



Dubliners

James Joyce (1882 - 1941)

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	6 hours 54 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1034
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936127
Style:	Collaborative	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Fiction		

It has been said that James Joyce never wrote a thing unless it was a masterpiece. Many years since his death the assessment remains and is proven in his book of short stories, *Dubliners*. Written before 1905 when Irish nationalism was first on every Irishman's mind, the compilation of stories deal with characters living in an Ireland not triumphant, but with characters who feel they have failed at life in an Ireland that has suffered mightily under the yokes of two tyrants, the British Government and the Catholic Church. Seeking a sense of identity and purpose in a land overtaken by powers that care little for their captives, James Joyce in plain and simple language presents and dissects the paralysis, the insecurities, the failure to thrive in a people so poorly served.

Though many of the characters we meet in *Dubliners* will appear again *Ulysses*,

this is not the Joyce of *Ulysses* with its sometimes difficult language and allusions. This is Joyce at his most matter of fact, providing the understatement necessary for wit and wisdom. The stories by the young artist are brilliant, sometimes painful in their searing honesty, humorous in the Irish way, and ultimately illuminating – as illuminating as the moments of epiphany that Joyce talked and wrote about as he formed, polished and nurtured his considerable aesthetic. (*Summary by Michael Hogan*)

James Augusta Aloysius Joyce (February 2, 1882 – January 13, 1941) was born in the Dublin suburb of Rathgar. The eldest of ten surviving children, he grew up in Dublin and attended Jesuit schools where the good fathers were duly impressed and not a little intimidated by his formidable intelligence. Joyce took to literature early on, displaying an uncanny facility for reading, analyzing, memorizing and commenting upon the Irish literature of that time and how the next generation of Irish writers (read: Joyce, himself) might be improve upon the then current model. He wrote short stories, *Dubliners* (1906), which contains his universally accepted masterpiece, The “Dead”. He met Nora Barnacle and, with the unfinished manuscript of *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* in hand, moved with Nora to Trieste to escape the claustrophobic confines of British rule, Catholic dogma and family conventions. He began his great work, *Ulysses*, which he continued and finished in Paris ten years later in 1922. On publication *Ulysses* ranked Joyce with the greatest writers in English. With the outbreak of World War II, Joyce moved to Zurich where he put the finishing touches on his fourth, least accessible and most difficult work, *Finnegan's Wake*. Having struggled with blindness by cataracts and other health problems, and having become very depressed over the failing mental health of his brilliant daughter Lucia, Joyce died in 1941 at the age of 59.