

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**THE PICTURE
OF DORIAN GRAY**

Oscar Wilde

adapted by
Fern Siegel

Illustrations by
Pablo Marcos



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An Important Painting

Chapter 1

The Fateful Meeting

Basil Hallward's London studio was filled with the smell of roses. The light summer wind stirred in the trees in his garden. Through the door came the heavy scent of lilacs. Basil was a painter and he loved to surround himself with beautiful things.

He had been working on an important painting and had invited his friend, Lord Henry Wotton, to visit. Lord Henry was also a lover of beauty and, at the moment, was admiring the portrait Basil had done. The painting was of a young man about 20. His name

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was Dorian Gray and he was very handsome. Lord Henry was extremely impressed by his friend's talent. As the painter admired his own work, a smile of pleasure came to his rugged face.

"It is your best work, Basil, the best thing you have ever done!" Lord Henry exclaimed. "You must send it to the Academy."

As the painter looked at the gracious figure he had captured in his painting, the smile passed from his face. Then he closed his eyes and placed his fingers upon the lids, as though he was in deep thought.

After a few minutes of silent contemplation, Basil spoke. "I don't think I shall send it anywhere." He frowned, shaking his head.

"Not send it anywhere?" questioned Lord Henry. "Have you any reason? What odd chaps you painters are! You would do anything in the world to gain a reputation. But as soon as you have one, you want to throw it away. A portrait like this could make you famous," he added,



“Your Best Work!”