

The Picture Of Dorian Gray Oberon Modern Playwrights

spellbound before his own portrait dorian gray utters a fateful wish in exchange for eternal youth he gives his soul to be corrupted by the malign influence of his mentor the aesthete and hedonist lord henry wotton

the story of a man who sells his soul to ensure that he will remain young and handsome while his painted portrait ages instead

over 120 years after oscar wilde submitted the picture of dorian gray for publication the uncensored version of his novel appears here for the first time in a paperback edition this volume restores material including instances of graphic homosexual content removed by the novel's first editor who feared it would be offensive to victorians

the picture of dorian gray is about a young man named dorian gray who has a portrait painted of himself the artist basil hallward thinks dorian gray is very beautiful and

becomes obsessed with dorian one day in basil s garden dorian gray meets a man named lord henry wotton lord henry wotton makes dorian gray believe that the only thing important in life is beauty however dorian realizes that he will become less beautiful as he grows older he wishes the portrait basil painted would become old in his place dorian then sells his soul so he can be beautiful forever but not on purpose dorian s wish comes true however every time dorian does something evil mean or selfish his picture ages for 18 years dorian does not age he does many bad things while his portrait becomes more aged with each bad deed later on dorian decides to stop doing bad things in the hopes that this will make his portrait become beautiful again but it only makes it worse dorian thinks that only a full confession will make the portrait beautiful again however he does not feel guilty for anything he has done so dorian picks up a knife and destroys the portrait when his servants hear a scream from dorian s room they call the police the police find dorian s body on the floor with a stab wound in his heart his body has become very aged however the portrait has returned to the way it was when it was first painted

when dorian gray has his portrait painted he is captivated by his own beauty set in fin de siecle london this novel traces a path from the studio of painter basil hallward to the opium dens of the east end combining elements of the supernatural aestheticism and the gothic this is a work of fiction

the picture of dorian gray is a gothic and philosophical novel by oscar wilde first published complete in the july 1890 issue of lippincott s monthly magazine fearing the story was indecent the magazine s editor deleted roughly five hundred words before publication without wilde s knowledge despite that censorship the picture of dorian gray offended the moral sensibilities of british book reviewers some of whom said that oscar wilde merited prosecution for violating the laws guarding public morality in response wilde aggressively defended his novel and art in correspondence with the british press although he personally made excisions of some of the most controversial material when revising and lengthening the story for book publication the following year

the penguin english library edition of the picture of dorian gray by oscar wilde i am jealous of everything whose beauty does not die i am jealous of the portrait you have painted of me why did you paint it it will mock me some day mock me horribly a story of evil debauchery and scandal oscar wilde s only novel tells of dorian gray a beautiful yet corrupt man when he wishes that a perfect portrait of himself would bear the signs of ageing in his place the picture becomes his hideous secret as it follows dorian s own downward spiral into cruelty and depravity the picture of dorian gray is a masterpiece of the evil in men s hearts and is as controversial and alluring as wilde himself the penguin english library 100 editions of the best fiction in english from the eighteenth century and the very first novels to the beginning of the first world war

the artist is the creator of beautiful things to reveal art and conceal the artist is art s aim the critic is he who can translate into another manner or a new material his impression of beautiful things

the picture of dorian gray begins on a beautiful summer day in victorian england where lord henry wotton an opinionated man is observing the sensitive artist basil hallward

painting the portrait of dorian gray a handsome young man who is basil s ultimate muse while sitting for the painting dorian listens to lord henry espousing his hedonistic world view and begins to think that beauty is the only aspect of life worth pursuing prompting dorian to wish that his portrait would age instead of himself under lord henry s hedonistic influence dorian fully explores his sensuality he discovers the actress sibyl vane who performs shakespeare plays in a dingy working class theatre dorian approaches and courts her and soon proposes marriage the enamoured sibyl calls him prince charming and swoons with the happiness of being loved but her protective brother james warns that if prince charming harms her he will murder him dorian invites basil and lord henry to see sibyl perform in romeo and juliet sibyl too enamoured with dorian to act performs poorly which makes both basil and lord henry think dorian has fallen in love with sibyl because of her beauty instead of her acting talent embarrassed dorian rejects sibyl telling her that acting was her beauty without that she no longer interests him on returning home dorian notices that the portrait has changed his wish has come true and the man in the portrait bears a subtle sneer of cruelty conscience stricken and lonely dorian decides to reconcile with sibyl but he is too late as lord henry informs him that sibyl has killed herself dorian then understands that where his life is headed lust and beauty shall suffice dorian locks the portrait up and over the following eighteen years he experiments with every vice influenced by a morally poisonous french novel that lord henry wotton gave him one night before leaving for paris basil goes to dorian s house to ask him about rumours of his self indulgent sensualism dorian does not deny his debauchery and takes basil to see the portrait the portrait has become so hideous that basil is only able to identify it as his by the signature he affixes to all of his portraits basil is horrified and beseeches dorian to pray for salvation in anger dorian blames his fate on basil and stabs him to death dorian then calmly blackmails an old friend the scientist alan campbell into using his knowledge of chemistry to destroy the body of basil hallward alan later kills himself to escape the guilt of his crime dorian goes to an opium den where james vane is unknowingly present james had been seeking vengeance upon dorian ever since sibyl killed herself but had no leads to pursue as the only thing he knew about dorian was the name sibyl called him prince charming in the opium den however he hears someone refer to dorian as prince charming and he accosts dorian dorian deceives james into believing that he is too young to have known sibyl who killed herself eighteen years earlier as his face is still that of a young man james relents and releases dorian but is then approached by a woman from the opium den who reproaches james for not killing dorian she confirms that the man was dorian gray and explains that he has not aged in eighteen years james runs after dorian but he has gone

in the picture of dorian gray oscar wilde crafts a haunting novella that explores the interwoven themes of beauty morality and hedonism through the tale of a young man whose portrait ages while he remains perpetually youthful employing a rich articulate prose style replete with aphorisms and vivid imagery wilde critiques victorian society s obsession with aestheticism and the duality of human nature this work not only delves into the consequences of a life devoted to pleasure but also reflects the burgeoning aesthetic movement of the late 19th century positioning wilde as a key figure in both literary and cultural histories oscar wilde was a prominent playwright poet and novelist whose own life mirrored the complexities explored in his fiction known for his flamboyant personality and sharp wit wilde experienced a tumultuous relationship with societal norms particularly concerning morality and sexuality his experiences with the constraints of victorian conventions likely informed the narrative of dorian gray

offering a profound critique of contemporary societal values and the repression of individual desires readers who appreciate thought provoking literature and the exploration of moral philosophy will find the picture of dorian gray indispensable wilde s timeless reflection on the perilous pursuit of beauty and the profound ramifications of a life unmoored from ethical consideration continues to resonate making this novella a compelling and essential read for all lovers of classic literature

this revised norton critical edition like its predecessor is the only edition available that includes both the 1890 lippincott s and the 1891 book version of the picture of dorian gray under the editorial guidance of wilde scholar michael patrick gillespie students have the opportunity to read comparatively both published versions of this controversial novel backgrounds and reviews and reactions allow readers to gauge the picture of dorian gray s sensational reception when the 1890 version appeared and to consider the heated public debate over art and morality that followed its publication joris karl huysmans walter pater and oscar wilde offer a sense of the diverse opinions on these topics eight contemporary reviews and comments on the novel are reprinted among them four opinions from the st james s gazette immediately after publication in 1890 each followed by oscar wilde s vehement reply criticism includes seven new essays on the novel that reflect key changes in interpretive theory in recent years and reveal the broad range of perspectives associated with wilde and the picture of dorian gray simon joyce donald l lawler sheldon w liebman maureen o connor ellie ragland sullivan john paul riquelme and michael patrick gillespie provide their varied assessments a chronology and a selected bibliography are also included book jacket

in the picture of dorian gray oscar wilde creates a tale of desire temptation and the dangers of living only for pleasure dorian gray remains forever young while his portrait grows old and twisted reflecting every secret sin both a shocking novel of its age and a timeless warning about vanity and corruption wilde s masterpiece continues to resonate today combining gothic suspense with sharp philosophical insight it is a story that unsettles provokes and entralls an unforgettable classic of english literature this is the english language paperback edition with all 20 chapters of the 1891 print of the picture of dorian gray oscar wilde the picture of dorian gray first published in lippincott s monthly magazine 1890 first printed book edition ward lock and co london new york melbourne 1891 neuausgabe 1 auflage liwi literatur und wissenschaftsverlag göttingen 2025

the picture of dorian gray is the story of one beautiful innocent young man s seduction moral corruption and eventual downfall we meet our three central characters at the beginning of the book when painter basil hallward and his close friend lord henry wotton are discussing the subject of basil s newest painting a gorgeous young thing named dorian gray basil and henry discuss just how perfectly perfect dorian is he s totally innocent and completely good as well as being the most beautiful guy ever to walk the earth lord henry wants to meet this mysterious boy but basil doesn t want him to for some reason he s afraid of what will happen to dorian if lord henry digs his claws into him however lord henry gets his wish dorian shows up that very afternoon and over the course of the day henry manages to totally change dorian s perspective on the world from that point on dorian s previously innocent point of view is dramatically different he begins to see life as lord henry does as a succession of pleasures in which questions of good and evil are irrelevant basil finishes his portrait of dorian and gives it to the young man who keeps it in his home where he can admire his own beauty lord henry

continues to exert his influence over dorian to basil s dismay dorian grows more and more distant from basil his former best friend and develops his own interests one of these interests is sybil vane a young exceptionally beautiful exceptionally talented and exceptionally poor actress though she s stuck performing in a terrible third rate theatre she s a truly remarkable artist and her talent and beauty win over dorian he falls dramatically in love with her and she with him for a moment it seems like everything will turn out wonderfully however this is just the beginning of dorian s story once he and sybil are engaged her talent suddenly disappears she s so overcome with her passionate love for dorian that none of her roles on stage seem important to her anymore this destroys dorian s love for her and he brutally dumps her back home he notices a something different in his portrait it looks somehow crueler in the meanwhile the distraught sybil commits suicide just as dorian decides to return to her and take back his terrible words sybil s suicide changes everything at first dorian feels horrible but he rather quickly changes his tune on lord henry s suggestion dorian reads a mysterious yellow book a decadent french novel that makes him reevaluate his whole belief system the protagonist of the book lives his life in pursuit of sensual pleasures which intrigues dorian from this moment on dorian is a changed man dorian starts to live as hedonistically as his wicked mentor lord henry does the only thing that documents this turn for the worst is the portrait which alarmingly begins to exhibit the inward corruption of dorian s soul the beautiful image changes revealing new scars and physical flaws with each of dorian s dastardly actions as years pass the man in the picture grows more and more hideous as dorian himself stays unnaturally young and beautiful rumors start to spread about the various people whose lives dorian has ruined and his formerly good reputation is destroyed on dorian s 38th birthday he encounters basil who desperately asks his former friend if all the horrifying rumors about him are true dorian finally snaps and shows basil the portrait in which the horrible truth about his wicked nature is revealed basil recoils and begs dorian to pray for forgiveness in response dorian murders basil stabbing him brutally he blackmails another of his former friends into disposing of the body dorian retreats to an opium den after dealing with all of the evidence where he encounters an enemy he didn t know he had sybil vane s brother james through a rather complicated turn of events james who s on a mission to punish

the picture of dorian gray is oscar wilde s only novel but what a novel dorian gray is a handsome young man who commissions a painting of himself by an artist named basil hallward the artist is infatuated with dorian thinking the young man s beauty has brought about a major improvement in his art when dorian meets lord henry wotton a friend of the artist s dorian comes to love lord henry s worldview that the only things worth pursuing are beauty and a hedonistic abandon to please the senses dorian in a whimsical moment says he d love to sell his soul to have basil s painting of him age instead of dorian himself that wish is granted and dorian lives a life of debauchery the results of which are reflected in the painting but no matter how well you play the game there s always a price to pay this large print edition is presented in easy to read 16 point type

the picture of dorian gray by oscar wilde is a profound exploration of vanity morality and the consequences of unchecked hedonism the novel follows dorian gray a young man whose extraordinary beauty is immortalized in a portrait under the influence of lord henry wotton dorian embraces a life of pleasure and excess while his portrait bears the physical and moral decay of his actions allowing him to remain outwardly unscathed wilde crafts a sharp critique of aestheticism and the pursuit of eternal youth exposing

the dangers of living without ethical boundaries since its publication the picture of dorian gray has been celebrated for its wit philosophical depth and psychological complexity the novel s exploration of duality the conflict between appearance and reality virtue and vice has ensured its status as a cornerstone of gothic and philosophical literature wilde s mastery of language and epigrammatic style adds layers of irony and insight making the work as thought provoking as it is captivating the novel s enduring relevance lies in its timeless meditation on self indulgence corruption and the price of vanity the picture of dorian gray remains a powerful reflection on the human soul urging readers to question the cost of a life devoted solely to pleasure and the illusions that beauty and youth can sustain

discover the story of the picture of dorian gray with this striking collector s edition from union square co s signature editions series the classic texts that shaped our culture feature exclusive cover art by distinguished artist malika favre her bold graphic style gives each classic literature book a small masterpiece for a jacket collect the set or prize this the picture of dorian gray special edition as your showpiece literary classic handsome young dorian gray sees a painter s stunning portrait of him and becomes transfixed by his own beauty troubled by the knowledge that the painting will remain handsome while he himself will wither dorian exchanges his soul for eternal youth from that point on dorian lives a life of hedonistic indulgence knowing that only the painting will show his moral corruption literary history and meaning the picture of dorian gray by oscar wilde was first published in 1890 wilde s first and only novel delivers a scathing critique of victorian society s superficial judgments and hypocrisy the novel provokes philosophical thought on the duality of human nature and the ethical consequences of surrendering to one s baser instincts though controversial in its time the picture of dorian gray continues to be a celebrated literary work and it resonates with twenty first century readers posing questions about who we are versus how we present ourselves in our social profiles online and offline and the high cost of prioritizing image over ethics

featuring an appendix of discussion questions the diversion classics edition is ideal for use in book groups and classrooms oscar wilde s only novel tells the story of dorian gray a vain man so obsessed with his hedonistic lifestyle he is willing to sell his soul ensuring that a portrait of himself will age while he remains youthful dorian pursues a life of debauchery but his actions soon take him past the point of redemption controversial and frequently banned the picture of dorian gray is a fascinating exploration of conscience and morality

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