

The Picture of Dorian Gray and the Aesthetic Movement in England at the Turn of the Century



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THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY AND THE AESTHETIC MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY



GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 36 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.5in. x 0.5in. Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2, University of Cologne (Englisches Seminar), course: Proseminar B: London Past and Present: Literary and Cultural Heritage of a Metropolis, 16 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: There are some famous writers at the end of the 19th century who are often mentioned as decadent. They have asserted the superiority of beauty and pleasure over all other considerations. Oscar Wildes novel The Picture of Dorian Gray presents the aestheticism and the hedonist way of living. The novel anticipates developments and structures of society of that time. The importance of Dorians experiences refutes the decadent theories which are described in the Yellow Book that enthalls the protagonist. The novel as a whole can be seen as a psychological study which analyzes the gradual debasement of Dorians nature. At the end of the story he is responsible for every vice and crime including murder. The author shows that on the one hand pleasure and beauty are the highest goods, on the other hand he argues that they also bring death and crime. The task of this research paper is to analyze the mentioned contradiction and the influence of the Aesthetic movement on the novel as well as Oscar Wildes view of art. I would like to begin with a brief survey of the social and intellectual background at the end of the 19th century, exploring the major art movements of that time and how far they affect Wildes work. Afterwards his main principles of Aestheticism and their reflection in the novel are analyzed as well as Dorians life under the influence of the hedonist model. Oscar Wildes novel The Picture...



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