



Epigrams of Oscar Wilde

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There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about', said Oscar Wilde more than a hundred years ago. But this remark seems perhaps even more relevant to our present world where so many seek publicity at any cost. Wilde's well-turned phrases and spontaneous insults still cause much amusement and admiration. Most of us miss the opportunities for bon mots, finding them long after the moments have passed, but Wilde seems never to have been short of suitable words - flattering, witty and on occasions savagely cruel. Many of the quotes in this book are taken from Wilde's plays, novels and essays which were also packed with witticisms amounting to an outrageous philosophy. Wilde's extravagance and unconventional behaviour earned him loyal friends but also bitter enemies and in 1895 after a series of unfortunate events and court cases he was gaoled for two years with hard labour for indecent behaviour. Though from prison came a few last brilliant works, Wilde was never to recover his health or standing in society. He died in Paris bankrupt, broken and alone. He is buried at Cimetiere du Pere Lachaise - one of Paris's finest cemeteries - where today many pilgrims from all parts of the world come to pay their respects and leave tokens in recognition of his genius.

Epigrams of Oscar Wilde Details

Date : Published April 5th 2007 by Wordsworth Editions (first published 1952)

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From Reader Review Epigrams of Oscar Wilde for online ebook

Amy says

This book was a gift -- it's a great reference and reminds me of just how wise and pithy Wilde was. The gift was purchased in Dublin, Ireland at the Irish Writer's Museum.

Joeffison Andrade says

Some epigrams were duplicated.

If you are also a fan of Oscar Wilde, it is nice to have a book where you can find some of his pearls and specially to have some epigrams from his conversations.

Ines says

I use this book quite often. Nearly every week, I read a couple of Wilde's witty quotes.

Dean Brickland says

took me a little bit of reflecting on this book to gather my thoughts on it. some of the epigrams are nothing special. some of them come across as nothing but a contrarian statement. other times he tries this: "young women are x and young men are y. older women are y and older men are x." he tries this mirror technique so many times. it's throughout the book. it just seems to fall flat on its face often but other times it works. in his own words "Between me and life there is a mist of words always. I throw probability out of the window for the sake of a phrase, and the chance of an epigram makes me desert truth. still, I do aim at making a work of art." he is saying that he is a poet, an artist first. he doesn't try to be a philosopher. maybe my qualms with this book are because of my own standards. I would say that covers about one-third of the book. the other two-thirds or so, for me anyway, are really enjoyable with amusing and intriguing epigrams. definitely worth a read. Nowhere near a full 5-star rating but a three star is just too harsh. I would give it a four out of five. sometimes it drags a bit too much reading the super generalistic epigrams that clearly make no sense in today's world but it's still an enjoyable read and worth checking out. his talent as a writer just shows. had a knack for describing something in great detail. the quintessential artist.

Avinash says

witty realistic

Every quote of wilde written some yrs back stills feels right on the mind and heart at present as well.

THE MOST WITTIEST AND SARCASTIC WRITER ever in the history of English literature

Aleya says

Wilde's epigrams are fantastic. I just want to share them all with the world. Maybe I'll just start by toting them around and reciting them randomly when conversations get dull. Wilde would love that. I'm so glad I found this little book in a used book store.

Godka says

I couldn't get a better surprise gift.

Lin says

A bit of a pointless book, but fun to own if you're a Wilde fan.

Advaita says

We live in an age when only unnecessary things are absolutely necessary to us. - Oscar Wilde

Epigrams written by a truly genius author. One can only be amazed at the accuracy of his observations and excellent use of sarcasm. It's been more than a century since he passed away, but he truly managed to capture the essence of modern society. Must read for those who appreciate quick wit, sarcasm and dark humour.

Rachel Davidson Schmoyer says

I picked up for free a beautifully vintage copy of this book. Unfortunately his witty quotes were too disparaging against marriage, religion, and telling the truth for me to want to keep the awesome vintage find.

Branden William says

Every great dandy must keep a journal of quips, gags, aphorisms, and epigrams. I know that I do. I figure that by the time I completely fill a few of these journals, I won't be speaking anymore-- I'll just be quoting myself and paraphrasing Oscar Wilde, Sebastian Horsley, and Quentin Crisp.

Of all the great dandies, however, Oscar Wilde was a master of life's epigrams. Whether the subject dealt with women, marriage, art, or gastronomy, Oscar Wilde had a mouthful to say-- all of which were witty one-liners, and charming to say the least. "The way to behave to a woman is to make love to her if she is pretty, and to some one else if she is plain." Indeed, without an element of vulgarity, no man can become a wort of art.
