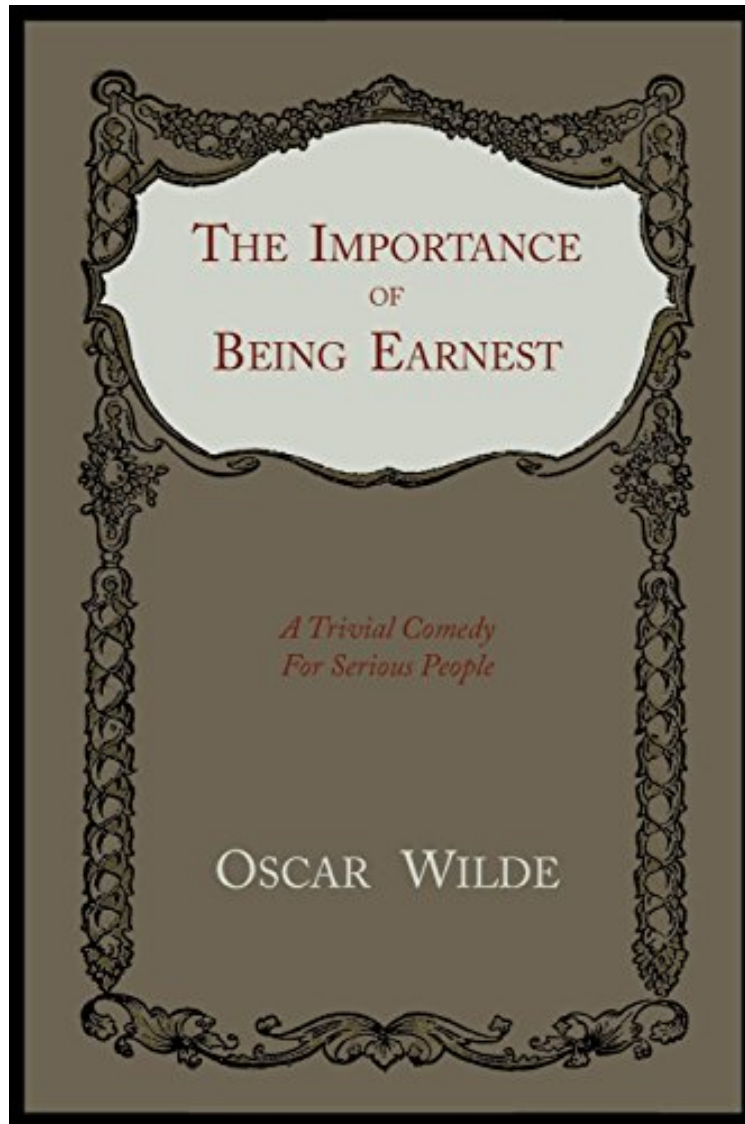


[Free] The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

Oscar Wilde

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Oscar Wilde : The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great Play. Get a different edition!By OtherWeisThe poor review is for the edition and not the material. Avoid this Smith and Brown edition. As with many plays that are old enough to be

in the public domain, there are numerous editions, some better than others. In fact, anyone with a Xerox machine can make their own edition of this play, and this is pretty close to that. This is the worst edition I have ever seen of a script. The formatting is ponderous and poorly done. Character names are barely differentiated from the text that they speak; Stage directions are often buried in the text with little to differentiate them. In addition, the text goes so close to the edges that one sometime needs to break open the binding just to read it. There is not introduction, no annotations, nothing of interest to make up for the fact that this edition is annoying to read. If this were the only edition available, that'd be one thing, but there are so many options. I went to a bookstore and picked up this edition: *The Importance of Being Earnest*. It's fine. It's easy to read. It has introductory material and other frills if you're into that sort of thing, and it's cheaper. Get that one or some other, not this one. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful book with great thoughts. By CustomerMust- Read. A great book for high-school or above with great philosophy and moral storytelling. Deep and intriguing the entire time. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I must Earnestly say I love this play. By amintakristine This is my second-favorite play EVAR. I can't get enough of it. I'm glad these are so cheap; my last couple copes have fallen apart from rereading and character studies and notes everywhere.

2011 Reprint of 1899 Edition. "The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People" was first performed on 14 February 1895 at St. James's Theatre in London. It is a farcical comedy in which the protagonists maintain fictitious personae in order to escape burdensome social obligations. Working within the social conventions of late Victorian London, the play's major themes are the triviality with which it treats institutions as serious as marriage, and the resulting satirical treatment of Victorian manners and customs. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make it Wilde's most enduringly popular play.

Samuel Lyndon Gladdens edition of *The Importance of Being Earnest* continues Broadview Press's proven tradition of excellence. This book will serve the undergraduate, general reader, and scholar. Gladdens' introduction is provocative, and the ancillary materials are especially welcome. Gladden balances familiar with unexpected contemporary works from Gilbert and Sullivan to Ada Levenson, playbills to reviews, poems to pictures, conduct manuals to dandy tracts plus excerpts of Wilde's writings, including an earlier version of the play. Bibliography and chronology complete the presentation as one-stop shopping for an earnest acquaintance with Wilde's charmer as social text. Frederick S. Roden, University of Connecticut Broadview's *Importance of Being Earnest* carries on the press's excellent series of texts for general readers and students alike. Samuel Lyndon Gladden presents the three-act text, as well as an appendix with important scenes and lines from the original four-act version. The volume includes many useful annotations and glosses, appendices with contextual information, illustrations, and extracts from letters and documents that will enhance understanding and interpretation of the play. The introduction places the play in up-to-date critical and biographical contexts, illuminating issues without closing down other approaches to making sense of Wilde's carefully composed dramatic nonsense. Philip E. Smith, University of Pittsburgh From the Back Cover *The Importance of Being Earnest* marks a central moment in late-Victorian literature, not only for its wit but also for its role in the shift from a Victorian to a Modern consciousness. The play began its career as a biting satire directed at the very audience who received it so delightedly, but ended its initial run as a harbinger of Wilde's personal downfall when his lover's father, who would later bring about Wilde's arrest and imprisonment, attempted to disrupt the production. In addition to its focus on the textual history of the play, this Broadview Edition of *Earnest* provides a wide array of appendices. The edition locates Wilde's work among the artistic and cultural contexts of the late nineteenth century and will provide scholars, students, and general readers with an important sourcebook for the play and the social, creative, and critical contexts of mid-1890s English life. About the Author Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was born in Dublin in 1854. He won scholarships to both Trinity College, Dublin, and Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was heavily influenced by the radical aesthetics of Walter Pater. Flamboyant wit and man-about-town, Wilde had a reputation that preceded him, especially in his early career. After publishing two volumes of short stories between 1887 and 1891, his social-comedy plays such as *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* established his critical and commercial success. In 1895 Wilde was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for homosexual conduct and died in Paris in obscurity a few years after his release.