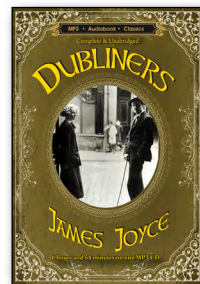


Catalog: DB-1060  
UPC: 0683422134173  
MSLP: \$19.99

The greatness of *Ulysses* (1922) is paralleled by its reputation for great difficulty. This is unfortunate; although a few of its eighteen episodes are difficult, most are readily accessible. Modernism often looked backward to the classics to make them new with the stylistic innovations of post-World War I Europe. Joyce based his story of Leopold Bloom, an advertisement canvasser, and Stephen Daedalus, a young artist, on Homer's *Odyssey*. Spanning one day in Dublin and mapping to the eighteen episodes of the Greek classic, *Ulysses* is filled with references and allusions that create a meta-novel in which the thoughts of Bloom, Daedalus and Bloom's wife, Molly, describe their subjective views alongside a narrator's objective view of reality. Each episode uses a different style to set forth an encyclopedia of knowledge, focused on an Irishman's point of view regarding the state of Irish and English literature from Beowulf to Modernism. Many believe that *Ulysses* is the greatest work of fiction of the 20th century.

## Ulysses

Author: James Joyce (1882 - 1941)  
Read by: Multiple readers  
Length: 32 hours 29 minutes  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Genre: Fiction

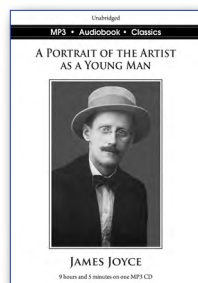


Catalog: DB-1034  
UPC: 0684758936127  
MSLP: \$11.99

Written before 1905, when Irish nationalism was on every Irishman's mind, *Dubliners* is a compilation of stories that deal with characters who feel they have failed at life in an Ireland that has suffered mightily under the yokes of two tyrants, the British Government and the Catholic Church. Seeking a sense of identity and purpose in a land overtaken by powers that care little for their captives, James Joyce dissects the paralysis, insecurities, and failure to thrive in plain and simple language. Though many of the characters we meet in *Dubliners* will appear again in *Ulysses*, this is not the Joyce of *Ulysses* with its difficult language and allusions. This is Joyce at his most matter of fact, providing the understatement necessary for wit and wisdom. The stories by the young artist are brilliant, sometimes painful in their searing honesty, humorous in the Irish way, and as illuminating as the moments of epiphany that Joyce talked and wrote about as he formed, polished and nurtured his considerable aesthetic.

## Dubliners

Author: James Joyce (1882 - 1941)  
Read by: Peter Bobbe  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Length: 6 hours 51 minutes  
Genre: Fiction

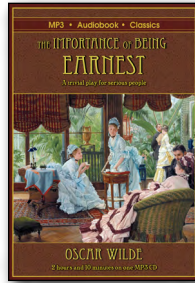


Catalog: DB-1033  
UPC: 0684758936134  
MSLP: \$11.99

*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916) is James Joyce's first novel, a mixture of memoir, religious philosophy, commentary, and aesthetics. In great measure, *A Portrait* answers the question of how a hard drinking roustabout with a delicate constitution, prone to extreme behavior, who rejected his Church and most Irish conventions, become a demigod among writers who may well have been the greatest writer of the 20th century. Possessed of amazing verbal gifts and utterly convinced of his genius and its concomitant duty to work him dry, Joyce subordinated all, except, perhaps, his love for his wife and children, to the task of art. *A Portrait* almost failed to see the light of day; in despair over being ignored and discounted, Joyce tossed the manuscript into a fire after a night of heavy drinking. His wife, Nora, rescued the pages. A grateful Joyce, who knew most of his work by heart, admitted that there were sections so well crafted that he would never have been able to reconstruct them had they been destroyed.

## A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Author: James Joyce (1882 - 1941)  
Read by: Peter Bobbe  
Length: 9 hours and 4 minutes  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Genre: Fiction

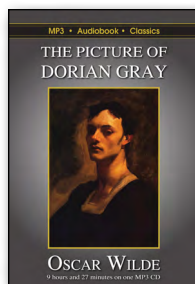


Catalog: DB-1049  
UPC: 0684758936325  
MSLP: \$10.99

*The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People* was first performed on February 14, 1895 at the 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 humor, 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. It has been revived many times since its premiere and has been adapted for the cinema on three occasions.

## The Importance of Being Earnest

Author: Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)  
Read by: Multiple readers  
Length: 2 hours 10 minutes  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Genre: Plays

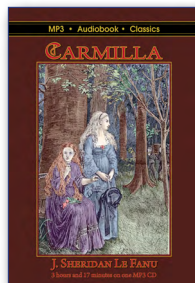


Catalog: DB-1050  
UPC: 0684758936332  
MSLP: \$11.99

The portrait of the good-looking young aristocrat Dorian Gray by painter Basil Hallward depicts him as a figure from Greek mythology. Basil fears that perhaps too much feeling is being conveyed in the work. His louche friend Lord Henry admires the work but upsets Dorian with a cautionary speech about the transience of youth and beauty. Dorian curses the picture, wishing it would age as he stays forever young. Dorian falls in love with actress Sibyl Vane, but breaks their engagement. Sibyl kills herself and Dorian sinks into a life of debauchery. Basil confronts Dorian, shows him the decay in the hidden portrait, and beseeches him to repent his misbehavior, which prompts a fit of rage with a tragic outcome. Sibyl's brother attempts to avenge her death, but is accidentally shot. Dorian tries and fails to change, and attempts to destroy the unfortunate portrait, which, of course, has the last word. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890) is the only published novel by Oscar Wilde. Wilde later revised the story for book publication including an aphoristic Preface that has since become famous in its own right. The amended version was published by in April 1891.

## The Picture of Dorian Gray

Author: Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)  
Read by: Multiple readers  
Length: 9 hours 17 minutes  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Genre: Fiction



Catalog: DB-1201  
UPC: 0701236969191  
MSLP: \$10.99

*Carmilla* is one of the earliest works of vampire fiction. Presented as a chapter from the casebook of Dr. Hesselius, it is narrated by Laura, daughter of an Englishman living in the deep forest of Austria. She has persistent childhood memories of a visitor in her bedchamber. Years later an accident brings a mysterious injured young woman into their home; Laura immediately recognizes the figure from her memory. At the same time her father learns of the death of a colleague's daughter. Other young girls are succumbing to a puzzling malady. The arrival of a painting of Laura's ancestor, Countess Karnstein, bears an identical likeness to their visitor. Laura and her father journey to their ancestral village, where they meet his colleague, General Spielsdorf, who relates a story of the vampire who caused of his daughter's death and is searching for the tomb of the Countess. The General unmasks Carmilla when she appears on the scene, which leads to the inevitable conflict and climax. Serialized in 1871-2 and published as a book soon after, the story has influenced many others since, notably *Dracula* and *The Turn of the Screw*.

## Carmilla

Author: Joseph Sheridan LeFanu  
Read by: Elizabeth Klett  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Length: 3 hours and 14 minutes  
Genre: Horror & Supernatural Fiction