



The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde
Reviewed by Jade



Play, Comedy

Give a summary without spoilers!

The Importance of Being Earnest takes place in 19th Century London/ Hertfordshire, England. The play serves as a critique on the flawed standards of society during the Victorian Era, and the idea of manipulating the conventional order of classism. A prominent theme throughout the play is deception, especially when it comes to relationships between the characters. Wilde takes the reader down a rabbit hole of side plots, and plots twists, all while keeping the focus on the internal motives of the main character, Jack. Jack's main goal throughout the play is to fulfill his role as a Victorian Gentleman in order to please his lover, Gwendolen's family. His journey to acquire Gwendolen's hand in marriage isn't easy, as distant family, societal standards, and his own internal flaws serve as roadblocks. This exciting read allows the reader to have a front row seat to the emotional rollercoaster that is Jack's quest to marry, as all of the side plots of his life explode into an array of chaos and mischief.

What drew you to this book?

The characters, especially Jack and Algernon drew me to his book, as their relationship becomes one of the most unexpected plot points of the play. Although the men serve as conventional character Foils to each other, they are one in the same. Their development throughout the plays is the main aspect that kept me engaged, and and lured me to focus in on every little detail that revolved around them and their relationship.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

No

To whom would you recommend this book?

The Importance of Being Earnest would be a great read for someone trying to get started in Victorian Literature, but is not ready for something too advanced or mature. This play is filled with plenty of comedic relief, and lively plots, and still successfully incorporates traditional Victorian Language and style of writing. It is not too fast paced, and the vigorous energy of the characters makes the plotline(s) easy to keep up with.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

Yes, even though it followed the structure of basic Victorian Literature, this play was quite unique for its kind. It was not slow, wordy, or dragged out, and it managed to keep my attention the entire time! It was a great tempo for someone who may have a short attention span, or just likes to get to the point of the book. There were also interesting plot twists that kept me engaged, and continuously wanting more. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this play!

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

This book was recommended to me by my English Teacher.