

CONTENTS

Foreword by Frank Harris	v
Introduction by Frank MacShane	xv

VOLUME I

I: Oscar's father and mother on trial	1
II: Oscar Wilde as a schoolboy	23
III: Trinity, Dublin: Magdalen, Oxford	37
IV: Formative influences: Oscar's poems	50
V: Oscar's quarrel with Whistler and marriage	73
VI: Oscar Wilde's faith and practice	91
VII: Oscar's reputation and supporters	102
VIII: Oscar's growth to originality about 1890	112
IX: The summer of success: Oscar's first play	133
X: The first meeting with Lord Alfred Douglas	144
XI: The threatening cloud draws near	156
XII: Danger signals: the challenge	175
XIII: Oscar attacks Queensberry and is worsted	202
XIV: How genius is persecuted in England	229

XV: The Queen vs. Wilde: the first trial	261
XVI: Escape rejected: the second trial and sentence	292

VOLUME II

XVII: Prison and the effects of punishment	321
XVIII: Mitigation of punishment; but not release	345
XIX: His St. Martin's summer; his best work	363
XX: The results of his second fall: his genius	406
XXI: His sense of rivalry; his love of life and laziness	433
XXII: "A great romantic passion!"	450
XXIII: His judgments of writers and of women	469
XXIV: We argue about his "pet vice" and punishment	488
XXV: The last hope lost	509
XXVI: The end	532
XXVII: A last word	542
Appendix	549
Memories of Oscar Wilde by G. Bernard Shaw	1-32