

Performed by Anglophones



THE PICTURE OF
DORIAN GRAY

Scene 1. BASIL'S STUDY. DAY.

DORIAN

Are you finished yet, Basil? I have been standing still for hours!

BASIL grunts, but doesn't say anything.

DORIAN

Seriously, Basil, I am SO BORED. When you said you wanted to paint me, I didn't think it would be so boring... Are you finished yet?

BASIL throws his paintbrush at DORIAN'S head, startling him.

DORIAN

Ow! Why did you do that? Yes, I know. I know that art takes time. But I don't want to spend any more time sitting here, doing NOTHING.

HENRY

My friend Dorian, I agree with you. You will not be young forever and you should never waste your time. Don't move or our friend Basil will kill you.

DORIAN

I have been sitting here for HOURS. I hope the picture he is painting is worth it, because if it is not... I will have wasted so much time.

HENRY

Come on, don't say that! You know Basil is the best painter of this generation! I bet the portrait will be incredible.

DORIAN

I just hope I don't look ugly in it...

The portrait is complete. DORIAN and HENRY leap up with excitement.

DORIAN

Finally!

HENRY

You look... you look...

DORIAN

Beautiful! Handsome! Amazing!

HENRY

Yes you do! And you better make the most of it, because in twenty... thirty years...

DORIAN

What? In twenty or thirty years what? What will happen?

HENRY

You will be old... and your beauty... will be... gone. So you need to have fun before it disappears, don't you think? Which reminds me... Why don't we go and celebrate that the portrait is finally finished? Come on, Basil, Dorian, let's go have a drink!

DORIAN

I do look quite beautiful in this picture... Don't you think so? I wish it would last forever. I wish I would never age. And look old, and weak, and ugly... I wish I would look like this forever. I wish the portrait would age... instead of myself.

HENRY

Dorian! Come now! What are you doing? I hope you are not talking to your portrait!

DORIAN

Yes I was! He looks so beautiful. I can't stop myself!

Scene 2. THEATER. NIGHT.

DORIAN

Thank you for going out with me, Basil. I know you hate leaving your home at night.

But remember what Henry said: We will not be young forever, we can't waste any more time! We have to go out every night that we can!

Come on, old man! Don't be boring! We will have fun! Sit down, Basil! The performance is starting!

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the performance of the century. Prepare yourselves for the beautiful, the amazing, the talented: SIBYL.

DORIAN

Wow, she is beautiful... You can go ahead to the restaurant. I need to do something first.

Hello, beautiful creature.

SIBYL

What did you call me?

DORIAN

I... I just said... I mean... That was a beautiful performance.

SIBYL

Oh! Thank you! That is very kind. I am glad you liked it. Are you okay, sir?

DORIAN

Yes! I am Dorian Gray. May I ask your name?

SIBYL

My name is Sibyl.

DORIAN

It is very nice to meet you, Sibyl. Nice to meet you. Sibyl is a very beautiful name. Almost as beautiful as you. I wanted to tell you that I am your biggest fan. What would you say if I invited you to go out with me tonight?

SIBYL

Tonight? I don't know... I'm supposed to meet my brother James. He's very protective of me...

DORIAN

Protective?

SIBYL

Yes... He has always taken care of me, since we were children! Sometimes he punches and hits men that talk to me.

DORIAN

Is your brother James here now?

SIBYL

No, but he will get here later.

DORIAN

Then you can leave with me...

SIBYL

If he comes back and doesn't find me here... He will be worried.

DORIAN

Don't worry! I will explain that you are protected when you are with me. And, as you know... I'm very charming.

SIBYL

Oh, are you?

DORIAN

Well, I have charmed you, haven't I?

SIBYL

Maybe...

DORIAN

Then I know I can charm your brother. I am sure that if he meets me, he will love me.

SIBYL

Okay, okay... You have convinced me.

DORIAN

I'm very convincing. Where do you want to go?

SIBYL

Wherever you want.

DORIAN

I love that answer! I love doing what I want. Let's go.

Scene 3. DORIAN'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

SIBYL

Dorian! Let me see! You know I'm scared of the dark!

DORIAN

Shhh... Just a little longer... Are you ready?

SIBYL

I've been ready for about 20 minutes!

DORIAN

Okay, good. Then one... two... three!

SIBYL

Is this the picture you told me about? It's beautiful! You look... beautiful. And your house is amazing!

DORIAN

I really, really, really do look beautiful. You are right.

SYBIL

But I like the real Dorian better.

DORIAN

Is it true? You really like me better? Sybil. We have known each other for a while now. When did we meet each other?

SIBYL

We met each other three months ago. And I have never been happier.

DORIAN

And I have been thinking... I think it's time to make this official.

SIBYL

What do you mean, Dorian? Oh my god! Oh my god!

DORIAN

Sibyl...

SIBYL

YES!

DORIAN

Would you like....

SIBYL

Yes! Yes!

DORIAN

Sibyl, let me finish! Would you like to marry me? NOW you can talk!

SIBYL

Oh yes Dorian! Yes! I am so happy!

DORIAN

So am I! But ow ow ow.... You are choking me!

SIBYL

Sorry! But oh, you made me so happy. You are like a Prince. A prince charming! I can't wait to be your wife! We will be together every day, live in the same house, have many children... We can have about 10 children!

DORIAN

10 children? I was thinking 1 or 2...

Suddenly there is someone at the door.

SIBYL

Oh! That must be my brother James! I asked him to come pick me up! I can't wait to tell him the news! James, look! Dorian asked me to marry him! Can you believe it? Oh, I'm so happy! I must go, I have to sing tonight. Will you come?

DORIAN

Of course I will! And I will introduce you to my friend Henry. He is one of my best friends and you should really meet him before we marry.

SIBYL

I will be happy to meet Henry! See you there, Dorian.

Dorian, finally alone, turns to his portrait.

DORIAN

Don't look at me like that! I know I might be young... But I love Sibyl! I want to marry her! Why shouldn't I do what I want to? Is it what I want to do? Maybe I shouldn't marry her... Maybe I should stay single, and enjoy the life of a free man... What if marriage... is a prison, like Henry always says? Maybe I shouldn't trap myself in it! What should I do? What am I saying? I love Sibyl and I will be happy to marry her. You are a bad influence! Today I tell my friend Henry the news!

DORIAN grabs paper and ink, sits by a table and starts writing.

DORIAN

"Dear Henry,

I want to be the first to tell you the wonderful news. I am getting married! I know you won't like the idea, but I love Sibyl so much and I hope you will love her too, because she will become my wife soon.

You have to meet her. I will introduce her to you. Meet me tonight at the theater, where she sings every night. You will love her!

Sincerely, Dorian."

I will send it now. Henry will be happy for me. Time to see my future wife sing!

Scene 4. THEATER. NIGHT.

HENRY

Dorian, my friend. So THIS is the place where your future wife works!

DORIAN

Of course it is. You can see I'm here! Why do you say that?

HENRY

Well... This place looks... So ugly and dirty... I thought you gave me the wrong address!

DORIAN

Don't be such a snob! You are always complaining about everything!

HENRY

You know me so well... So this is where the famous "Sibyl" sings.

DORIAN

Yes, and you can stop with that tone. She has talent, beauty, kindness... She is an amazing woman.

HENRY

I am sure she is!

DORIAN

I know you don't want me to marry, you don't need to laugh at me.

HENRY

Of course I don't want you to marry! You are too young! If you get married now... And you have children... We will not be able to have as much fun together!

DORIAN

Yes we will! I will not become boring just because I get married.

HENRY

That is what you think now, but yes you will! You will stay home every night... You will have to always be with your wife... take care of your children.... What an awful life.

DORIAN

That doesn't sound that awful.

HENRY

I'm just joking, Dorian. If this Sibyl makes you happy, I will be happy with your marriage.

DORIAN

Will you really?

HENRY

Yes, I promise.

DORIAN

Thank you, Henry, you are my best friend.

HENRY

I thought your best friend was Basil.

DORIAN

No, he is too quiet.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the performance of the century. Prepare yourselves for the beautiful, the amazing, the talented SIBYL.

We hear SIBYL's voice offstage, just as beautiful as it was before. But whereas DORIAN looks as besotted as the first time, HENRY looks visibly unimpressed, keeps checking his watch and looks impatient.

DORIAN

Well? What do you think? Is something wrong?

HENRY

No, nothing is wrong...

DORIAN

What is it, Henry? I know you, and I know something is bothering you. Tell me! What's wrong?

HENRY

It's fine. It's just... Is that the woman you want to marry?

DORIAN

Yes! That's Sibyl, I told you!

HENRY

Seriously, Dorian? Seriously? Look at her!

DORIAN

I am looking at her!

HENRY

Maybe you are looking at her, but you are not SEEING her. She looks poor.

DORIAN

Well, her family doesn't have a lot of money... But I do! So it's fine!

HENRY

And she is... cute, I guess, but she is NOT that beautiful.

DORIAN

What? She looks beautiful to me!

HENRY

I have seen many women much more beautiful than her! You are blind, Dorian, seriously. Are you sure you want to spend your life, your young years, with someone as mediocre as her?

DORIAN

Mediocre? I love Sibyl! She is the one for me, I could never find another woman as amazing as her.

HENRY

Don't be ridiculous! There's plenty of fish in the sea.

DORIAN

Fish? I don't like fish.

HENRY

I am talking about women.

DORIAN

Are there women in the sea? You mean mermaids?

HENRY

No I don't mean mermaids! You are beautiful but can be very stupid sometimes, Dorian. I mean that there are many women in the world. And many of them are more beautiful, more talented and more interesting than... "Sybil".
Dorian, think hard about who you want to give your youth to. Remember, you won't be young forever.

HENRY leaves and DORIAN remains seated, thinking.

DORIAN

What do you think? Should I marry Sybil: yes or no?

Dorian walks to the exit discreetly. On his way out, he bumps into JAMES, who grunts and pushes him.

DORIAN

Hey! James! I know you hate me. You have always hated me. But don't worry! I won't marry your stupid sister! That way you can stay poor and mediocre FOREVER.

JAMES punches him right in the face.

DORIAN

You punched me! You hit me in the nose! God, It hurts! It's bleeding! There's blood! You are a monster!
I'm tired of you! You are not worth my precious time! Goodbye forever!

Scene 5. STREETS. NIGHT.

SIBYL

Dorian! Wait! Wait for me!

Dorian! Didn't you hear me? I was calling you!

Why did you leave the theater without telling me first? We could have left together...

Is something wrong? Where is your friend Henry? Wasn't he coming today?

DORIAN

Henry was bored watching you sing.

SIBYL

What? He didn't like my singing?

DORIAN

No... And I didn't like it either.

SIBYL

What? Why didn't you like it? I tried to be good for you!

DORIAN

Last time I saw you I was distracted. I thought you were better. But now I understand you are not good enough for me.

SIBYL

Not good enough? Why are you saying this? Dorian... You told me you loved me! We are going to get married!

DORIAN

No, we are not! You are too mediocre, too normal for me. I have to aspire to more beautiful fish!

SIBYL

What? Fish? What are you talking about?

DORIAN

There are more fish in the... It does not matter. I will not marry you.

SIBYL

Please, Dorian... You can't do this to me. I will be better for you! I love you!

DORIAN

But I don't love you. And I will not marry you. End of discussion.

SIBYL

But, Dorian...

DORIAN

And don't follow me!

Dorian leaves her alone in the street, crying.

Scene 6. DORIAN'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

The portrait has changed: the Dorian in the picture looks different. He has dark circles under his eyes, looks paler, his smile is cruel and evil-looking and he has a bloodied nose.

DORIAN

What is this? What happened? My nose! It his healed! How...? The blood is on my picture! But why does it look so bad, so evil...? So the picture has changed... But why has this happened? Maybe it's because... Because...

A long time ago I wished my portrait would change instead of me! Maybe he is turning ugly because of what I did to Sybil today! Maybe the way I look in the portrait is how my soul looks. Maybe I should tell Sibyl I am sorry. I was cruel to her... So evil. I have to apologize. My words to Sibyl caused his. I did this!

*DORIAN starts to put on his jacket frantically - then suddenly he hears someone at the door.
He looks around, grabs a sheet and covers the portrait up quickly.*

DORIAN

Who is it? Who is knocking at my door? Henry! This is not a good time, I was about to leave!

HENRY

You should stay, my friend. I have something to tell you.

DORIAN

What? What's wrong?

HENRY

Well... Something happened... I heard about it and I thought I should tell you first. Before you heard it from someone else.

DORIAN

Can this wait? I need to talk to Sibyl... Something happened and I need to talk to her.

HENRY

That is what I want to talk to you about. Sibyl.

DORIAN

What? Why?

HENRY

Well... I have some bad news. I just heard from the police that they have found... a body in the river. A dead body. They think she threw herself from a bridge and into the river.

DORIAN

What are you saying?

HENRY

Sibyl... killed herself. She drowned in the river. They found her body an hour ago.

DORIAN

Sibyl is dead...? She... killed herself?

HENRY

Yes... Apparently some people saw her walking down the street crying. She seemed sad and heartbroken. Then she jumped into the river and drowned. I'm sorry, Dorian.

DORIAN

Oh, no... Oh no... Sibyl! I killed my Sibyl!

HENRY

You didn't do it, Dorian, she did. It's not your fault! She was too weak for you. Too sensitive. Now you don't have to marry her, and you can go ahead and have fun. Make the most of your young years!

DORIAN

What if she was the one?

HENRY

Dorian! She wasn't that beautiful, or that talented, or that good for you.

DORIAN

But now she is dead and it's my fault!

HENRY

I know it hurts, but think about all the things that are waiting for you... All the beauty and the pleasure... You're still young Dorian!

DORIAN

...Do you really think so?

HENRY

You will feel better soon, I swear.

DORIAN

Yes. You are right, Henry. Thank you.

HENRY

You are welcome, Dorian. Go have a bath, relax and then come to the bar with me. We will drink and have fun... You will feel better in no time.

DORIAN

Okay... I will see you at the bar.

HENRY

Oh, wait, I almost forgot! People saw James, Sibyl's brother... saying he wanted revenge. Revenge on the person who had hurt Sibyl so bad that she decided to kill herself. Revenge on you, Dorian.

DORIAN

What?

HENRY

Don't worry! He is a drunk, I bet he won't dare to attack you. The police would kill him! I'm just telling you so that you are careful... Don't let that man see you. But let's not be sad and boring! We can have a drink and relax.

Why is the portrait covered up, by the way? It's so beautiful, you shouldn't hide it!

HENRY gets close to the portrait and grabs the sheet as he talks - and DORIAN flings himself to prevent him from doing it, scaring HENRY, who takes a few steps backwards.

DORIAN

No! I look so beautiful in that portrait that I can't concentrate on anything if I can see it.

HENRY

You are so funny Dorian, and so arrogant. See you later!

HENRY exits. Once he is alone, Dorian uncovers the portrait and stares at it with gravity.

DORIAN

No one can ever see this portrait again. No one can ever know!

He covers the portrait.

Scene 7. DORIAN'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

Twenty years later.

HENRY

Dorian! Long time no see!

DORIAN

Hello friend! Welcome to my home, I am glad you are visiting.

HENRY

Basil has come, too. Dorian, you look... amazing. As always. This is so strange. It's like you have not aged! You look so young!

DORIAN

Strange? No it's not! The strange thing here is how old and weak you both look!

HENRY

I am surprised by your face every time I see you. How do you do it, friend? What is your secret?

DORIAN

My secret? My secret is not getting married like you, Henry! I still can't believe you got married!

HENRY

Well, what can I say... I was weak! And speaking about that. I don't have much time because I have to go have dinner with my wife. But after that... How about we go have a party? Like we did in the past? When we were young. Well, when I was young. You too Basil! You need to come! Let's all go!

DORIAN

Of course! I will see you later and we will party like young men!

HENRY

Goodbye, Dorian! I will see you later too, Basil!

HENRY leaves, but BASIL stays behind. DORIAN looks at him, curious.

DORIAN

What do you want, Basil? Is there something you want to say? You won't say anything, I see. But I think I know what you want. I know you don't like the way I live my life. But what do you want me to do?

BASIL grabs SIBYL's picture and shows it to DORIAN.

DORIAN

Sibyl is dead! She died 20 years ago! What can I do about it? I don't owe her anything. I have to keep living my life, and I can do it however I want to. What do you want? You want the portrait? You gave it to me, why do you want it back? You think I don't deserve it anymore? I see. Well, I can give you the portrait if you really want it. But first, how about I show it to you?

DORIAN walks towards the covered up portrait and tugs at the sheet with force, uncovering it.

DORIAN

Do you see what you've done to me? Do you SEE? This is your fault. You painted this picture and made me the way I am today. You have no right to blame me, do you hear me? No right! Do not look at me like that, Basil!

DORIAN grabs a knife that was on a table and stabs BASIL.

DORIAN

What have I done? What have I done, what have I done?

Suddenly there's a rapping at the door..

HENRY

Dorian! Are you here? Open up!

DORIAN

Henry can't see this! I have to hide the body!

HENRY

Dorian! Sorry to bother you, but I left my jacket. Why are you so quiet, Dorian? Did Basil leave already?

DORIAN

Yes, he left! He left a LOOONG time ago. And he probably won't come back for a while.

HENRY

Are you okay, Dorian?

DORIAN

I AM VERY OKAY, HENRY, WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

HENRY

Well, are we still on for a night of partying, women and drinks?

DORIAN

Yes, let's do it! We will meet later.

Scene 8. DOCKS. NIGHT.

DORIAN

Basil, old friend... You sure liked to eat! You are so heavy... I just need... to cover the body... That way... they will never find him... I just need you to disappear, Basil. Just disappear!
Now Basil is resting in peace.

Scene 9. TAVERN. NIGHT.

HENRY

Two glasses of whiskey. And what will you drink?
So what is going on in your life, Dorian? Have you found another pretty girl to spend time with?

DORIAN

I don't want to tie myself down. You taught me that... and then you went, and you married someone!

HENRY

Well... Even I can fall in love.

DORIAN

Now you are the married one and I'm still single.

HENRY

By the way, have you seen our friend Basil lately? I tried to tell him to come today, but I could not find him anywhere.

DORIAN

I have no idea where he is. I don't know anything.

HENRY

His wife has not seen him either. That is not normal for Basil. Maybe we should be worried about him...

DORIAN

No! I bet he is just... Basil is just... just painting the sky somewhere.

HENRY

But Basil wouldn't disappear for so long... It's very strange, don't you think?

DORIAN

I will go get us more whiskey!

Suddenly as he moves towards the bar, he sees JAMES, who is quietly sitting on a stool, and gasps loudly.

HENRY

Dorian? What's wrong?

DORIAN

Don't look! But that man right there.... the man with the big hat, the scar on his cheek and the green jacket...

DORIAN

He is Sybil's brother!

HENRY

What? Are you sure?

DORIAN

Yes! It's him! He looks older, but I'm sure it's him!

DORIAN

What do I do? What if he sees me?

HENRY

Don't worry so much, Dorian!

DORIAN

Shh! Don't say my name! If he sees me, he is going to kill me! He promised he would kill me if something happened to Sibyl. You told me that, remember?

HENRY

Yes, yes, I remember, but don't exaggerate! Besides, he isn't going to recognize you!

DORIAN

Do you really think that?

HENRY

I do! You look as beautiful as you did 20 years ago. Don't worry. Even if he sees you, he won't think it's the same Dorian Gray that broke his sister's heart!

DORIAN

I can't risk it! It's too dangerous, I need to leave.

HENRY

Dorian, you are acting like a clown!

Scene 10. STREET. NIGHT.

Dorian walks the streets, nervous. He's looking around, checking to see if someone is following.

DORIAN

No one is following me... No one is following me... I am just paranoid. I am just paranoid. I am just paranoid!

There's a SOUND again. And some footsteps. DORIAN looks around, looking for someplace to hide.

Once he is hidden, JAMES comes in.

DORIAN

He has a knife! He has a knife!

There's a sound nearby that catches JAMES's attention.

He looks around one last time and exits the stage in the direction of the sound.

DORIAN

I almost got caught for killing Basil... James almost kills me for betraying Sibyl... I've been acting like a horrible person all this time. I thought nothing mattered, as long as my portrait aged instead of me. I didn't think there would be consequences to my actions. This has gotten dangerous. I need to change. I need to be better. Maybe it's not too late. I will be good and then my life will be better and nothing will happen to me.

I will do it! I will be a good person! And then everything will be fixed. What do you think I should do? Should I help people? How? Should I give money? Should I stop seeing Henry?...

Scene 11. VARIOUS LOCATIONS. NIGHT.

Dorian gives money to a vagabond, then wiping his hand with disgust. He helps an old woman walk as she talks. He prevents a baby carriage from crashing against a wall, as the mother runs after it. At the end of it, Dorian looks considerably bored and unhappy, but satisfied.

Scene 12. DORIAN'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

Five years later.

DORIAN

Henry keeps sending me letters... What a persistent man. I am getting tired of him. He probably misses me because I have stopped going out with him. Let's see what he says now.

"Dear Dorian,

I might be getting older and older, and I will be an old man soon. But at least I am not getting boring like you! I still go to parties, and drink, and have fun with the pleasures of life. Why don't you come to one of these parties with me tonight?

Come on, Dorian. Come with me to remember the good times. You look so young, don't behave like an old man! And I will come by your house and pick you up TONIGHT. So get ready!

Sincerely, Henry"

Henry doesn't understand that I have changed. I am a new man! I am good man, and I care about other people. I have been working hard to save my soul. In fact, I think enough time has passed... I can check my portrait at last. I've done so many good things in these 5 years... I have helped homeless people... I saved a baby... The portrait should look amazing again... It should!

DORIAN tugs at the sheet and gasps: The portrait looks even worse than before. The flesh looks rotten, mummified, the eyes are black and there is blood dripping from its mouth.

DORIAN

What? What's this? WHY HASN'T IT CHANGED? I'VE DONE SO MANY GOOD THINGS.

SIBYL (as a ghost)

Because all the good things you did... were for you.

DORIAN

A GHOST! Sibyl? Is that you? You are dead! You can't be here!

SIBYL

Oh, Dorian... You are older, but you are not smarter. And you are beautiful as always... but you are still so ugly inside. As ugly as your picture.

DORIAN

What can I do? I've tried to be good! I've worked hard!

SIBYL

It wasn't enough! You have done so much damage, and you don't even see it!

DORIAN

But... but... I did so many good things! I gave money to the poor! I saved a baby! I stopped drinking and partying!

SIBYL

But you didn't do it to be GOOD! You did it to save yourself! All the good things you did... You did them for yourself. It was all... selfish.

I called you Prince Charming once... Because I thought you were. You were beautiful like a prince. And I thought you would fight monsters to protect me. You should be the one to fight this monster.

SIBYL pulls out a knife and starts advancing towards DORIAN.

SIBYL

You killed your friend Basil with this knife. You should use it now to kill the real monster.

DORIAN

My plan has not worked... The portrait is still ugly and evil. What if Sibyl's ghost is right? I have done what I wanted... All my life. I have drunk what I wanted, seduced who I wanted, hurt who I wanted... What if this isn't who I am?

DORIAN'S PICTURE

AND WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

DORIAN

Who's talking? Who's there?

DORIAN'S PICTURE

I am you, and you are me. Do you really think I am the bad one, the evil one? What about you?

DORIAN

What about me?

DORIAN'S PICTURE

I didn't make you do anything. I didn't force you to do anything. Everything you have done... is your fault, not mine.

DORIAN

Who are you?

DORIAN'S PICTURE

I am your fear of growing old and weak and ugly. And you should thank me! I have helped you! I have stopped you from getting old so you could enjoy your eternal life! So you could be young forever! Aren't you happy?

DORIAN

I haven't enjoyed it! I have been alone for years! You are evil! And you have always been evil!

DORIAN'S PICTURE

I have just given you your youth and beauty! You decided what you wanted to do with it!

DORIAN

No, you have taken everything from me! You have taken a normal life from me! I should have grown old like any other human!

DORIAN'S PICTURE

Accept it Dorian. The only evil one here is yourself.

With a furious roar, DORIAN lunges towards the picture and stabs it.

Scene 13 DORIAN'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

HENRY

Dorian! Dorian! I heard someone scream! Dorian! Are you there? I can't find the lights... Where are the lights?

Dorian! Answer me! I found the lights...

On the floor, there is horrifying image: an old, skeletal body on the floor dead.

HENRY

What is this? Who is this old man? Dorian! Dorian, what is going on? Where are you? Who is this?

...Dorian?