



Son of Oscar Wilde

By Vyvyan Holland

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With its thirty-three previously unpublished Oscar Wilde letters and its poignant recollections of a man as spontaneous, humane, and sincere as he was prodigiously witty, Vyvyan Holland's memoir of his famous father has come to be regarded as a biographical classic in Wildean studies. Sharply observed, vivid, and dispassionate, it offers not only an unforgettable portrait of Wilde himself, his circle of friends, and his band of persecutors, but also a touching chronicle of Holland's own childhood, of the loneliness he experienced as the son of a remarkable, notorious father and of his emergence from the shadows of cruel injustice and dark scandal.

"Fascinating for the light it sheds on Wilde's Oxford days and on his domestic life." - Atlantic Monthly

"A strange chronicle . . . of considerable literary value." - New Yorker

"Mr. Holland's vivid glimpses of the aftermath of that cause célèbre of the Nineties [do] a valuable service of his father's memory." - Saturday Review

"An essential addition to Wildeana by a witness uniquely qualified to testify" - Library Journal

"A biographical tour de force" - Observer

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This is the first of what no doubt will be many volumes (see below) on Wilde to celebrate the centennial of his death in 2000. Holland's somewhat syrupy portrait of his father, whom he really didn't know well as he was only four when Oscar died, nonetheless won high praise from critics when it was released in 1954. This edition has been updated by Holland's son Merlin. The volume also contains several monochrome photos of the players.

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From [The New Yorker](#)

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Review

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