

THE FALL OF THE  
HOUSE OF WILDE

*Oscar Wilde and His Family*

Emer O'Sullivan

B L O O M S B U R Y  
LONDON • OXFORD • NEW YORK • NEW DELHI • SYDNEY

## Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xi
1 Roots	I
2 Lust for Knowledge	II
3 Patron-cum-Scholar	25
4 Rising High	34
5 The Bourgeois Rebel	43
6 Flirtations, Father Figures and Femmes Fatales	57
7 Marriage	63
8 Merrion Square	75
9 The Wildean Missionary Zeal	84
10 Wider Horizons	92
11 Open House	100
12 1864: The End of Bliss	108
13 Honour and Ignominy	116
14 Love, Hatred and Revenge: The 'Great Libel Case'	123
15 Times are Changing	135
16 More Highs, More Blows	146
17 Transience and Poetry	154
18 The Unravelling	164
19 Dabbling with Options and Ideas	176
20 Openings and Closings	185
21 Literary Bohemia	196

22	Divergent Paths	210
23	Looking to America	220
24	'Mr Oscar Wilde is "not such a fool as he looks"'	228
25	Marriage: A Gold Band Sliced in Half	234
26	'The Crushes'	252
27	Aesthetic Living	259
28	Momentous Changes	272
29	Colonial Resistance	282
30	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> : A 'tale with a moral'	298
31	'It is personalities, not principles that move the age'	304
32	High Life, Low Life and Little Literary Life	313
33	<i>Salomé</i> : The Breaking of Taboos	324
34	'Truly you are a starling'	334
35	Fatal Affairs	345
36	An Un-Ideal Husband	359
37	Letting Rip	366
38	'It is said that Passion makes one think in a circle'	373
39	Facing Fate	389
40	Impotent Silence	402
41	The 'Disgraced' Name	409
42	Author of a Legend	416
43	'We all come out of prison as sensitive as children'	420
44	'I have fiddled too often on the string of Doom'	427
45	'I am really in the gutter'	431
	Epilogue	443
	<i>Notes</i>	445
	<i>Bibliography</i>	471
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	477
	<i>Index</i>	479