant writer and conversationalist, reckless flouter of social and sexual conventions - is brought to life. More astute and forbearing, yet more fallible than legend has allowed, Wilde is given here the dimensions of a modern hero.

## The Life of Oscar Wilde

The first major biography of Oscar Wilde in thirty years, and the most complete telling of his life and times to date. NOMINATED FOR THE WOLFSON HISTORY PRIZE 2019 'The Book of the Year,

perhaps of the decade' TLS 'Simply the best modern biography of Wilde... A terrific achievement' Evening Standard 'Page-turning... Vivid and desperately moving. However much you think you know Wilde, this book will absorb and entertain you' The Sunday Times Books of the Year Oscar Wilde's life – like his wit – was alive with paradox. He was both an early exponent and a victim of 'celebrity culture': famous for being famous, he was lauded and ridiculed in equal measure. His achievements were frequently downplayed, his successes resented. He had a genius for comedy but strove to write tragedies. He was an unabashed snob who nevertheless delighted in exposing the faults of society. He affected a dandified disdain but was prone to great acts of kindness. Although happily married, he became a passionate lover of men and – at the very peak of his success – brought disaster upon himself. He disparaged authority, yet went to the law to defend his love for Lord Alfred Douglas. Having delighted in fashionable throngs, Wilde died almost alone. Above all, his flamboyant refusal to conform to the social and sexual orthodoxies of his day make him a hero and an inspiration to all who seek to challenge convention. Matthew Sturgis draws on a wealth of new material and fresh research, bringing alive the distinctive mood and characters of the fin de siècle in the richest and most compelling portrait of Wilde to date.

#### Oscar Wilde

Packed with new evidence, "Making Oscar Wilde" tells the untold story of a local Irish eccentric who became a global cultural icon. This must-read book dramatizes Oscar Wilde's remarkable rise in Victorian England and post-Civil War America. Michele Mendelssohn interweaves biography and social history to reveal a life like no other.

#### Oscar Wilde

'...a biographer of supreme intelligence and industry, since the bibliography is immense and he has delved into it with extraordinary taste and imagination.' - The Spectator 'An excellent book, detailed where detail was still needed, sensibly perfunctory where almost everything possible has already been told and said.' - The Observer 'M. Jullian's book succeeds in keeping the reader's interest unflaggingly alive.' - The Economist

#### Oscar

Wilde the writer is known to us from his plays and prose fiction, but apparently it was in his conversation that his genius reached its summit. His talk is lost and his autobiography was never written, but his letters reveal him at his spontaneous, sparkling best.

#### The Life of Oscar Wilde

Studienarbeit aus dem Jahr 2005 im Fachbereich Anglistik - Literatur, Note: 2, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald (Institut für Anglistik/Amerikanistik), Veranstaltung: Social Criticism in Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband" and "A Woman of No Importance"

#### Making Oscar Wilde

For Wilde, as for many people, reading could be as powerful and transformative an experience as falling in love. He devoured books, talked books, luxuriated in books and lavished books on his friends- they played, too, a vital part in his seductions of young men. Oscar's Books tells the story of Wilde's life through his reading, from his childhood in Dublin, where he was nurtured on Celtic myth, Romantic poetry and Irish folklore; through his undergraduate years in which he built his intellect out of books; to prison, where his friends supplied him with literature which saved his sanity; to his final years in Paris where he consoled himself with old favourites such as Flaubert and Balzac. Fresh, utterly engaging and wholly original, Oscar's Books is an entirely new kind of biography.

#### Oscar Wilde

Gide, in this first English translation, defended a poet named Oscar Wilde when other poets threatened to wreck Wilde's life and attempted to show that Wilde was an honorable man. Gide's personal sketches are presented in this book that are in original form. This work was written during the prime of Oscar Wilde's life. André Gide (1869-1951), French writer, whose novels, plays, and autobiographical works are distinguished for their exhaustive analysis of individual efforts at self-realization and Protestant ethical concepts; together with his critical works they had a profound influence on French writing

and philosophy. Gide was born November 22, 1869, in Paris into a strict Protestant family and educated at the École Alsacienne and the Lycée Henri IV. In his first book, *Les cahiers d'Andre Walter* (The Notebooks of Andre Walter, 1891), Gide described the religious and romantic idealism of an unhappy young man. He then became associated with the Symbolists, but in 1894 began to develop an individualistic approach and style. In *Les nourritures terrestres* (The Fruits of the Earth, 1897) he preached the doctrine of active hedonism. Thereafter his works were devoted to examining the problems of individual freedom and responsibility, from many points of view. *The Immoralist* (1902; trans. 1930) and *Strait Is the Gate* (1909; trans. 1924) are studies of individual ethical concepts in conflict with conventional morality. *The Caves of the Vatican* (trans. 1927 and also published in English as *Lafcadio's Adventures*), in which Gide ridiculed the possibility of complete personal independence, appeared in 1914. The idyll *La symphonie pastorale* (The Pastoral Symphony, 1919; produced as a motion picture, 1947) dealt with love and responsibility. Gide examined the problems of middle-class families and of adolescence in *If It Die* (1920; trans. 1935) and in the popular novel of youth in Paris, *The Counterfeiters* (1926; trans. 1928). Gide's preoccupation with individual moral responsibility led him to seek public office. After filling municipal positions in Normandy (Normandie), he became a special envoy of the colonial ministry in 1925-26 and wrote two books describing conditions in the French African colonies. These reports, *Voyage au Congo* (1927) and *Retour du Tchad* (1927), were instrumental in bringing about reforms in French colonial law. They were published together in English as *Travels in the Congo* (1929). In the early 1930s Gide had expressed his admiration and hope for the "experiment" in the USSR, but after a journey in the Soviet Union he reported his disillusionment in *Return from the U.S.S.R.* (1936; trans. 1937). Many of Gide's critical studies appeared in *La Nouvelle Revue Française*, a literary periodical that he helped to found in 1909 and that became a dominant influence in French intellectual circles. These essays are principally analyses of the psychology of creative artists.

### Oscar Wilde

To tie-in with the 1997 film release, here is the true story of Oscar Wilde, the man who amused and shocked Edwardian London by becoming an icon of profound artistry, the vilest depravity, and the highest ideals of personal, social, and sexual freedom. With extraordinary depth, humor, and sensitivity, the book follows Wilde's career and personal life. Through it all, Wilde emerges as a man of charm and substance, a true philosopher perhaps simply born before his time.

### The Life of Oscar Wilde

In this long-awaited biography, Wilde the legendary Victorian - brilliant writer and conversationalist, reckless flouter of social and sexual conventions - is brought to life. More astute and forbearing, yet more fallible than legend has allowed, Wilde is given here the dimensions of a modern hero. Based on fresh material from many hitherto-untapped sources, Ellmann depicts Wilde's comet-like ascent on the Victorian scene and his equally dramatic sudden eclipse. His Irish background, the actresses to whom he paid court, his unfortunate wife and lovers, his clothes, coiffures, and the decor of his rooms - all are presented here in vivid detail. The saga of his 1882 American tour is recounted with a wealth of new details; also his later impact on the bastions of the French literary establishment. The London of the Nineties, of Whistler and the Pre-Raphaelites, Lillie Langtry and the Prince of Wales, is evoked alongside Paris of the "belle époque" and the Greece, Italy and North Africa of Wilde's travels. Ellmann's definitive critical account of Wilde's entire oeuvre shows him as the proponent of a radical new aesthetic who was perilously at odds with Victorian society. After his period of success and daring, the fatal love affair with Lord Alfred Douglas is followed by exposure, imprisonment, a few wretched years abroad and death in exile. The tragic end of Wilde's life leaves the reader with a sense of compassion and grief for the protagonist. This edition makes the popular and best selling biography available in paperback for the first time.

### Oscar Wilde: A Life in Letters

'I have put my genius into my life but only my talent into my work'. So said Oscar Wilde of his remarkable life - a life more complex, more erotic, more troubled and more triumphant than any of his contemporaries ever knew or suspected. Neil McKenna's *The Secret Life of Oscar Wilde* charts fully for the first time Oscar's astonishing erotic odyssey through Victorian London's sexual underworld. Oscar Wilde emerges as a man driven personally and creatively by his powerful desires for sex with men, and Neil McKenna argues compellingly and convincingly that Oscar's Wilde's life and work can

only be fully understood and appreciated in terms of his sexuality. The book draws of a vast range of sources, many of them previously unpublished, and includes startling new material like the statements made to the police by the male prostitutes and blackmailers ranged against Oscar Wilde at his trial which have been lost for over a century. Dazzlingly written, *The Secret Life of Oscar Wilde* meticulously and brilliantly reconstructs Oscar Wilde's emotional and sexual life, painting an astonishingly frank and vivid portrait of a troubled genius who chose to martyr himself for the cause of love between men.

### Oscar

An entirely new kind of biography, *Built of Books* explores the mind and personality of Oscar Wilde through his taste in books. This intimate account of Oscar Wilde's life and writings is richer, livelier, and more personal than any book available about the brilliant writer, revealing a man who built himself out of books. His library was his reality, the source of so much that was vital to his life. A reader first, his readerly encounters, out of all of life's pursuits, are seen to be as significant as his most important relationships with friends, family, or lovers. Wilde's library, which Thomas Wright spent twenty years reading, provides the intellectual (and emotional) climate at the core of this deeply engaging portrait. One of the book's happiest surprises is the story of the author's adventure reading Wilde's library. Reminiscent of Jorge Luis Borges's fictional hero who enters Cervantes's mind by saturating himself in the culture of sixteenth-century Spain, Wright employs Wilde as his own Virgilian guide to world literature. We come to understand how reading can be an extremely sensual experience, producing a physical as well as a spiritual delight.

### The Life of Oscar Wilde

From *Library Journal*: In this lavishly illustrated volume, English historian and author Gardiner uses Wilde's own words to delineate his life and times. What emerges is a picture of a man whom William Butler Yeats described as "the greatest talker of all time." Gardiner highlights Wilde's advocacy of aestheticism, his "search after the signs of the beautiful," which led him to renounce his conventional lifestyle and become an active homosexual. The final third of the book focuses on Wilde's tumultuous relationship with Lord Alfred Douglas and the scandal that resulted when "Bosie's" father, the Marquess of Queensbury, attacked Wilde's way of life. The volume is beset by a number of mechanical problems-quotations from original sources are awkwardly incorporated into the author's sentences, punctuation is at times faulty, and transitions not always smooth. Nonetheless, the book provides a good overview of Wilde's life; Gardiner acknowledges Richard Ellman's biography (*Oscar Wilde*, LJ 12/87) as the "fullest life possible." Suitable for public libraries with general literature collections.-Denise J. Stankovics.

### The Life Of Oscar Wilde

In the spring of 1895 the life of Constance Wilde changed irrevocably. Up until the conviction of her husband, Oscar, for homosexual crimes, she had held a privileged position in society. Part of a gilded couple, she was a popular children's author, a fashion icon, and a leading campaigner for women's rights. A founding member of the magical society the Golden Dawn, her pioneering and questioning spirit encouraged her to sample some of the more controversial aspects of her time. Mrs Oscar Wilde was a phenomenon in her own right. But that spring Constance's entire life was eclipsed by scandal. Forced to flee to the Continent with her two sons, her glittering literary and political career ended abruptly. Having changed her name, she lived in exile until her death. Franny Moyle now tells Constance's story with a fresh eye and remarkable new material. Drawing on numerous unpublished letters, she brings to life the story of a woman at the heart of fin-de-siecle London and the Aesthetic movement. In a compelling and moving tale of an unlikely couple caught up in a world unsure of its moral footing, she uncovers key revelations about a woman who was the victim of one of the greatest betrayals of all time.

### Oscar's Books

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde from Coterie Classics All Coterie Classics have been formatted for ereaders and devices and include a bonus link to the free audio book. "Those who find ugly meanings in beautiful things are corrupt without being charming. This is a fault. Those who find beautiful meanings in beautiful things are the cultivated. For these there is hope. They are the elect to whom beautiful things mean only Beauty. There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books

are well written, or badly written. That is all.” Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* A man sells his soul for eternal youth and scandalizes the city in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

### Oscar Wilde: A Biography

Oscar Wilde Who was Oscar Wilde? Was he just an author of witty but meaningless plays, only out to get a laugh or two? The answer is a resounding no. Oscar Wilde was an Irish poet and playwright in the late nineteenth century. His controversial plays were riddled with mockery of social status, cleverly covered by the use of comedy. Inside you will read about... *Blue China* and *Long Hair* *Marriage and Men* *The Picture of Dorian Gray* *The Sodomy Trials* *Life After Prison* *Death and Posthumous Pardon* And much more! Wilde may have paved the way for people living a little off the center line. He was full of flash and flare, and he wrote some of those colorful traits into his literature. Take a journey into the world of Oscar Wilde and find out just how individualistic he was.

### Wilde

The biography sensitive to the tragic pattern of the story of a great subject: Oscar Wilde - psychologically and sexually complicated, enormously quotable, central to a alluring cultural world and someone whose life assumed an unbearably dramatic shape. "From the Trade Paperback edition."

### Oscar Wilde

'A remarkable book... the breadth and depth of research is astonishing' Emma Thompson 'An illuminating study... fascinating' Independent Hailed as a gay icon and pioneer of individualism, Oscar Wilde's insistence that 'there should be no law for anybody' made him a staunch defender of gender equality. Throughout his life from his relationship to his extraordinary mother Jane and the tragedy of his sister Isola's early death to his accomplished wife Constance and a coterie of other free-thinking writers, actors and artists, women were a central aspect of his life and career. Wilde's *Women* is the first book to tell the story of his female friends and colleagues who traded witticisms with Wilde but also give him access to vital publicity and whose ideas he gave expression through his social comedies. Author Eleanor Fitzsimons reframes Wilde's story and his legacy through the women in his life including such fascinating figures as Florence Balcombe who left him for Bram Stoker, actress Lillie Langtry (for a while an inseparable friend) and his tragic and witty niece Dolly who bore a strong resemblance to the writer and loved fast cars, cocaine and foreign women. Full of fascinating detail and anecdotes Wilde's *Women* relates the untold story of how the writer played a vitally sympathetic role on behalf of many women and how they supported him in the midst of a Victorian society in the process of changing forever.

### The Secret Life of Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde, *His Life and Confessions* Volume 2 is the second part of a classic Oscar Wilde biography collection by Frank Harris.

### The Complete Works of Oscar Wilde ....

First published in 1916, this vintage book contains both volumes of Frank Harris's biography "Oscar Wilde - His Life and Confessions". An acquaintance of Wilde's, Harris attempts in this biography to do justice to his old friend whom he had helped throughout the controversy and his trial, twenty years previous. Contents include: "Oscar's Father And Mother On Trial", "Oscar Wilde As A Schoolboy", "Trinity, Dublin: Magdalen, Oxford", "Formative Influences: Oscar's Poems", "Oscar's Quarrel With Whistler", "And Marriage", "Oscar Wilde's Faith And Practice", "Oscar's Reputation And Supporters", "Oscar's Growth To Originality About 1890", etc. Frank Harris (1855–1931) was an Irish-American novelist, editor, journalist, publisher, and short story writer who had acquaintances with many famous people of his day. Other notable works by this author include: "The Man Shakespeare and his Tragic Life Story" (1909), "The Yellow Ticket And Other Stories" (1914), and "Contemporary Portraits" (1915–1923).

### Built of Books

Vilified by fellow Victorians for his sexuality and his dandyism, Oscar Wilde, the great poet, satirist and playwright, is hailed today, in some circles, as a progressive sexual liberator. But this image is not how Wilde saw himself. Joseph Pearce's biography strips away pretensions to show the real man, his aspirations and desires. It uncovers how he was broken by his prison sentence; it probes the deeper

thinking behind masterpieces such as *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *De Profundis*; and it traces his fascination with Catholicism through to his eleventh-hour conversion. Pearce removes the masks and reveals the Wilde beneath the surface. He has written a profound, wide-ranging study with many original insights on a great literary figure.

### Oscar Wilde

Few personalities in the history of literature have aroused so much interest as that of Oscar Wilde, yet the essentials of his nature are still not recognized and we are left to catch glimpses of the real man in the scattered reminiscences of the period. Here, at last, is the whole life of the man who was probably the most delightful and witty conversationalist the world has ever seen. Hesketh Pearson has succeeded in presenting Oscar Wilde as he was at the Café Royale in London, and in making the reader see him as the darling of the drawing rooms, the conversationalist, not the convict. But this is not a hero-worshipping book—Pearson shows Wilde's shortcomings and gives instances when Wilde was over-dramatic and when he failed to come off as a writer and a talker. This is a remarkable recreation of a genius set sharply in contrast to a period that batted on his wit, persecuted him, failed to understand him. Some of Wilde's stories make their first appearance in this book as do some of the conversational originals of several witticisms in his plays. "The most true, the most sensible and the fairest book which has yet been written about Oscar Wilde."—Harold Nicholson in *The Observer* Illustrated with 15 gravure plates.

### Oscar Wilde, a Pictorial Biography

The Cambridge Companion to Oscar Wilde offers an essential introduction to one of the theatre's most important and enigmatic writers. Although a general overview, the volume also offers some of the latest thinking on the dramatist and his impact on the twentieth century. Part One places Wilde's work within the cultural and historical context of his time and includes an opening essay by Wilde's grandson, Merlin Holland. Further chapters also examine Wilde and the Victorians and his image as a Dandy. Part Two looks at Wilde's essential work as playwright and general writer, including his poetry, critiques, and fiction, and provides detailed analysis of such key works as *Salome* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* among others. The third group of essays examines the themes and factors which shaped Wilde's work and includes Wilde and his view of the Victorian woman, Wilde's sexual identities, and interpreting Wilde on stage. This 1997 volume also contains a detailed chronology of Wilde's work, a guide to further reading, and illustrations from important productions.

### Constance

\_\_\_\_\_ 'Emer O'Sullivan has made an indispensable contribution to Wildean literature ... Compelling, informative and fascinating' - Stephen Fry 'Vivid and meticulously researched ... The name of Wilde stands for "what is singular, independent-minded, and fearless". Words that also describe this splendid book \*\*\*\*\*' - Frances Wilson, Mail on Sunday 'O'Sullivan vividly evokes the cultural vitalities Oscar inherited from the house he was born into ... Hugely readable' - John Sutherland, The Times \_\_\_\_\_ Oscar Wilde's father - scientist, surgeon, archaeologist, writer - was one of the most eminent men of his generation. His mother - poet, journalist, translator - hosted an influential salon at 1 Merrion Square. Together they were one of Victorian Ireland's most dazzling and enlightened couples. When, in 1864, Sir William Wilde was accused of sexually assaulting a female patient, it sent shock waves through Dublin society. After his death some ten years later, Jane attempted to re-establish the family in London, where Oscar burst irrepressibly upon the scene, only to fall in a trial as public as his father's. A remarkable and perceptive account, *The Fall of the House of Wilde* is a major repositioning of our first modern celebrity, a man whose fall from grace marked the end of fin de siècle decadence.

### The Picture of Dorian Gray

Oscar Wilde never wrote a last testament during his isolation in Paris. This book takes the known facts about Oscar Wilde and converts them into a fictional portrait of the artist and memoir of a life of great contrast - a career which ended with a catastrophic fall from public favour.

### Oscar Wilde: A Life from Beginning to End

Oscar Wilde was one of Ireland's finest and most prolific 19th-century writers and a celebrated wit. He became a popular playwright in the early 1890s and is best remembered for his epigrams and plays,

the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the circumstances of his imprisonment at the height of his fame and his early death. This entertaining illustrated biography covers all aspects of his life and work.

### Oscar Wilde

*Oscar Wilde: A Literary Life* tracks the intellectual biography of one of the most influential minds of the nineteenth century. Rather than focusing on the dramatic events of Wilde's life, this volume documents Wilde's impressive forays into education, religion, science, philosophy, and social reform. In so doing, it provides an accessible and yet detailed account that reflects Wilde's own commitment to the "contemplative life." Suitable for seasoned readers as well as those new to the study of his work, *Oscar Wilde: A Literary Life* brings Wilde's intellectual investments into sharp focus, while placing him within a cultural landscape that was always evolving and often fraught with contradiction.

### Wilde's Women

In this elegant and affectionate biography of one of the most controversial personalities of the nineteenth century, Barbara Belford breaks new ground in the evocation of Oscar Wilde's personal life and in our understanding of the choices he made for his art. Published for the centenary of Wilde's death, here is a fresh, full-scale examination of the author of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, a figure not only full of himself but enjoying life to the fullest. Based on extensive study of original sources and animated throughout by historical detail, anecdote, and insight, the narrative traces Wilde's progression from his childhood in an intellectual Irish household to his maturity as a London author to the years of his European exile. Here is Wilde the Oxford Aesthete becoming the talk of London, going off to tour America, lecturing on the craftsmanship of Cellini to the silver miners of Colorado, condemning the ugliness of cast-iron stoves to the ladies of Boston. Here is the domestic Wilde, building sandcastles with his sons, and the generous Wilde, underwriting the publication of poets, lending and spending with no thought of tomorrow. And here is the romantic Wilde, enthralled with Lord Alfred Douglas in an affair that thrived on laughter, smitten with Florence Balcombe, flirting with Violet Hunt, obsessed with Lillie Langtry, loving Constance, his wife. Vividly evoked are the theatres, clubs, restaurants, and haunts that Wilde made famous. More than previous accounts, Belford's biography evaluates Wilde's homosexuality as not just a private matter but one connected to the politics and culture of the 1890s. Wilde's timeless observations, which make him the most quoted playwright after Shakespeare, are seamlessly woven into the life, revealing a man of remarkable intellect, energy, and warmth. Too often portrayed as a tragic figure--persecuted, imprisoned, sent into exile, and shunned--Wilde emerges from this intuitive portrait as fully human and fallible, a man who, realizing that his creative years were behind him, committed himself to a life of sexual freedom, which he insisted was the privilege of every artist. Even now, we have yet to catch up with the man who exhibited some of the more distinguishing characteristics of the twentieth century's preoccupation with fame and zeal for self-advertisement. Wilde's personality shaped an era, and his popularity as a wit and a dramatist has never ebbed.

### Oscar Wilde, His Life and Confessions

Oscar Wilde - His Life and Confessions - Volumes I & II