

## Eccentric and singular

had burst like a bubble.

At lunch, Fry took his phone out of his pocket and opened a document containing the final paragraph of Richard Ellmann's acclaimed biography of Wilde, from 1987. "I always carry it with me," Fry said, then read aloud: "We inherit his struggle to achieve supreme fictions in art, to associate art with social change, to bring together individual and social impulse, to save what is eccentric and singular from being sanitized and standardized, to replace a morality of severity by one of sympathy. He belongs to our world more than to Victoria's. Now, beyond the reach of scandal, his best writings validated by time, he comes before us still, a towering figure, laughing and weeping, with parables and paradoxes, so generous, so amusing, and so right." Fry looked up, eyes glistening. "Isn't that stunning? What a way to end

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25 May 2026  
Stephen Fry

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I live in the city

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