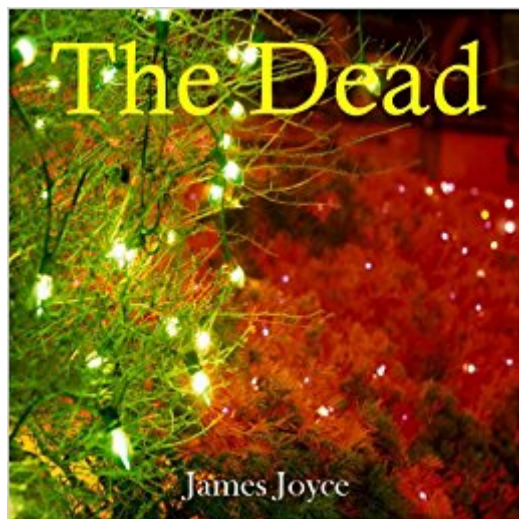


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Dead, The



Synopsis

This is a short story about a Christmas party hosted by Kate and Julia Morkan. Their nephew Gabriel Conroy attends with his wife, and though the party is full of fun and Christmas cheer, it is also full of memories of loss.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a short story about a Christmas party hosted by Kate and Julia Morkan. Their nephew Gabriel Conroy attends with his wife, and though the party is full of fun and Christmas cheer, it is also full of memories of loss.

What an amazing little story. At first, the story is about a man and his wife who go to a party with their friends; in fact, this takes up about 60% of the narrative. But one gets the feeling that the main character is fairly self-assured with his life, and especially his wife. But then, a simple piece of music played toward the end of the party changes everything; I'm not going to say how as I don't want to spoil it for the reader. Suffice to say, it is emotional, gripping, surprising, and a stunning reminder that sometimes, things are not as they appear to be, even with those whom we think we know inside and out. If you wish to get into James Joyce, I can hardly think of a better place to start than here (and it helps that it's free on Kindle!).

Making classics available at extremely reasonable prices is one of the things that does well for consumers and readers. This short novel is not a difficult read, but might not appeal to modern, casual readers. It is a thoughtful, sensitive short novel that will challenge readers who are reflective about life. What's to lose?!

The Dead is a short story taken from James Joyce's *The Dubliners* (which is one of the best books I've ever read). The Dead is poetic, loving, sad, and beautiful...."why is it that words like these seem to me so dull and cold? Is it because there is no word tender enough to be your name?...our path through life is strewn with many such sad memories, and were we to brood upon them always we could not find the heart to go on bravely with our work among the living... better to pass boldly into that that other world, in the full glory of some passion, than fade and wither dismally with age."I pull this book out and reread, savoring each sentence, each time finding more gems like the quotes above. It is pure beauty!

This, of course, is a classic. It is a small, intense description of a private party in Dublin in the early 1900's in wintertime. It describes the characters, the events, the atmosphere of the evening and the relationships (sometimes strained) between the different parties at the event. It captures the mood perfectly. The version I purchased from Kindle was annotated which was very helpful from the viewpoint of the famous people of the time who are mentioned throughout and who have since been forgotten. It is a simple story, drawn very much from Joyce's own life, wife, friends and relations. Well worth reading, especially for the last few pages which really capture the moment. There was also a marvellous film adaptation of this story starring Angelica Houston, directed by John Houston which is well worth watching. You will never look at snow with the same eyes again.

"The Dead" is an absolute classic, and I am not giving three stars to James Joyce's writing style. I am reviewing this particular edition. As I was just casually reading (not even trying to be picky), I noticed at least five spelling/punctuation errors. I realize this sounds petty, but it's distracting :(There are other discrepancies from the text as seen in various editions of *Dubliners*. Just keep this in mind when ordering (in fact, I'd recommend just springing for *Dubliners*, because it is an excellent collection).

A classic short story that retains all the feelings and emotions which are timeless. An evening out for a couple, brings back memories through an old familiar song. Joyce's story structure and characters are first rate. You'll be engaged and hooked till the end, when the couple, Gabriel and Greta leave the party.

The book to read before you die. (It'll take your mind off of it.) So poignant. Plus, it's short and not stream of consciousness (unlike *Ulysses*), and written in ordinary prose (unlike *Finnegans Wake*),

so you can impress your friends and your 7th grade English teacher, who said you'll never amount to anything (or that could have been Ms. Crabapple to Bart), that you're reading Joyce.

It's only my first reading. I have heard that Joyce can be difficult. I don't know what to make of the narrative. His development of the scene and characters is fantastic. He leads a reader to ask questions and keep going to find the answers around the corner. He gradually unfolds the descriptions that answer the questions. Still, I was left wondering. Maybe it will hit me later.

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