



# The Importance of Being Earnest and Four Other Plays (Barnes & Noble Classics)

*Oscar Wilde*

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**Oscar Wilde**'s legendary wit dazzles in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, one of the greatest and most popular works of drama to emerge from Victorian England. A light-hearted satire of the absurdity of all forms and conventions, this comic masterpiece features an unforgettable cast of characters who, as critic Max Beerbohm observed, "speak a kind of beautiful nonsense—the language of high comedy, twisted into fantasy."

This collection also includes Oscar Wilde's most famous comedies, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *A Woman of No Importance*, and *An Ideal Husband*, as well as his poetic tragedy *Salomé*—all written between 1891 and 1895, Wilde's most creative period. George Bernard Shaw said of Oscar Wilde that he is "our most thorough playwright. He plays with everything: with wit, with philosophy, with drama, with actors and audience, with the whole theater."

**Kenneth Krauss** received his Ph.D. from Columbia University. He teaches drama at the College of Saint Rose, where he also directs and produces. His most recent book is *The Drama of Fallen France*, on French theater under the German Occupation.

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