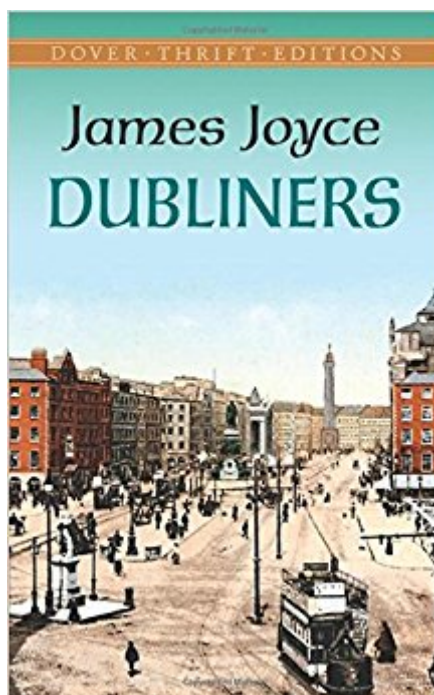


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Dubliners (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

Although James Joyce began these stories of Dublin life in 1904, when he was 22, and had completed them by the end of 1907, they remained unpublished until 1914 — victims of Edwardian squeamishness. Their vivid, tightly focused observations of the life of Dublin's poorer classes, their unconventional themes, coarse language, and mention of actual people and places made publishers of the day reluctant to undertake sponsorship. Today, however, the stories are admired for their intense and masterly dissection of "dear dirty Dublin," and for the economy and grace with which Joyce invested this youthful fiction. From "The Sisters," the first story, illuminating a young boy's initial encounter with death, through the final piece, "The Dead," considered a masterpiece of the form, these tales represent, as Joyce himself explained, a chapter in the moral history of Ireland that would give the Irish "one good look at themselves." But in the end the stories are not just about the Irish; they represent moments of revelation common to all people. Now readers can enjoy all 15 stories in this inexpensive collection, which also functions as an excellent, accessible introduction to the work of one of the 20th century's most influential writers. Dubliners is reprinted here, complete and unabridged, from a standard edition.

Book Information

Series: Dover Thrift Editions

Paperback: 152 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; Unabridged edition (May 1, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486268705

ISBN-13: 978-0486268705

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.4 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 488 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,392 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Textbooks >

Humanities > History > Europe #68 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies

> Anthologies #136 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies > Short Stories

Customer Reviews

Although James Joyce completed these fifteen stories of Dublin life in 1907, they remained unpublished until 1914 — victims of Edwardian squeamishness. Their vivid, tightly focused observations of the life of Dublin's poorer classes, their unconventional themes, coarse language,

and mention of actual people and places made publishers of the day reluctant to undertake sponsorship. Today, however, the stories are admired for their intense and masterly dissection of "dear dirty Dublin," and for the economy and grace with which Joyce invested this youthful fiction. From "The Sisters," the first story, illuminating a young boy's initial encounter with death, through the final piece, "The Dead," considered a masterpiece of the form, these tales represent, as Joyce himself explained, a chapter in the moral history of Ireland that would give the Irish "one good look at themselves." But in the end the stories are not just about the Irish; they represent moments of revelation common to all people.

Sooner or later, most undergraduates encounter him, and some scholars devote their careers to his exuberantly eloquent prose. James Joyce (1882-1941) led the vanguard of 20th-century fiction, and his experimental use of language and stream-of-consciousness technique continue to captivate, intrigue, and influence modern readers and writers.

Dubliners is more of a collection of character sketches than short stories, but as a whole can be taken as a tale of Joyce's Dublin in the early nineteenth century. Some pieces are quite short – almost flash fiction by today's standards – some resonate with poignancy, whereas others feel vague and underdeveloped. One or two were considered risqué for the time and were almost removed but Joyce prevailed and got them published. His ability to convey sensitive subject matter for his time is remarkable and, in the stronger pieces, he is able to depict character with a deft detail or two. Oddly enough I found the longest piece – which takes up almost a quarter of the book – to be the least satisfying, cluttered with superficial banter and too many characters. But overall, Joyce's use of close third person for inner monologue – revolutionary when this book was written – stands the test of time and makes Dubliners well worth reading.

Over 100 years old and still in publication. Joyce's wife allegedly said, "Why don't you write books that people can read?". A walk through Dublin when the Irish were still reluctant British subjects and, as Joyce wrote elsewhere, "The Irish are afraid to admit they are afraid". Frightful short story about alcoholism.

These short stories really make you think about your own shortfalls and inability to become better. The answer may be so simply and RIGHT THERE. But, that doesn't matter if we can't get out of our

own way.

Joyce invites you into the ordinary lives of many a Dubliner as this book wanders from pub to alley, from horse-drawn cab to upper class party. A cast of characters bring early 20th century Dublin to life. Enjoy.

This book changed my life because it sat on my grandparents' shelf for years as one of our totems, an emblem of who we are and how important the messy, cathected cultural history of Ireland is to our family. And when I finally read it, Joyce does not idealize Dublin at all, and this frightened me. Furthermore, I think it was the first time I ever encountered a book that challenged me stylistically and interpretively, that was intended to be out of everyone's depth. A professor in undergrad once said I was "marvelously gifted reader of symbolism" (in the context of a disagreement about D.H. Lawrence) but *Dubliners* simply does not submit to any simple allegorical mappings. It is a text filled with aporias, and that is why I love it. Joyce is work. There are no easy answers. At eighteen, I said to myself, "This is what literature can be: a fantastic puzzle." And I've been hooked ever since.

A trip to Dublin reawakened an interest in Irish literature. I read most of these stories years ago and enjoyed them. Have tried to read both *Ulysses* and *Finnegan's Wake* and never made it past about 80 pages before I set the books aside. But these stories are accessible and lyrical and many are 20-30 minutes long which for me makes a perfect bedtime read. Joyce wrote these stories just after the turn of the century before the Easter Rebellion and they catch much of the predicament of daily life in Dublin and underneath the will and struggle of facing life without much choice and without much hope. However Joyce catches the language and settings of Dublin and it's still a Dublin you can sit back and enjoy. Published 100 years ago (1914). If you're interested in Irish literature, Dublin, or just short stories in general I suggest you give *Dubliners* a try.

Yes! Beautiful little book. I bought one, and it was so perfect I ordered another for the birthday of someone I love. She loved it too.

Another of the few books I read twice

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