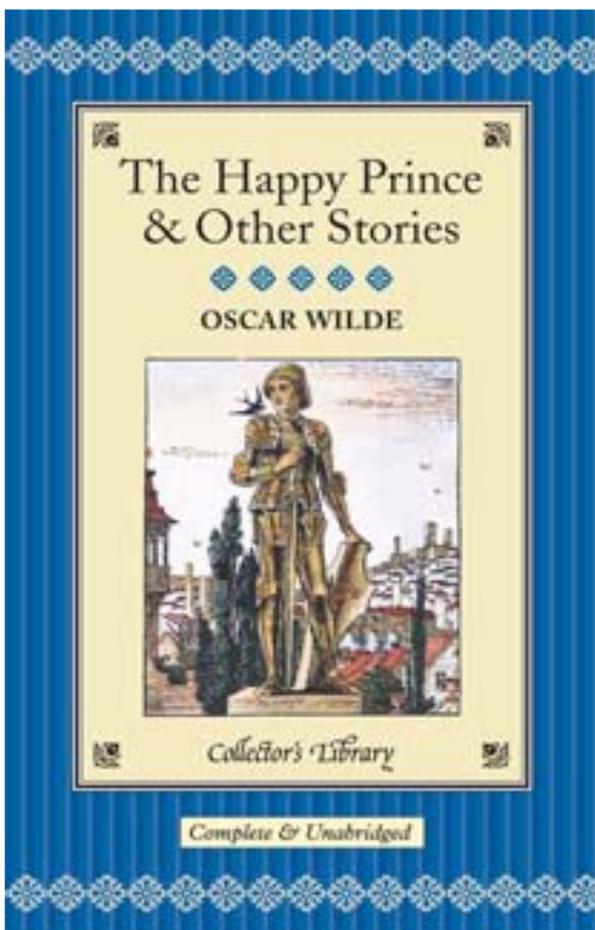


*The Happy Prince & Other Stories*. By Oscar Wilde. Hbk, Collector's  
Library

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From all the brilliant, exceptional authors that I have read over the years, one in particular has lived on in my mind ever since my childhood: Oscar Wilde. I was no more than a child when I first read his fairy tales, which I have read over and over again, and that never fail to bring a lump to my throat.

This beautifully designed edition, in its handy size, is extremely appealing to the reader. Bound in cloth, with beautiful illustrations, gilt edges and satin ribbon marker, is not only a joy to read, but also a visual pleasure. It includes "The Happy Prince and Other Tales", "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories" and "A House of Pomegranates" and displays all the wit, imagination and genius of the author. Published between 1888 and 1891, these

beautifully written stories, intended for reading to children but with a message for adults too, cover a variety of subjects and ideas, that go from semi-comic mystery stories to fairy tales, with their themes of selfless love, generosity and sacrifice.

"The Canterville Ghost" mixes comedy with the macabre, in which the contrast between British and American cultures is emphasized. Young Virginia, the only member of the family that doesn't dismiss the ghost, tells, years later, that the ghost

taught her “what Life is, what Death signifies, and why Love is stronger than both”. In “The Birthday of the Infanta”, the little dwarf, quite unaware of his appearance and of the reason why the ‘infanta’ throws him a white rose, dies of a broken heart; in “The Nightingale and the Rose” the nightingale sacrifices his life by pressing his heart against a thorn, so that the student may give his beloved a red rose; “The Happy Prince”, once confined to his ivory tower and unaware of the reality of life, gives away all his goods in vain and reaps no gratitude or understanding, except from God. “The Selfish Giant”, when he realizes how selfish he has been, is rewarded with Paradise by Christ himself; “The Young King” is a tale of a poor boy that, after indulging in wealth, power and beauty, soon realizes the misery, the sacrifice and the death behind the luxury and the riches and refuses all material things.

And yet Wilde's stories are anything but depressing. They may still and will always be read with delight, thanks to his refined sense of humour, his wisdom and his craftsmanship, which make up for the sadness or the cruelty of the themes. Written with poetic intensity and filled with his brilliant wit, they combine the morality of parables with true beauty, the evil and the ugly with the noble and the beautiful.

Usually assumed as a medium to teach children appropriate behaviour, Wilde used this genre to give full expression to his philosophy of art and his satirical critique of English society. While the adult reader will see the philosophical meaning of each story, children will enjoy them as fairy tales. As Wilde explained, they were written “partly for children, and partly for those who have kept the childlike faculties of wonder and joy.”

“The Happy Prince & Other Stories” is one of those books that we can read over and over again and never fails to stir emotions, no matter how old we are. To quote Wilde himself, “If one cannot enjoy reading a book over and over again, there is no use in reading it at all.”

The Happy Prince and Other Tales (sometimes called The Happy Prince and Other Stories) is a collection of stories for children by Oscar Wilde first published in May 1888. It contains five stories: "The Happy Prince", "The Nightingale and the Rose", "The Selfish Giant", "The Devoted Friend", and "The Remarkable Rocket". In a town full of suffering poor people, a swallow who was left behind after his flock flew off to Egypt for the winter meets the statue of the late "Happy Prince", who in reality has The Happy Prince and Other Tales (sometimes called The Happy Prince and Other Stories) is a collection of stories for children by Oscar Wilde first published in May 1888. It contains five stories, "The Happy Prince", "The Nightingale and the Rose", "The Selfish Giant", "The Devoted Friend", and "The Remarkable Rocket". It is most famous for its title story, "The Happy Prince". Contents. 1 "The Happy Prince". The Happy Prince And Other Tales. By oscar wilde. Illustrated by walter crane and jacomb hood. Seventh impression. All the next day he sat on the Prince's shoulder, and told him stories of what he had seen in strange lands. He told him of the red ibises, who stand in long rows on the banks of the Nile, and catch gold-fish in their beaks; of the Sphinx, who is as old as the world itself, and lives in the desert, and knows everything; of the merchants, who walk slowly by the side of their camels, and carry amber beads in their hands Oscar Wilde online. Share. Tweet. The Happy Prince. by Oscar Wilde. High above the city, on a tall column, stood the statue of the Happy Prince. He was gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold, for eyes he had two bright sapphires, and a large red ruby glowed on his sword-hilt. He was very much admired indeed. It is a ridiculous attachment, twittered the other Swallows; she has no money, and far too many relations; and indeed the river was quite full of Reeds. Then, when the autumn came they all flew away. After they had gone he felt lonely, and began to tire of his lady-love. Short Stories ». Poetry ». Essays, Lectures, Reviews ».