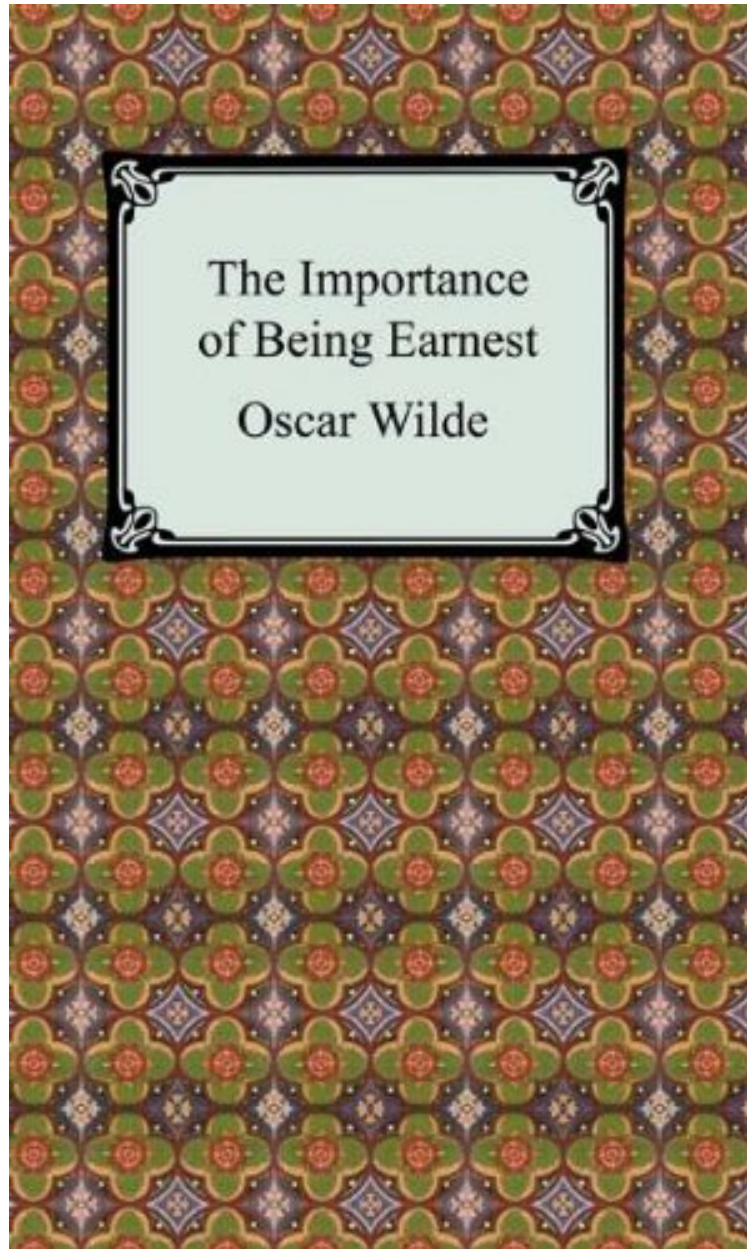


(Free read ebook) The Importance of Being Earnest [with Biographical Introduction]

The Importance of Being Earnest [with Biographical Introduction]

Von Oscar Wilde

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Von Oscar Wilde : The Importance of Being Earnest [with Biographical Introduction] before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Importance of Being Earnest [with Biographical Introduction]:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wilde's MasterpieceVon Osbeltli'The Importance of Being Earnest'a play by Oscar WildeAlgernon Moncrieff is visited by his best friend Ernest Worthing, who wants to propose to Algernon's cousin, Gwendolen. But he refuses to grant Ernest his wish until he explains why he owns a cigarette case that bears an inscription to 'dear Uncle Jack.' As it turns out Ernest is leading a double life: in the country, he goes by the name of Jack and pretends to have a brother named Ernest living in London. By this he can assume a serious attitude for the benefit of his young ward Cecily and lead a 'free' live in the city. After hearing this story, Algernon admits that he engages in a similar lifestyle: he pretends to have an invalid friend named Bunbury in the country, so whenever Algernon wants to avoid social obligations, he pretends to visit him instead.When Lady Bracknell finally arrives with her daughter Gwendolen, Jack proposes to her. Gwendolen accepts happily, but confesses to only love him for his name: Ernest. Because of this Jack decides to be christened as Ernest. After Lady Bracknell finds out about the engagement she forbids her daughter to ever see him again.A few days later at Jack's country house, Algernon arrives and announces himself as Ernest Worthing in order to propose to Cecily. As it turns out, Cecily has for some time imagined herself in love with her Uncle Jack's wicked younger brother and Algernon easily sweeps her off her feet. But like Gwendolen, Cecily loves her fianc for his name so Algernon decides to be christened as Ernest as well. Something Jack is not very happy about.To make matters worse Gwendolen arrives from London. When she and Cecily meet and they discover that they are both engaged to 'Ernest', Jack and Algernon are in trouble.The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is the last and most popular play by Oscar Wilde. Set in late Victorian England, the humorous play is brimming with witty and nonsensical dialogues and even though the play was written over a hundred years ago the wit is still entertaining and fascinating up to date. What fascinated me the most was that below the surface of the light, brittle comedy, Wilde hides a serious subtext that takes aim at self-righteous moralism and hypocrisy, the very aspects of Victorian society that would play a part in Oscar Wilde's downfall shortly after the first staging of his play. Moreover he accomplishes this without affecting the light atmosphere surrounding it. One is perfectly capable of reading the play without having to notice its deeper meaning while still getting an enjoyable read out of it.It is also important to mention, that The Importance of Being Earnes is a nonsense play. This means that the characters say the opposite of what is normal or expected, everything is turned upside down and reminds us of the innocence of childhood, the paradise of innocence. For example, when Jack announces the death of his brother and Miss Prims replies: 'What a lesson for him! I trust he will profit by it.' or when little Cecily says that, 'It is always painful to part from people whom one has known for a very brief space of time. The absence of old friends one can endure with equanimity. But even a momentary separation from anyone to whom one has just been introduced is almost unbearable.'. The play is full of such statements that make us smile and or even laugh out loud at their absurdity. Sometimes we even have to read them again, not understanding what the character is trying to say, only to find out that they were really saying nonsense. Some might find lines like these annoying, others hilarious, I find them simply fascinating.As we have already heard, the characters in the play act like children - they are doing and saying things with such innocence, unaware of possible consequences. One point of critique is that the character of Algernon and Jack, as well as Gwendolen and Cecily are very similar. They act and think in the same way and it might be argued that it would have been more interesting if the couples were at least in some points opposing or unique, leading to different approaches and solutions to their problem.The last point of my review will deal with the name 'Earnest' and its double meaning in this play. The book does not only deal with the fact that it is important for Algernon and Jack to be 'Ernest' but also with the character trait 'earnest'. If a person is earnest it means he or she is serious and sincere, something that is not a desired trait in The Importance of Being Earnest. It can present as boringness, smugness, a sense of duty and other similar traits that were associated with the Victorian character. Being earnest is something that has to be avoided at all costs in the play, so it is quite interesting that the name 'Earnest' is so popular with Gwendolen and Cecily.To sum it all up, The Importance of Being Earnes is without a doubt one of the best plays of its time. The story, even though it is in parts predictable, is written to perfection. The dialogues are witty, entertaining and well thought out. After reading the book the wish arises in the reader to see it performed on stage, as Wilde intended his masterpiece to be experienced.The Importance of Being Earnest- A Trivial Comedy for Serious PeopleThe Persons of the play:John Worthing, J.P.; Algernon Moncrieff; Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D.; Mr. Gribbsby, Solicitor; Merriman, Butler; Lane, Manservant; Moulton, Gardener; Lady Bracknell; Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax; Cecily Cardew; Miss Prism, GovernessFirst perfomed:London: ST. James's TheatreFebruary 14th, 18952 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bissig, sarkastisch und sozialkritischVon callistoIch mag es nicht, Theaterstcke zu lesen. Theaterstcke sollte man sehen, oder zumindest hren. Da ich auch nicht wirklich Zeit habe zu lesen, weil ich sonst zu gar nichts mehr komme, ziehe ich einige der Kanon Bcher jetzt einfach als ungekrzte Hrbcher bzw. Hrspiele durch.Dieses Hrstck ist ein Hybrid. Es ist kein wirkliches Hrspiel, denn es gibt keine Geruschkulisse, aber dennoch verteilte Sprecher. Statt Geruschen gibt es einen Sprecher, der die Regieanweisungen spricht. Also eine Lesung mit verteilten Rollen, somit kein Hrbuch und kein Hrspiel aber auch keine vertonte Lesung.Die Geschichte ist schnell erzht, denn sie ist nur ein Dreiakter.Algernon Moncrieff und John Worthing sind beide Single und best Buddies. Nur, John hat ein Alias fr die Stadt, damit er seinen Ruf auf dem Lande wahren kann: Ernest. Er ist somit sein eigener

kleiner Bruder. Nun hat sich John Worthing in Algernons Cousine verliebt, die jedoch nur einen Mann heiraten will, der Ernest heißt. Algernon hingegen hat einen erfundenen, schwerkranken Freund namens Bunbury, den er vorschleibt, wenn er sich aus der Stadt absetzen will. Algernon ist neugierig auf John Worthings Mädel Cecily Cardew und macht sich an sie heran, indem er sich für Johns kleinen Bruder Ernest ausgibt. Die Verwicklungen sind vorhersehbar. Die Geschichte greift eigentlich zu altbekannten ausgelutschten Tricks: Verwirrspiel mit vertauschten Namen (hat schon Shakespeare gemacht), dazu Zickenterror (unzählige Beispiele) und ein Geheimnis um ein verschwundenes Kind das plötzlich doch einen tollen Stammbaum hat (*ghn*). Was die Geschichte so gelungen macht sind die witzig, bissigen Dialoge, die zugleich massive Sozialkritik sind und die viktorianische Gesellschaft so richtig gegen das Schieneneisen treten. Dazu wird noch über Klischees bezüglich Männer und Frauen hergezogen indem sie teilweise um 180° gedreht werden. Eine ausgefeilte, innovative Geschichte würde wohl nur von den genialen Dialogen ablenken. Die Sprecher sind OK. Algernons Stimme finde ich seltsam, ansonsten sind die Sprecher sehr gut. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Witzige paradoxe Verwechslungskomödie Von Sommerlese Die Gentlemen John "Jack" Worthing und Algernon Moncrieff sind Freunde und Lebemänner und um ihr Freizeitleben gesellschaftsfähig zu machen, erfinden sie beide Personen, um die sie sich kümmern müssen. Algernon denkt sich den ewig kranken Bunbury auf dem Land aus und Jack sorgt sich um seinen imaginären missratenen Bruder Earnest in der Stadt. Diese erfundenen Personen ermöglichen ihnen ganz nach Belieben dem Landleben zu entfliehen oder aber dort in Ruhe abzutauchen. Jack hat das Anliegen, Zeit mit Algernons Cousine Gwendolen verbringen zu können, während Algernon sich in Jacks Mädel Cecily verliebt. Es wird problematisch, denn beide stellen sich ihrer jeweiligen Angebeteten unter einem falschem Namen - Earnest - vor. Während die jungen Damen den Namen Earnest für eine sehr wichtige Voraussetzung halten, um einen Mann lieben zu können. Diese humorvolle, manchmal regelrecht alberne Verwechslungskomödie hat inhaltlich keinen großen Tiefgang. Die Idee dahinter ist recht verrückt und mit Klischees und Konflikten nur so gespickt. Dennoch ist es ein unterhaltsames und humorvolles Stück, das gerade durch die sprachliche Umsetzung zuerst gelungen ist. Das liegt hauptsächlich an Wildes sprachlicher Fähigkeit und den kurzweiligen und geistreichen Dialogen und vielen Pointen. Es ist ansatzlos zu sehen, wie sich die Gentlemen aus ihrem Längengebilde herauswinden. Wenn man die bissigen Dialoge genauer betrachtet, zeigen sie unterschwellig eine Sozialkritik gegen die viktorianische Gesellschaft auf. Ein unterhaltsames Theaterstück, das am besten auf Englisch gelesen werden sollte. So kommen die herrlichen Dialoge und witzigen Pointen am schönsten zur Geltung.

Kurzbeschreibung "The Importance of Being Earnest," considered to be one of Oscar Wilde best plays, is a comedic satire of Victorian England. It is the story of Jack Worthing who lives in the country with his ward Cecily Cardew. Jack invents a brother named Ernest so that he has an excuse to travel to London to woo a woman, Gwendolen Fairfax. At the same time Jack's good friend, Algernon Moncrieff pretends to be Ernest so that he can woo Jack's ward, Cecily. A comedy of confusion is the result in Oscar Wilde's classic play. The young Robert Louis Stevenson suffered from repeated nightmares of living a double life, in which by day he worked as a respectable doctor and by night he roamed the back alleys of old-town Edinburgh. In three days of furious writing, he produced a story about his dream existence. His wife found it too gruesome, so he promptly burned the manuscript. In another three days, he wrote it again. The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde was published as a "shilling shocker" in 1886, and became an instant classic. In the first six months, 40,000 copies were sold. Queen Victoria read it. Sermons and editorials were written about it. When Stevenson and his family visited America a year later, they were mobbed by reporters at the dock in New York City. Compulsively readable from its opening pages, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is still one of the best tales ever written about the divided self. This University of Nebraska Press edition is a small, exquisitely produced paperback. The book design, based on the original first edition of 1886, includes wide margins, decorative capitals on the title page and first page of each chapter, and a clean, readable font that is 19th-century in style. Joyce Carol Oates contributes a foreword in which she calls Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde a "mythopoetic figure" like Frankenstein, Dracula, and Alice in Wonderland, and compares Stevenson's creation to doubled selves in the works of Plato, Poe, Wilde, and Dickens. This edition also features 12 full-page wood engravings by renowned illustrator Barry Moser. Moser is a skillful reader and interpreter as well as artist, and his afterword to the book, in which he explains the process by which he chose a self-portrait motif for the suite of engravings, is fascinating. For the image of Edward Hyde, he writes, "I went so far as to have my dentist fit me out with a carefully sculpted prosthetic of evil-looking teeth. But in the final moments I had to abandon the idea as being inappropriate. It was more important to stay in keeping with the text and, like Stevenson, not show Hyde's face." (Also recommended: the edition of Frankenstein illustrated by Barry Moser) -- Fiona Webster.com The young Robert Louis Stevenson suffered from repeated nightmares of living a double life, in which by day he worked as a respectable doctor and by night he roamed the back alleys of old-town Edinburgh. In three days of furious writing, he produced a story about his dream existence. His wife found it too gruesome, so he promptly burned the manuscript. In another three days, he wrote it again. The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde was published as a "shilling shocker" in 1886, and became an instant classic. In the first six months, 40,000 copies

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