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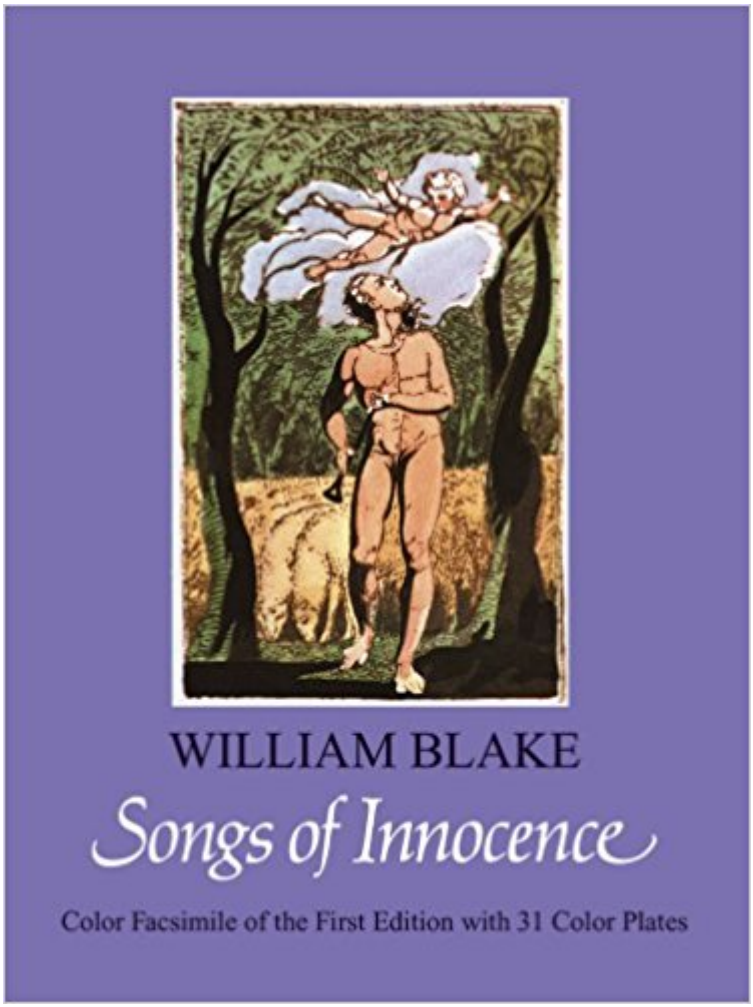
Songs Of Innocence (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



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Synopsis

William Blake’s innovations in engraving techniques brought about his brilliant synthesis of visual and poetic art and signaled the beginning of his famous "Illuminated Books," of which the Songs of Innocence was the first and most popular. Unfortunately, Blake’s vision is generally known to the world in amputated form: because of the difficulty and expense of reproducing his original conception, most editions of Blake’s work offer only the printed text, with no trace of the visual counterpart so essential to his "System."This new, facsimile edition of the Songs of Innocence reproduces Blake’s color plates in a fashion which the artist himself would have approved. The 31 plates â ” printed on facing pages which are the same size of Blake’s own first edition â ” offer one of the more brightly colored versions of this significant volume, no two copies of which are the same. As a special aid to readers, a typographical reprint of the text of poems follows the plates. Such classic "songs" as "The Lamb" and "The Chimney Sweeper" are now accessible to all in the symbiotic union of poem and picture that is crucial to a total understating of Blake’s mind and art.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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Painter, printer, and poet, William Blake (1757-1827) was a master at expressing great literature through his art. Perhaps the finest engraver in English history, Blake’s illuminated books — filled with sketches and watercolorsÂ that boggle the mind with their beauty and detail — are as sought after today as they were over a hundred years ago.

Kindle edition - pictures are about an inch tall. Crap resolution when expanded. UGH. The pictures were the whole reason I bought this version.

the images of the prints have terrible resolution, and the poems in their printed version are badly printed, really not a nice presentation. I do not recommend this book.

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

Collectible.Poetry and pictures in a style from days gone by. Great to add to your collection.

Had to order for a college course- book is small, pictures and writing hard to see.

Cannot even read the poem’s themselves... The preview look represents the illustrations as much bigger, but the book and pages are soooooo smallllll, literally. I am having such trouble to even see the words which are even themselves not clearly written since Blake carved these poems. DO NOT BUY THIS, COMPLETE DISAPOINTMENT. And not even an honorable representation for Blake’s Work.....Maybe if you want to have it for fun, but the illustrations arent even enjoyable to look at either. You can find google images 20 million times better.

I really bought the wrong book. I wanted the illustrated original version, not a 1,000 page book.

Dover has done the reading world an enormous favor by keeping books like this available in low-cost editions. Poems like "The Little Black Boy," The Chimney Sweeper," and "The Lamb" are among the sweetest, saddest lyrics ever penned by a poet in English. Reading these poems in an edition that provides facsimile color reproductions of the original watercolor plates (painted individually by hand) helps in our perception of them. These poems were meant to be absorbed visually. Branches, vines and leaves weave through the lines as we read. Of course children can appreciate the sentiment and charm of the poems, but older readers will see their sharp social criticism as well, especially when balanced against matching poems in Blake's "Songs of Experience." This book has my favorite pastoral lyics in the language. It is a permanent contribution to the spirit of humankind.

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