



P E N G U I N  C L A S S I C S

OSCAR WILDE

De Profundis and Other Prison Writings

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Oscar Wilde



De Profundis And Other Writings:

De Profundis and Other Prison Writings Oscar Wilde, 2013-01-03 *De Profundis and Other Prison Writings* is a new selection of Oscar Wilde's prison letters and poetry in Penguin Classics edited and introduced by Colm T. Giblin. At the start of 1895 Oscar Wilde was the toast of London widely feted for his most recent stage success *An Ideal Husband*. But by May of the same year Wilde was in Reading prison sentenced to hard labour. *De Profundis* is an epistolic account of Oscar Wilde's spiritual journey while in prison and describes his new shocking conviction that the supreme vice is shallowness. This edition also includes further letters to his wife his friends the Home Secretary newspaper editors and his lover Lord Alfred Douglas Bosie himself as well as *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* the heart rending poem about a man sentenced to hang for the murder of the woman he loved. This Penguin edition is based on the definitive *Complete Letters* edited by Wilde's grandson Merlin Holland. Colm T. Giblin's introduction explores Wilde's duality in love politics and literature. This edition also includes notes on the text and suggested further reading. Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin. His three volumes of short fiction *The Happy Prince* *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* and *A House of Pomegranates* together with his only novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* won him a reputation as a writer with an original talent a reputation enhanced by the phenomenal success of his society comedies *Lady Windermere's Fan* *A Woman of No Importance* *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Colm T. Giblin is the author of five novels including *The Blackwater Lightship* and *The Master* and a collection of stories *Mothers and Sons*. His essay collection *Love in a Dark Time*. *Gay Lives from Wilde to Almodovar* appeared in 2002. He is the editor of *The Penguin Book of Irish Fiction*.

De Profundis Oscar Wilde, 1999 Contains *De Profundis* *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* *The Soul of Man under Socialism* *The Decay of Lying* and *The Critic as Artist* *De Profundis and Other Writings*, 2015 **De Profundis and Other Writings** Oscar Wilde, 1954 A collection of essays and poems and the letter to Lord Alfred Douglas written from prison *De Profundis and Other Writings* Oscar Wilde, Hesketh Pearson, 1982 **De Profundis** Oscar Wilde, 2017-02-13 *De Profundis* Latin from the depths is an epistle written by Oscar Wilde during his imprisonment in Reading Gaol to Lord Alfred Douglas **suspiria de profundis. With other essays, critical, historical, biographical, philosophical, imaginative and humorous** Thomas De Quincey, 1891 *De Profundis and Other Writings* Oscar Wilde, 1954 De Profundis ; Ballad of Reading Gaol and Other Writings Oscar Wilde, 1999 **De Profundis: (Annotated Edition)** Oscar Wilde, 2021-03-23 The eighty page manuscript of this letter rests in the British Museum. It was written in Reading Gaol on prison paper during the last months from January to March of Oscar Wilde's two year sentence for unnatural practices or homosexuality. It was addressed to Lord Alfred Douglas but when Wilde was not allowed to send it from prison he handed it to his friend Robert Ross the day after he was released on May 19 1897 with instructions to type a copy and send the original to Lord Alfred who always claimed he never received it. Part of the work was first published under Ross's title *De Profundis* in 1905 and again in 1908. A typescript was given by Ross to Vyvyn Holland Wilde's younger son who published it in 1949.

Rupert Hart Davis demonstrated that this first complete edition contained hundreds of errors and he published the manuscript after it was released by the British Museum from the fifty year restriction Ross placed on it when he deposited the manuscript in 1909 As a letter it becomes the center of the definitive edition of Wilde s letters in the shorter form edited by Ross it is both an apologia and a literary essay Nevertheless in its entirety it has a unity and a unique value as Wilde s testament to his life as an artist Since it is cast in the form of an epistle the work needs some contextual reference to Wilde s life and works before and after his imprisonment and the composition of the letter The prison sentence marked the end of his marriage his income and his life in England thereafter he lived in exile as Sebastian Melmoth One link with the past however was not broken the association with Lord Alfred Douglas Wilde s return to the young man the cause of his imprisonment divorce and bankruptcy and to the kind of associates whose evidence had convicted him seems to invalidate the promise to lead a new life with which De Profundis closes Wilde claimed however that while on one hand the conditions of exile disgrace and penury drove him to those acquaintances on the other they were the creations of his art and not the conditions of his life Wilde s one conviction was that he was an artist and he doggedly transposed the terms of life and art His term for the new life was Dante s La vita nuova c 1292 Similarly Wilde s The Picture of Dorian Gray 1890 was to be the parable of his life it was more true to his life because of its artistry than was his biography The strain of maintaining this paradox ended his life three years after his release and finished his writing career shortly after the composition of De Profundis The resolution of the paradox is the intention of the long letter This epistle is therefore connected both with Wilde s biography in which sense it is autobiography and with his literary canon In the letter he suggests that his sentence and fate are prefigured in works such as The Picture of Dorian Gray The immediate artistic fruits of the new life are the two letters to the Morning Chronicle and The Ballad of Reading Gaol 1898 his only writing after De Profundis parts of the last amount to a prose poem falling somewhere between the prose of the two letters and poetry of the ballad Wilde s longest and most effective poem The two letters are included in Ross s 1908 edition and show plainly the real conditions under which De Profundis was written Wilde sums them up as constant hunger diarrhea from the rotten food and insomnia from the diarrhea and the plank bed in his cell His description of prison life is vivid and awful out of his experience immediately after his release he showed courage in writing letters to defend a discharged warder and to plead for decent treatment of child prisoners Perhaps he could have played a prominent role in prison reform had not exile intervened yet it is difficult to see Wilde in that role unless he really meant what he said in De Profundis As it was events showed

Victorian Conversion Narratives and Reading Communities

Emily Walker Hady, 2016-03-03 Because Victorian authors rarely discuss conversion experiences separately from the modes in which they are narrated Emily Walker Hady argues that the conversion narrative became in effect a form of literary criticism Literary conventions in turn served the reciprocal function as a means of discussing the nature of what Hady calls the heart change Hady reads canonical authors such as John Henry Newman Charles Dickens Charlotte Bront George Eliot

and Oscar Wilde through a dual lens of literary history and post liberal theology As Heady shows these authors question the ability of realism to contain the emotionally freighted and often jarring plot lines that characterize conversion In so doing they explore the limits of narrative form while also shedding light on the ways in which conversion narratives address and often disrupt the reading communities in which they occur The Confessions of an English Opium-Eater: And Other Writings Thomas De Quincey,1985-06-20 Confessions of an English Opium Eater is an account of the early life and opium addiction of Thomas De Quincey in prose which is by turns witty conversational and nightmarish On the Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth offers both a small masterpiece of Shakespearian interpretation and a provocative statement of De Quincey s personal aesthetic of contrast and counterpoint Suspiria de Profundis blends autobiography and philosophical speculation into a series of dazzling prose poems which explore the mysteries of time memory and suffering The English Mail Coach develops a richly apocalyptic vision which sets nineteenth century England s political and imperial grandeur against the suffering and loss of innocence which it entails This selection presents De Quincey s major works in their original uncut and unrevised versions which in some cases have not been available for many years **Catalogue of the Printed Books in the Library of the Society of Writers to H. M. Signet in Scotland** Signet Library (Great Britain),1882 **Selections from De Quincey, ed. by M.H. Turk** Thomas De Quincey,1902 Catalogue of the Printed Books in the Library of the Society of Writers to H. M. Signet in Scotland Thomas-Graves Law,1882 The English Catalogue of Books ,1892

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