

Oscar Wilde

Wikipedia

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde (16 October 1854 – 30 November 1900) was an Irish writer and poet. After writing in different forms throughout the 1880s, he became one of London's most popular playwrights in the early 1890s. Today he is remembered for his epigrams, plays and the tragedy of his imprisonment, followed by his early death.

Wilde's parents were successful Dublin intellectuals. After university Wilde moved to London, into fashionable cultural and social circles. He published a book of poems, lectured America and Canada on the new "English Renaissance in Art" and then returned to London where he worked prolifically as a journalist. Known for his biting wit, flamboyant dress, and glittering conversation, Wilde had become one of the major personalities of his day. In 1884 he married Constance, and they had two sons: Cyril and Vyvyan.

At the turn of the 1890s, he wrote his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Wilde also produced four society comedies in the early 1890s, which made him one of the most successful playwrights of late Victorian London.

At the height of his fame and success, Wilde sued his lover's father for libel. After a series of trials, Wilde was convicted of gross indecency with other men and imprisoned for two years, held to hard labor. Upon his release he left immediately for France, never to return to Ireland or Britain. There he wrote his last work, "The Ballad of Reading Gaol," a long poem commemorating the harsh rhythms of prison life. He died destitute in Paris at the age of forty-six.

Some famous quotes by Wilde:

A gentleman is one who never hurts anyone's feelings unintentionally.

A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal.

A man can be happy with any woman, as long as he does not love her.

A man who does not think for himself does not think at all.

A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it.

A true friend stabs you in the front.

Alas, I am dying beyond my means.

All art is quite useless.

All bad poetry springs from genuine feeling.

All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his.

Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much.

America is the only country that went from barbarism to decadence without civilization in between.