



Wilde A FLORENTINE TRAGEDY; LA SAINTE COURTISANE

A Florentine Tragedy; La Sainte Courtisane

by Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

Two short fragments: an unfinished and a lost play. *A Florentine Tragedy*, left in a taxi (not a handbag), is Wilde's most successful attempt at tragedy – intense and domestic, with surprising depth of characterisation. It was adapted into an opera by the Austrian composer Alexander Zemlinsky in 1917. *La Sainte Courtisane* explores one of Wilde's great idées fixes: the paradox of religious hedonism, pagan piety. Both plays, Wildean to their core, revel in the profound sadness that is the fruit of the conflict between fidelity and forbidden love. Written towards the end of his tragic life, these fragments give us a glimpse of a genius at his best: visceral, passionate, personal, poetic. Included is a preface to the *Collected Plays of Oscar Wilde* written by Robert Ross (1869-1918).



Wilde A FLORENTINE TRAGEDY; LA SAINTE COURTISANE



Total running time: 0:56:00

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
 Cover illustrations (top) *Portrait of a Lady* by Titian (1555)
 (bottom) *Temptations of St. Anthony* by Cezanne (1870)