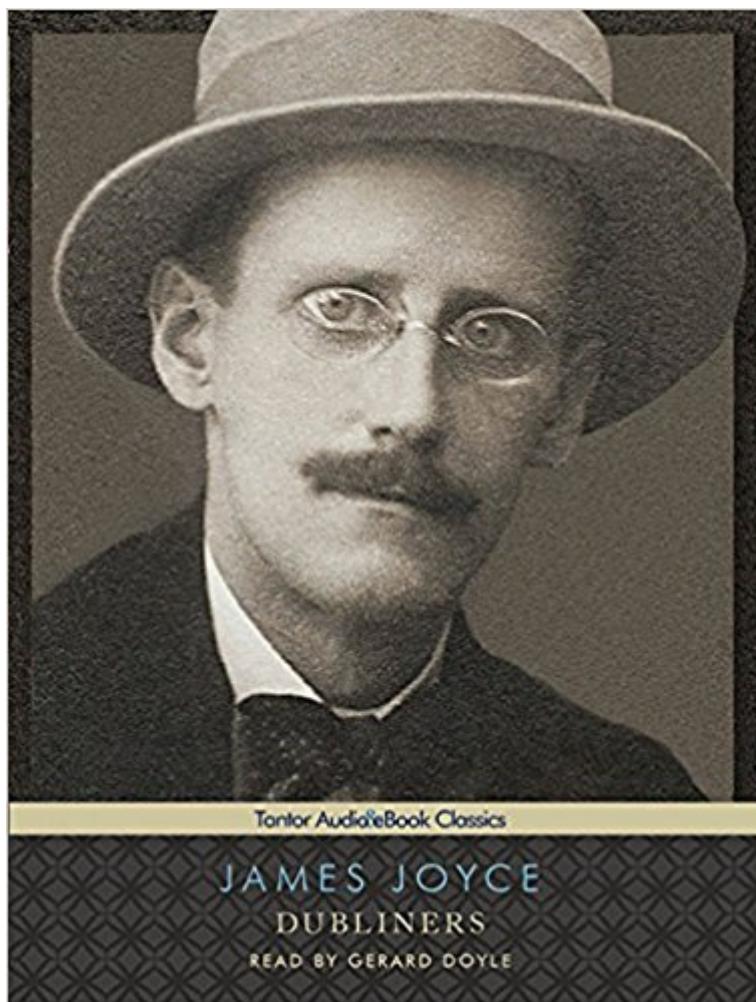


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Dubliners (Tantor Audio & EBook Classics)



Synopsis

Dubliners is a collection of short stories by James Joyce that was first published in 1914. The fifteen stories were meant to be a naturalistic depiction of the Irish middle-class life in and around Dublin in the early years of the twentieth century. The stories were written at a time when Irish nationalism was at its peak and a search for a national identity and purpose was raging; at a crossroads of history and culture, Ireland was jolted by various converging ideas and influences. They center on Joyce's idea of an epiphany: a moment where a character has a special moment of self-understanding or illumination. The initial stories in the collection are narrated by children as protagonists, and as the stories continue, they deal with the lives and concerns of progressively older people. This is in line with Joyce's tripartite division of the collection into childhood, adolescence, and maturity. The stories contained in Dubliners are "The Sisters," "An Encounter," "Araby," "Eveline," "After the Race," "Two Gallants," "The Boarding House," "A Little Cloud," "Counterparts," "Clay," "A Painful Case," "Ivy Day in the Committee Room," "A Mother," "Grace," and "The Dead."

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Frank and Malachy McCourt and 13 Irish actors bring Joyce's short stories to life in this well-produced audiobook. None of the readers employ a thick accent in the narrative portions, but for dialogue they let their imitative talents shine and their Irish lilts bloom. Brendan Coyle and

Charles Keating, reading "A Little Cloud" and "Grace" respectively, give such wonderful expression to the idiosyncrasies of every individual voice that the listener is never confused even when numerous men are talking. Joyce wrote only sparingly in actual dialect, but most of the readers interpret his intentions freely and successfully. Fionnula Flanagan is perfect reading "A Mother," her voice shifting easily between prim and proper tones and fiery indignation punctuated with little sighs. It helps that Joyce's writing is so masterful that when Flanagan and the two other actresses read the three stories that revolve around women, their words sound utterly natural. Not all the performances are on the same level—Stephen Rea's cold, somber voice is apt for the meditative beginning and ending sections of the collection's most famous story, "The Dead," but too flat for the central description of a lively party. This audiobook creates the atmosphere of a fireside storytelling session that will hold any listener in rapt attention. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Joyce's classic has been recorded before, of course, but in this new version, each of the 15 stories will be read by a different person, including writers Frank McCourt, Malachy McCourt, and Patrick McCabe, and actors Ciaran Hinds and Colm Meaney. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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—but 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 is revolutionary when this book was written—it 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, catheted 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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