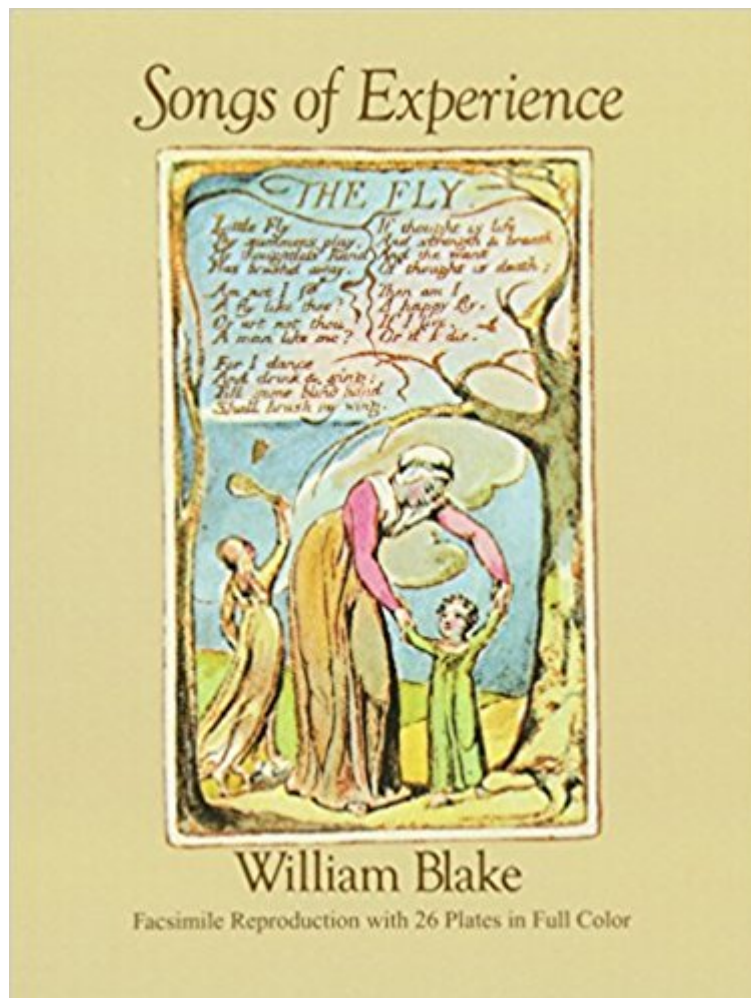


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Songs Of Experience: Facsimile Reproduction With 26 Plates In Full Color (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



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

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A good attempt, especially given the paucity of this material in print, but the illustrations with poems are just too tiny for comfortable reading. Very disappointing.

Had to purchase for a college course. Book is small, hard to see and read. This is a celebrated text, but in this small format, it cannot be appreciated.

As I have read a brilliant version of this book many years ago at the British Council, I was thrilled to see it on offer and decided to buy. The experience was really disappointing. The lettering is very faint and the quality of the book is cheap like the price. Do not buy if you love books or poetry.

Beautifully reproduced, though I wish the book were in a larger format.

nice collection

This is a good copy of Blake's poems and illustrations, however, I am a little disappointed in the quality of the facsimiles.

Thank you very much. I certainly will look forward to doing more business with you in the near future.

Joan

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. However, if you approach this collection of work with the mindset of a nobleman or a noblewoman from the eighteenth or nineteenth century, everything becomes just that much more interesting. Critique-wise, in my particular copy, the Oxford edition, the publishers printed the illustrations side-by-side with the poems printed on the back. However, this makes for inconvenient and confusing reading when the poems are split as the illustrations originally were. Perhaps the publishers should have printed an illustration with a translation directly next to the poem, since the images are essential in the reading and comprehension process. I highly recommend this book for art lovers, poetry fanatics, or those who love to explore the scandal of centuries gone past.

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