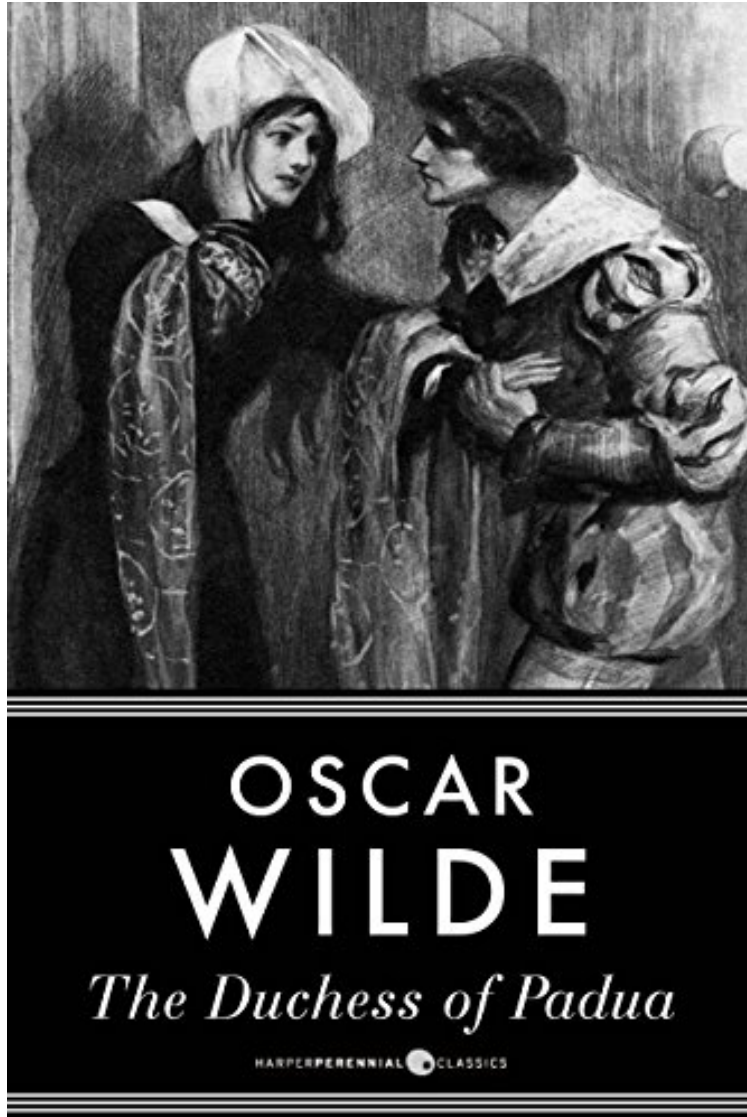


[Free] The Duchess Of Padua

The Duchess Of Padua

Oscar Wilde

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Oscar Wilde : The Duchess Of Padua before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Duchess Of Padua:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Only for Rabid Wilde FansBy Avery GordonThis book should be another classic by the brilliant Oscar Wilde, whom I have never known to write a klinker... until this play. Some may find his comedies - classics, brilliant comedies - to be passe these days, but it's all in the playing. This play, however, is a 5-act 1880's full-blown Romantic Era Melodrama that even the brilliant actresses Sarah Bernhardt or Eleanora Duse could save. It was written for one specific actress whom Wilde was convinced he could elevate even above Bernhardt or Duse, and make his own reputation surpass that of even Victor Hugo. When you read this play, you'll see

why there is no way it can succeed. Its central character, a young Italian man named Guido, is a very naive country boy who goes to Padua to try to meet a man who purports to know Guido's true parentage. There are men and women who hate each other with a passion that gnaws the wallpaper right off the sets. There is much talk of killing the leading lady's father, but... Well, let it suffice to say that, were I to review this play, it would take me 4 pages, most devoted to unravelling the totally unbelievable plot. If you're a fan of Oscar Wilde, you'll find some interest in how he fares in this milieu: not his best. I love Wilde, and it must be remembered that he wrote *Salome*, highly scandalous, but it was a very short melodrama. No one should try to outdo Victor Hugo by writing longer pieces than Hugo does: It can't be done. Many early and rudimentary psychological concepts and symbols that would bring fame to Sigmund Freud appear repeatedly here, i.e. a dagger, in various hands. To quote a far greater playwright, "Methinks the lady doth protest too much."¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. In the spirit of the classic revenge tragedy

By Ann F
In his essays, Wilde defended the highly-colored against the naturalistic schools of art and this play is deliberately highly wrought and melodramatic. If you are familiar with Wilde only from *The Importance of Being Earnest* or even *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, you'll doubt that this is the same author. Imagine a classic Italian opera plot written in the most purple prose from *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and that will get you close. While Wilde was familiar with the French decadence school and the over-the-top lushness of the fin-du-siecle, he was at heart a moralist, which shows in the plot. This is the main difference between this and the typical revenge tragedies from the Renaissance through the Restoration and dramatically might be considered a weakness, but Wilde's mastery of the style still makes this effective drama as well as an exploration of his lesser-known side.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very dated story

By CustomerCsrla
This old play does not hold up well for today's readers. Very improbable set up history and story. A tragedy that borrows from Shakespeare, but has neither the wit nor the prose, forget it.

A young man known as Guido is set upon revenge, planning to murder the duke of Padua, who murdered Guido's father years before. However, Guido soon finds that he has fallen in love with the duker's wife, the duchess of Padua, and their romance complicates Guido's intentions. Originally composed for a particular actress, Mary Anderson, who eventually rejected the play, *The Duchess of Padua* was not performed on the stage until years after its composition. Written in blank verse, *The Duchess of Padua* is one of Oscar Wilde's only true tragedies. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

About the Author
Known for his barbed wit, Oscar Wilde was one of the most successful late-Victorian playwrights and a great celebrity. *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* are among his best known works. He is perhaps most famous for his trial, in which he eloquently defended homosexual love and was sentenced to two years of hard labor.