ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin in 1854. He went to college there and then studied at Oxford, where in 1878 he won a poetry prize. In 1883 he went to the USA and stayed there for a year, travelling around the country and giving talks. In 1884 he got married and 1888 he wrote The Happy Prince and Other Tales, a book of stories for his sons. The Canterville Ghost was one of the stories in a book called Lord Arthur Savile’s Crime and Other Stories, published in 1891.

Wilde wrote one novel, The Picture of Dorian Gray (1890), but he is best known for his plays. His first two plays did not do well, but the third, Lady Windermere’s Fan (1892), was funny and clever, and people loved it. His greatest play, The Importance of Being Earnest, appeared in 1895, but in that same year he was sent to prison because of his relationship with another man, Lord Alfred Douglas. When he came out in 1897, he went to live in France, where he wrote The Ballad of Reading Gaol (1898), and a long poem about his time in prison. He died in Paris in 1900.