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Songs Of Experience: Facsimile Reproduction With 26 Plates In Full Color (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



Synopsis

One of Blake's most inspired creations, "The Tyger" mingles the lyric and mystical in an exquisite union. Now you can experience the beauty of this and other poems the way Blake intended them with his own hand-colored illustrations giving them visual form. This facsimile edition of one of Blake's celebrated "Illuminated Books" reproduces a collection of calligraphed poems, each enclosed in a masterful full-color illustration. Twenty-six plates reprinted from a rare 1826 etched edition include "London," "A Little Boy Lost," "Holy Thursday," "The Voice of the Ancient Bard," and other immortal verse. To enhance reading, the texts of all the poems are transcribed separately, following the plates. Dynamic designs and simplicity of language convey Blake's vision of mankind and his condemnation of a wealthy society insensitive to poverty and unhappiness. Moreover, its universal themes make Songs of Experience just as poignant and profound today. Lovers of literature and fine art will want to add this faithful, inexpensive facsimile of an immortal classic to their libraries.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William Blake is one of the most original and influential English poets - so eccentric and ground-breaking that even his biggest fans considered him insane long after his death. The poems in Songs of Experience are one of his most popular and lasting achievements, essential for anyone even remotely interested in poetry and a good place for those new to Blake and poetry generally to

start. This edition is particularly valuable in that, unlike nearly all others, it presents the poems as Blake intended. It is important to realize that he was as much a visual as a literary artist and in fact issued the poems in "Illuminated Books" where they were written on color plates with various pictorial representations. He did not consider the poems standalone works, and the visual element is indeed important. Pictures often underline or reinforce the words but sometimes seem to give a contrary impression; only a few are apparently incidental. Whether or not one likes visual art and regardless of how one thinks the poems work in themselves, they do play off visual elements in complicated and interesting ways. Needless to say, because the plates are expensive and difficult to reproduce, nearly all collections have only the poems - a concept that would have appalled Blake if he could have even conceived it. The poems are of course more than good enough to stand alone, but we must remember that Blake never meant them to do so. This volume reproduces the plates in a manner as close as realistically possible to his intent; this is not one of Dover's Thrift Editions but a very high quality production with vivid colors and strong binding. In short, it is absolutely essential for the dedicated and a pleasant surprise for casuals. It also usefully reprints the poems alone for reading ease.

Songs of Innocence and Experience by William Blake I don't completely understand why some people choose to take the classics, respect them for what they are on the shelf, and then shove them into a box in the back of the closet. I understand that some may feel the classics are a little over analyzed, but the more you read them, the more you comprehend them and the more you understand how very important they are in the grand scheme of the literary world. Hence why I pulled my weathered copy of the illustrated version of William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience from the shelf and attempted to decipher it for the umpteenth time. Essentially, the book is a two-part collection of William Blake's poems. The first section of poems contains sweet, childish poems written from the perspectives of either children, or adults speaking to children. Common repetitive elements include those of lambs, cherubs, and other sweet items, such as flowers, birds, or other small creatures. Totally contrary to the first sections, the experience section makes the innocence sections look like Justin Bieber in comparison to Marilyn Manson. Think sex, death, anger, murder, and betrayal. In short, Blake revolutionized the approachable concepts of poetry. His experience section is essentially a summary of the life and styles we find totally acceptable today. However, for its time, this was completely disgusting and unexplainable. Part of the glory of this book comes from the way in which you read it. If you read it with the mindset of someone in the twenty-first century, this is nothing special and Fifty Shades of Gray did the whole

screwed up relationships thing much better.

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