

Oscar Wilde: The Picture of Dorian Gray

DORIAN'S ATTITUDE TO SYBIL

When Dorian first saw Sybil it was in a theater while she was playing Shakespeare's Juliet. From that moment forward she was anchored in his imagination as a finest actress of immense beauty and talent. She stirred his feelings each time he saw her perfect figure and heard her voice while she was performing on the stage. He fell in love with her acting and wanted all the world to see her plays in all their grandeur. He could not have been as disappointed as when she, in front of his friends and him, performed badly, in fact clumsily, that even when Lord Henry tried to show some compassion, he compared her acting to wooden doll's artificial gestures. Dorian felt betrayed as if someone had stolen his dream. He shattered all his anger on her after the play, when he went backstage to see her. He felt it was unjust and cruel of HER that this had happened and that he had done the right thing leaving her tearful and weepy on the floor of the room. Only the altered expression in the picture made him realize it was actually his fault and that he was the one to be blamed for what had occurred. This made him determined to marry Sybil, as to make it up for the misshapen he caused. At this moment Lord Henry confronted him with the fact, that Sybil Vane had committed a suicide. He was shocked and regretted his act, but Henry made him think of it as just an ordinary inconvenience he should not worry about. In fact, he changed his point of view. Now he considered her to be an unfortunate sacrifice in the world of art, *art living for art, art dying for art.*