

**OSCAR WILDE:  
FRAGMENTS  
AND MEMORIES**

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Oscar Wilde: fragments and memories by Martin Birnbaum

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BY

MARTIN BIRNBAUM

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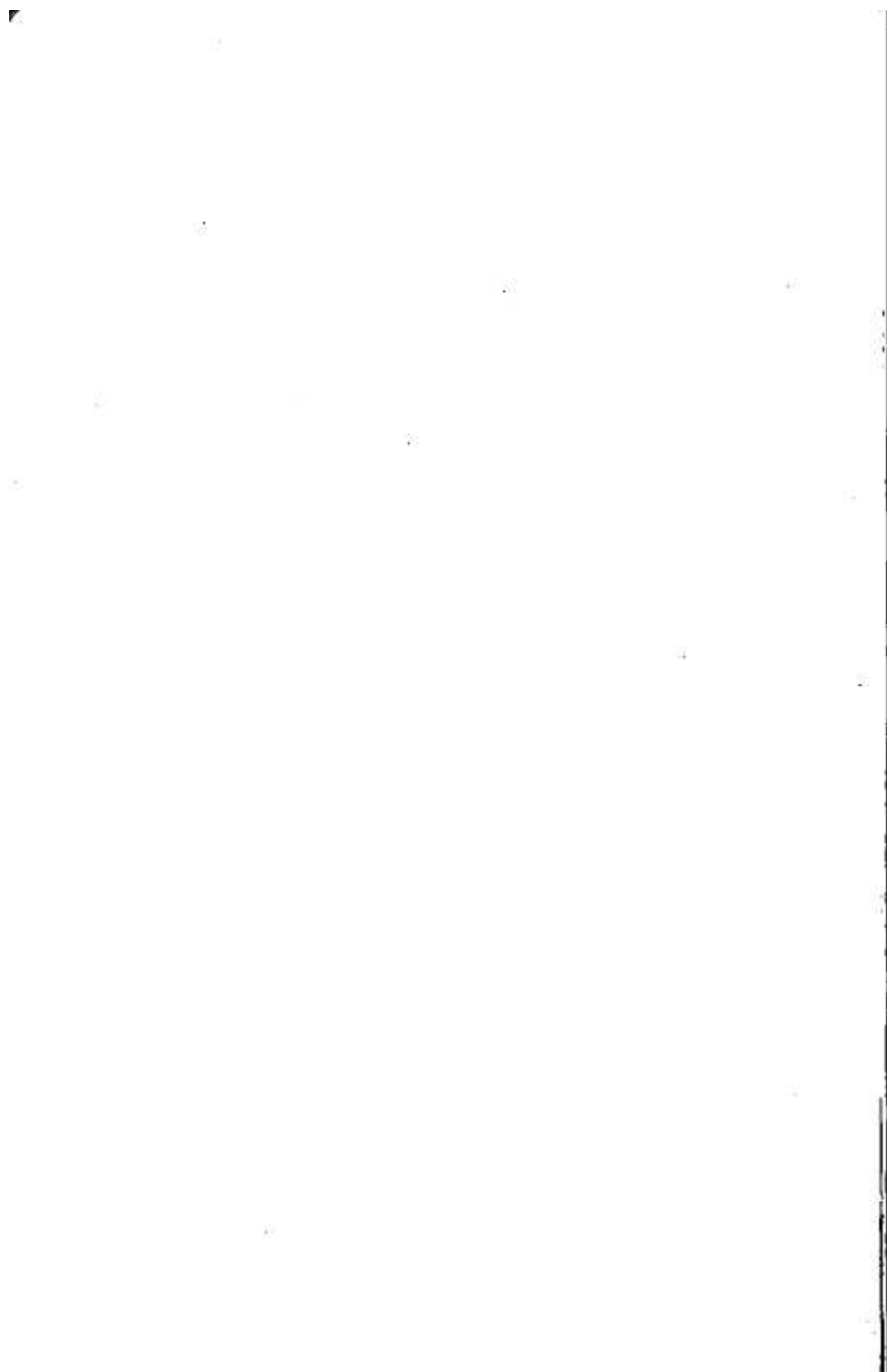
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**E**ARLY in the nineties an ambitious young American had a play produced in London. After the final curtain some rowdies in the pit coaxed the inexperienced playwright to appear before the footlights and proceeded to "boo" and hiss him off as soon as he stepped in view. But the young man was not crushed. "They will have to applaud me yet," he exclaimed, and his subsequent meteoric career proved that he had fine talents. At that time, however, there were few in London who would listen to his verses, stories, and plays, and fewer still to buy them. In a note-

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