

## A Florentine Tragedy And La Sainte Courtisane Oscar Wilde and Robert Baldwin Ross

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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, or The Woman Covered in Jewels 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. (Summary by Simon Larois)

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