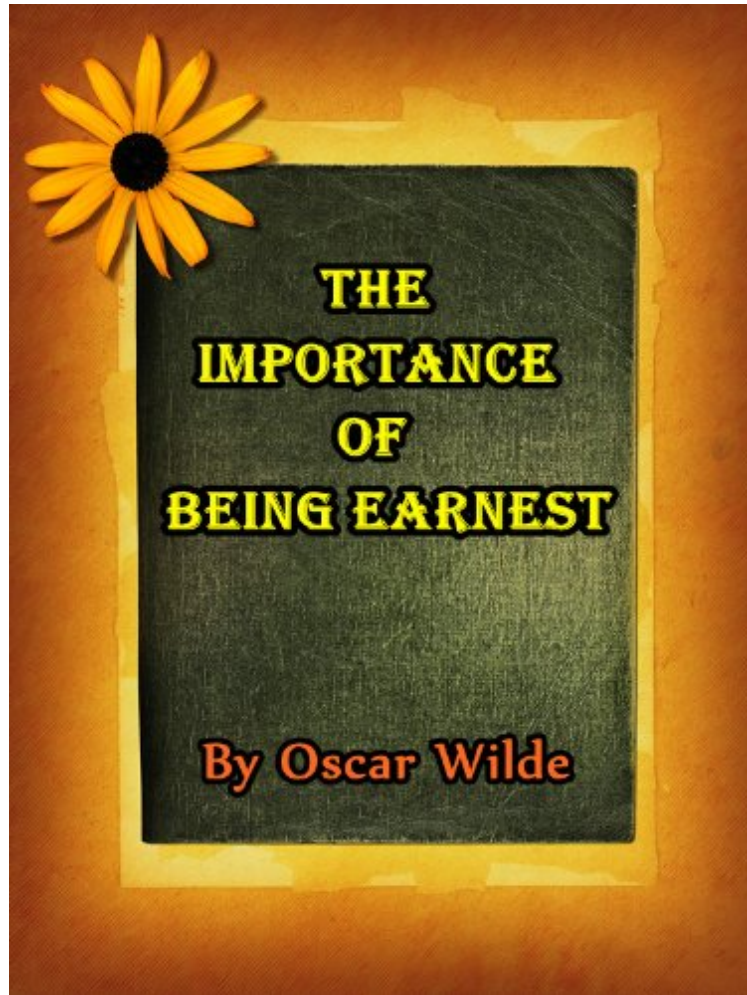


(Download ebook) The Importance of Being Earnest (Illustrated) (English Edition)

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Von Oscar Wilde

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Von Oscar Wilde : The Importance of Being Earnest (Illustrated) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Importance of Being Earnest (Illustrated) (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wilde's Masterpiece Von Osbeltli 'The Importance of Being Earnest' a play by Oscar Wilde Algernon 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' life 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 fiancé 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 Earnest 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 Prism 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 Earnest 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 People
The 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, Governess
First performed: London: ST. James's Theatre February 14th, 1895
2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bissig, sarkastisch und sozialkritisch
Von callisto
Ich mag es nicht, Theaterstücke zu lesen. Theaterstücke sollte man sehen, oder zumindest hören. Da ich auch nicht wirklich Zeit habe zu lesen, weil ich sonst zu gar nichts mehr komme, ziehe ich einige der Kanon Bücher jetzt einfach als ungekürzte Hörbücher bzw. Hörspiele durch. Dieses Hörstück ist ein Hybrid. Es ist kein wirkliches Hörspiel, denn es gibt keine Geräuschkulisse, aber dennoch verteilte Sprecher. Statt Geräuschen gibt es einen Sprecher, der die Regieanweisungen spricht. Also eine Lesung mit verteilten Rollen, somit kein Hörbuch und kein Hörspiel aber auch keine vertonte Lesung. Die Geschichte ist schnell erzählt, denn sie ist nur ein Dreiakter. Algernon Moncrieff und John Worthing sind beide Single und best Buddies. Nur, John hat ein Alias für 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 Mündel 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 bei 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 Ernest 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 Mündel Cecily verliebt. Es wird problematisch, denn beide stellen sich ihrer jeweiligen Angebeteten unter einem falschem Namen - Ernest - vor. Während die jungen Damen den Namen Ernest 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 ansatzweise zu sehen, wie sich die Gentlemen aus ihrem Lügegebilde 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 book includes 10 unique illustrations that are relevant to its content. The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is a play by Oscar Wilde. 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 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, father of Lord Alfred Douglas, an intimate friend of Wilde, planned to present Wilde a bouquet of rotten vegetables and disrupt the show. Wilde was tipped off and Queensberry was refused admission. Soon afterwards, however, 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. Wilde's notoriety caused the play, despite its success, to be closed after just 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 material cut during the preparation of the original stage production. Pressestimmen the wittiest play in the English language Financial Times Comes as close to perfection as any comedy I can think of. Daily Telegraph Werbetext A set text for AS and A-Level students in 2009/2010 His work sells strongly to the general market as well as to students of Drama and English Literature The only one-volume edition of the play to include an appendix with earlier versions and additional scenes that allow an appreciation of Wilde's creative process