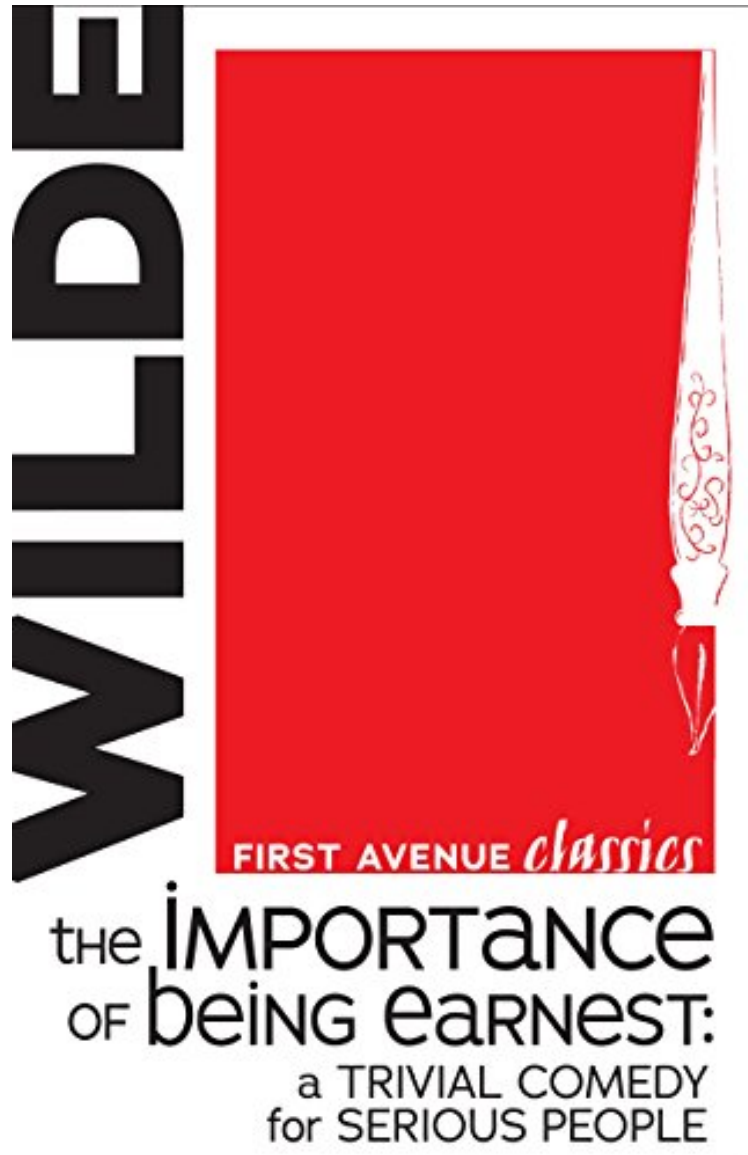


## The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People (First Avenue Classics)

Oscar Wilde

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**Oscar Wilde : The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People (First Avenue Classics)** 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 (First Avenue Classics):

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.

Jack Worthing gets antsy living at his country estate. As an excuse, he spins tales of his rowdy brother Earnest living in London. When Jack rushes to the city to confront his "brother," he's free to become Earnest and live a different lifestyle. In London, his best friend, Algernon, begins to suspect Earnest is leading a double life. Earnest confesses that his real name is Jack and admits the ruse has become tricky as two women have become enchanted with the idea of marrying Earnest. On a whim, Algernon also pretends to be Earnest and encounters the two women as they meet at the estate. With two Earnests who aren't really earnest and two women in love with little more than a name, this play is a classic comedy of errors. This is an unabridged version of Oscar Wilde's English play, first published in 1899.

About the Author Oscar Wilde was an Anglo-Irish playwright, novelist, poet, and critic. He is regarded as one of the greatest playwrights of the Victorian Era. In his lifetime he wrote nine plays, one novel, and numerous poems, short stories, and essays. Wilde was a proponent of the Aesthetic movement, which emphasized aesthetic values more than moral or social themes. This doctrine is most clearly summarized in the phrase 'art for art's sake'. Besides literary accomplishments, he is also famous, or perhaps infamous, for his wit, flamboyance, and affairs with men. He was tried and imprisoned for his homosexual relationship (then considered a crime) with the son of an aristocrat.