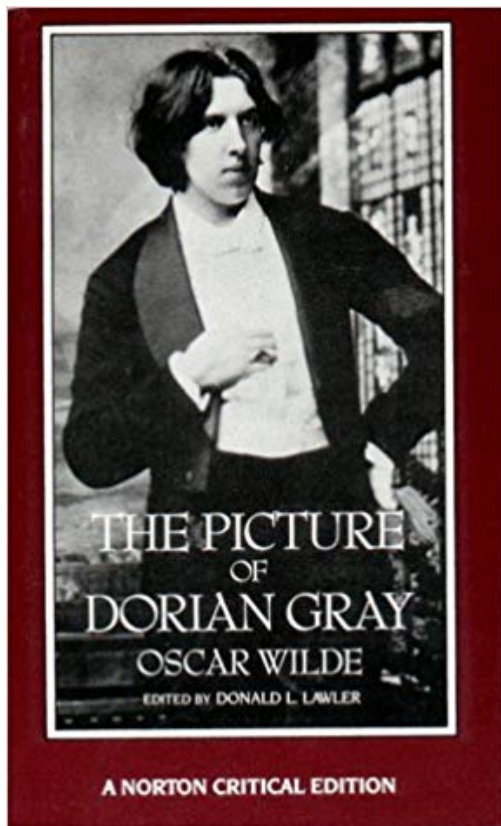


## The Picture of Dorian Gray: Authoritative Texts, Backgrounds, Reviews and Reactions, Criticism (Norton Critical Edition) by Oscar Wilde, Donald L. Lawler



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## Reviews of the The Picture of Dorian Gray: Authoritative Texts, Backgrounds, Reviews and Reactions, Criticism (Norton Critical Edition) by Oscar Wilde, Donald L. Lawler

Anardred

A masterpiece of the art-for-art's-sake aesthetics. Read it to show you are open-minded and agree that no true art (not just literature), as long as it's beautifully (i.e., creatively, imaginatively, and

tastefully) done, should be banned anywhere. I recommend that you also read the backgrounds, reviews/reactions, and scholarly criticism included in this definitive edition. Again, read the novel as a literary masterpiece, not for its "message." If you are curious mainly because it's been recommended as a politically correct (i.e., gay) novel, you are doing an injustice to the genius of Oscar Wilde. You might as well save your time, pick up any newspaper, and read the letters to the editors in support of the trendy "gay marriage" issue currently being mindlessly debated.

Caution: I found the smaller font/type (esp. the footnotes) in this Norton edition an eye strainer. You may need a magnifying glass. The main text itself is also harder to read than the more "relaxing" print of the Modern Library edition.

Zulkishicage

The Picture of Dorian Gray is as good as you've heard it is. This book includes both the original, and more controversial, text and the somewhat 'cleaned up' second version. The first is better, IMHO. Quite thrilling, and well worth the read.

6snake6

The Picture of Dorian Grey is one of my absolute favorite piece of Literature of all time. I also love anything that Norton does, their authoritative Texts, Background information, Reviews and Reactions and Criticism is so informative and really clears up a lot of questions I might have about the readings.

Blackbeard

The Picture of Dorian Gray is a deliciously creepy novel. Although the novel may often be romanticized, it remains solidly in the horror genre. The reader never knows whether to feel sorry for Dorian -- a handsome young man who is extremely susceptible to corrupting influences -- or to despise him for his own vanity and selfishness. There are certainly very few truly likable characters in this book with the exception of the artist, Basil Hallward. Wilde's writing, as usual, is lush, beautiful, and descriptive. The moral of the story is overt, yet deeply moving. If you've read Frank Norris' novel of realism, McTeague, perhaps you'll understand why these two very different books evoked similar feelings within me. After reading Dorian Gray, I felt melancholy -- even slightly depressed -- but I still could not put the novel down. The downward spiral of life (as in this novel and McTeague) evoked terror, yet, perhaps more importantly, it kept me strangely fascinated. Read Dorian Gray and learn something about life -- the ending is perfect and one of the most memorable scenes in literature.

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