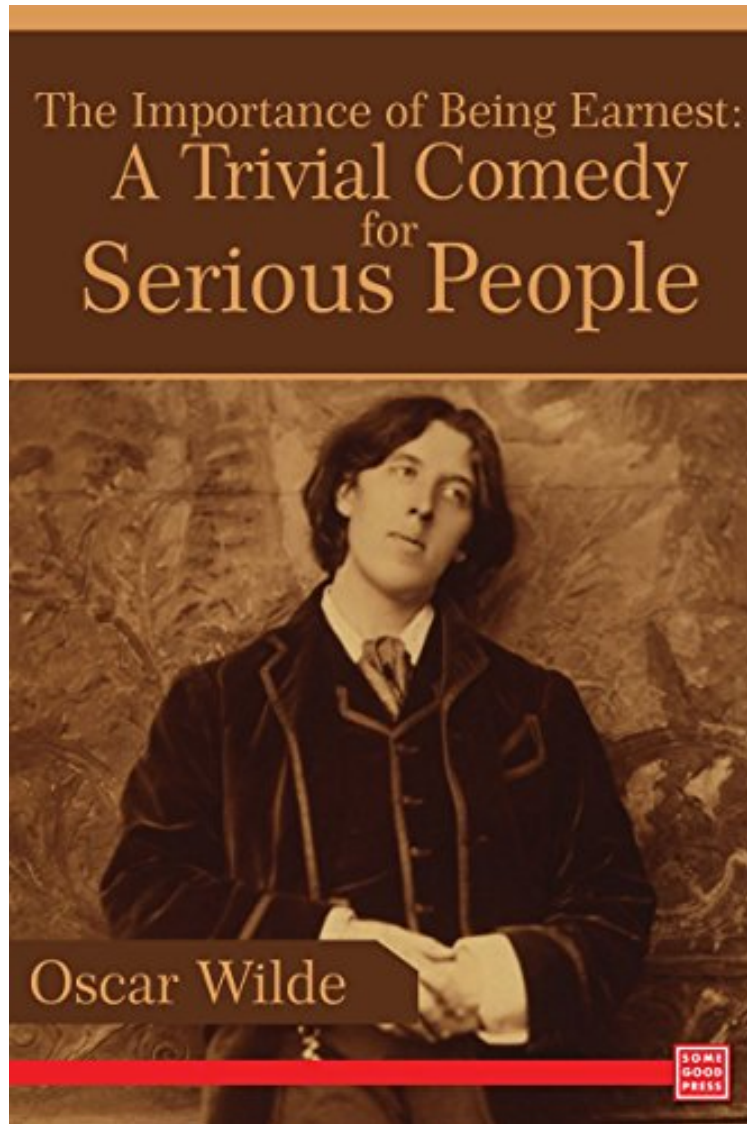


[Download pdf] The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

# 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.

*The Importance of Being Earnest*, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is a play by Oscar Wilde. First performed on 14 February 1895 at the St James's Theatre in London, it is a farcical comedy in which the protagonists maintain fictitious personas 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 satire of Victorian ways. Contemporary reviews all praised the play's humour, though some were cautious about its explicit lack of social messages, while others foresaw the modern consensus that it was the culmination of Wilde's artistic career so far. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make *The Importance of Being Earnest* Wilde's most enduringly popular play. The successful opening night marked the climax of Wilde's career but also heralded his downfall. The Marquess of Queensberry, whose son Lord Alfred Douglas was Wilde's lover, planned to present the writer with a bouquet of rotten vegetables and disrupt the show. Wilde was tipped off and Queensberry was refused admission. Soon afterwards their feud came to a climax in court, where Wilde's homosexual double life was revealed to the Victorian public and he was eventually sentenced to imprisonment. His notoriety caused the play, despite its early success, to be closed after 86 performances. After his release, he published the play from exile in Paris, but he wrote no further comic or dramatic work. *The Importance of Being Earnest* has been revived many times since its premiere. It has been adapted for the cinema on three occasions. In *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1952), Dame Edith Evans reprised her celebrated interpretation of Lady Bracknell; *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1992) by Kurt Baker used an all-black cast; and Oliver Parker's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2002) incorporated some of Wilde's original material cut during the preparation of the original stage production.

"In short, there is material aplenty here for the average reader and considerable matter for the specialist." --English Literature in Transition 1880-1920  
About the Author Born in Ireland, Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde (1854-1900) was educated in Dublin Oxford and went on to become the leading and most prominent exponent of flamboyant aestheticism. As well as his many plays, he wrote one novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890), and published several volumes of poetry and criticism. He was imprisoned in 1895 for homosexual offences and after his release he died in exile in Paris. Richard Cave has edited a selection of Yeats' plays for Penguin Classics.