

age of innocence by edith wharton

Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton: A Timeless Exploration of Society and Desire

age of innocence by edith wharton stands as one of the most celebrated novels in American literature, weaving a rich tapestry of love, social expectations, and the constraints of upper-class society in the late 19th century. Wharton's masterful storytelling captures the delicate balance between personal desire and societal pressure, making this novel a timeless exploration of human emotions and cultural norms. Whether you're a literature enthusiast or someone new to Wharton's work, understanding the nuances of this classic can deepen your appreciation for its themes and characters.

Understanding the Context of Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

To truly appreciate the depth of **age of innocence by edith wharton**, it's essential to understand the social and historical backdrop against which the story unfolds. Published in 1920, the novel is set in New York City's high society during the 1870s. This period was marked by strict social codes and an emphasis on tradition, reputation, and family honor.

The Gilded Age and Its Influence

The story takes place during America's Gilded Age—a time of rapid economic growth but also rigid social stratification. Wharton herself was born into a wealthy family and was intimately familiar with the customs and conventions that governed elite circles. This insider perspective allows the novel to explore themes of conformity and rebellion with authenticity and nuance.

Wharton's Personal Insight

Edith Wharton's own experiences as a member of New York's upper class provided her with firsthand knowledge of the conflicts between individual desires and societal expectations. Her sharp observations and critique of her milieu are evident throughout the novel, making **age of innocence by edith wharton** not just a love story but also a social commentary.

Plot Overview: The Heart of Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

At its core, **age of innocence by edith wharton** tells the story of Newland Archer, a young lawyer engaged to the beautiful and socially impeccable May Welland. His life takes an unexpected turn when he meets Countess Ellen Olenska, May's cousin, who has returned to New York after separating from her European husband under scandalous circumstances.

Newland Archer: A Man Torn Between Duty and Desire

Newland Archer embodies the conflict at the heart of the novel—a struggle between following society's rigid rules and pursuing personal happiness. His growing attraction to Ellen Olenska challenges his previously unquestioned acceptance of social norms, forcing him to question the very foundations of his world.

Ellen Olenska: The Mysterious Outsider

Ellen represents both freedom and danger to Newland. She is unconventional and independent, challenging the expectations placed upon women in that era. Her presence disrupts the carefully maintained balance of New York society and introduces themes of scandal, liberation, and the price of nonconformity.

May Welland: The Idealized Innocence

May, on the other hand, symbolizes the ideal woman of her time—beautiful, compliant, and devoted to social propriety. Her role highlights the societal expectations imposed on women and the sacrifices demanded to maintain family honor and social standing.

Themes and Symbolism in Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

Wharton's novel is rich in themes that resonate far beyond its historical setting. Its exploration of social conventions, personal freedom, and the nature of love continues to captivate readers.

Social Conformity vs. Individual Freedom

One of the central themes is the tension between societal expectations and personal desires. The rigid social codes of New York's elite dictate behavior, relationships, and even emotions. Newland's internal conflict reflects the universal struggle to balance duty with authenticity.

The Role of Women and Gender Expectations

Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton critically examines the limited roles available to women in the 19th century. Ellen's independence is seen as threatening, while May's conformity is rewarded. This contrast sheds light on the gender dynamics and the sacrifices women made to secure social acceptance.

Innocence and Experience

The title itself hints at the broader theme of innocence lost and the painful awakening to reality. The characters' experiences reveal the costs of living within a society that prioritizes appearance and reputation above true emotion.

Symbols That Enhance the Narrative

- **The Opera House:** A recurring setting that symbolizes societal performance and the masks people wear to conform.
- **The Portraits and Paintings:** Represent the frozen ideals and expectations of the social class.
- **The Christmas Ball:** A scene where social rituals and appearances are most vividly enforced.

Why Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton Still Matters Today

Despite being set over a century ago, the themes explored in **age of innocence by edith wharton** remain relevant in contemporary discussions about society, identity, and freedom.

Reflection on Social Expectations

Many readers find parallels between Wharton's depiction of rigid social structures and modern-day pressures to conform—whether in professional settings, cultural norms, or online personas. The novel encourages readers to question the cost of such conformity on personal happiness.

Insight into Gender Roles

The novel offers a lens through which to examine ongoing conversations about gender roles and equality. Ellen and May's contrasting paths highlight the limited choices historically available to women, prompting reflection on how far society has come and what challenges remain.

Masterful Storytelling and Character Development

Wharton's elegant prose and deep psychological insight make the characters' struggles feel immediate and relatable. The nuanced portrayal of Newland's dilemma invites readers to empathize with the complexities of making difficult life choices.

Tips for Reading and Appreciating *Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton

If you're planning to dive into **age of innocence by edith wharton**, here are some suggestions to enrich your reading experience:

- **Understand the historical context:** Familiarize yourself with the social customs of the Gilded Age to better grasp the characters' motivations and constraints.
- **Pay attention to subtle social cues:** Much of the novel's tension arises from unspoken rules and coded language within society.
- **Reflect on the characters' inner conflicts:** Notice how Wharton uses internal monologues to reveal the emotional depth beneath social façades.
- **Consider multiple perspectives:** Think about how different characters represent various attitudes toward tradition and change.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact of Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

The novel's enduring popularity has led to several adaptations, each bringing new dimensions to Wharton's story.

Film and Television

The most famous adaptation is Martin Scorsese's 1993 film *The Age of Innocence*, starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Winona Ryder. This cinematic version captures the novel's atmosphere and emotional complexity, making the story accessible to a wider audience.

Theatrical and Opera Adaptations

Beyond film, *Age of Innocence* has inspired stage productions and even operatic interpretations, highlighting its rich narrative and dramatic potential.

Legacy in Literature and Popular Culture

Wharton's novel continues to influence writers and artists who explore themes of societal constraints and personal freedom. Its critique of social hypocrisy remains relevant, ensuring that *Age of Innocence* holds a special place in the literary canon.

Exploring **age of innocence by edith wharton** is more than just reading a story—it's an invitation to step into a world where appearances often mask true feelings, and where the struggle between conformity and individuality plays out in subtle yet profound ways. Wharton's keen insight into human nature and society makes this novel a rewarding experience for anyone interested in the complexities of love, honor, and the passage from innocence to experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'The Age of Innocence' by Edith Wharton?

The central theme of 'The Age of Innocence' is the conflict between individual desires and societal expectations, focusing on the constraints of

upper-class New York society in the 1870s.

Who are the main characters in 'The Age of Innocence'?

The main characters are Newland Archer, a young lawyer; May Welland, his fiancée; and Ellen Olenska, May's unconventional cousin.

How does Edith Wharton portray New York society in the novel?

Wharton portrays New York society as rigid, conservative, and obsessed with social conventions, where maintaining appearances often overrides personal happiness.

What role does Ellen Olenska play in the story?

Ellen Olenska represents individuality and freedom, challenging societal norms and tempting Newland Archer to question his own life choices.

How does 'The Age of Innocence' explore the theme of duty versus passion?

The novel explores this theme through Newland Archer's internal struggle between his duty to marry May Welland and his passionate attraction to Ellen Olenska.

What is the significance of the title 'The Age of Innocence'?

The title is ironic, highlighting the pretended innocence and moral rigidity of the society, which suppresses true emotions and desires.

How does Edith Wharton use setting to enhance the story?

Wharton uses the detailed setting of 1870s New York's high society to underscore the pressures and limitations imposed on the characters.

What awards has 'The Age of Innocence' received?

'The Age of Innocence' won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1921, making Edith Wharton the first woman to receive this award.

How has 'The Age of Innocence' been adapted into other media?

The novel has been adapted into several films and stage productions, most notably the 1993 film directed by Martin Scorsese starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Winona Ryder.

Additional Resources

Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton: An Enduring Reflection on Society and Desire

age of innocence by edith wharton stands as a seminal work in American literature, encapsulating the intricate social dynamics of New York's upper class at the turn of the 20th century. Published in 1920, this novel earned Wharton the Pulitzer Prize, marking a pivotal moment not only in her career but also in the portrayal of societal constraints through fiction. Its enduring relevance lies in the nuanced examination of tradition, morality, and the human yearning for personal freedom, themes that continue to resonate in contemporary literary discourse.

In-Depth Analysis of Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

At its core, *Age of Innocence* explores the tensions between individual desires and rigid social conventions. Set against the backdrop of Gilded Age New York, Wharton's narrative delves into the lives of affluent characters bound by an unspoken code of behavior, where reputation and appearances govern every action. The novel's protagonist, Newland Archer, embodies this conflict, torn between his predictable engagement to May Welland and his passionate attraction to the unconventional Countess Ellen Olenska.

Wharton's mastery lies in her meticulous depiction of the social milieu, revealing how the veneer of genteel society masks undercurrents of hypocrisy and repression. Through elegant prose and subtle character development, the novel interrogates the sacrifices demanded by a world that prioritizes conformity over authenticity. The tension between personal fulfillment and societal duty is a recurring motif, making *Age of Innocence* a profound psychological study as well as a social critique.

Exploration of Themes: Society, Morality, and Individualism

One of the most compelling aspects of *Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton is

its exploration of the restrictive nature of social mores. The novel scrutinizes the role of etiquette and tradition in shaping the lives of its characters, often at the expense of genuine happiness. Wharton presents society not merely as a backdrop but as an active force that enforces conformity, particularly on women, whose choices are severely circumscribed.

The theme of morality is intricately woven into the narrative, illustrating how ethical considerations are frequently entangled with social expectations. Newland Archer's internal struggle highlights the difficulty of reconciling personal values with the imperatives imposed by class and family. Meanwhile, Countess Olenska serves as a foil, representing a more liberated and unconventional approach to life, yet still constrained by the judgmental gaze of society.

Individualism, or the lack thereof, emerges as a central concern. The novel questions whether true autonomy is attainable within a rigid social framework. Wharton's portrayal suggests that the preservation of social order often necessitates the suppression of individuality, a dynamic that leads to emotional stagnation and regret.

Character Dynamics and Symbolism

The interplay between Newland Archer, May Welland, and Ellen Olenska is pivotal in illustrating the novel's thematic tensions. Newland's character arc—from admiration of social norms to a subtle rebellion and eventual resignation—mirrors the broader societal pressures that Wharton seeks to critique. May embodies the idealized innocence and conformity of the era, while Ellen represents the disruptive potential of nonconformity and personal freedom.

Symbolism enriches the narrative, with objects and settings often reflecting deeper meanings. For example, the recurring motif of the "age of innocence" itself alludes to a bygone era marked by superficial propriety and suppressed desires. Wharton's use of New York's elite society as a microcosm highlights the universality of these themes beyond the immediate historical context.

Comparative Perspectives: Age of Innocence vs. Contemporary Works

When positioned alongside other literary works of its time, *Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton offers a distinct lens on social critique. Compared to contemporaries like Henry James or F. Scott Fitzgerald, Wharton's novel is notable for its focus on the internal moral dilemmas of the upper class rather than external social upheavals. While Fitzgerald's *Jazz Age* narratives revel in the rebellion and decadence of the 1920s, Wharton's work looks backward, dissecting the constraints that such rebellion sought to overcome.

Furthermore, *Age of Innocence* can be contrasted with Wharton's own earlier works, such as *Ethan Frome*, which explore themes of passion and entrapment but in a more rural, isolated setting. Here, the urban sophistication of New York's high society introduces a different set of social strictures, emphasizing the performative aspects of social life.

Pros and Cons of the Novel's Approach

- **Pros:** The novel's detailed characterization and rich social commentary offer readers a profound understanding of early 20th-century American aristocracy. Wharton's elegant prose and subtle narrative techniques effectively convey complex emotional states and societal critiques.
- **Cons:** Some readers may find the pacing slow, as the novel prioritizes internal conflict and social nuance over plot-driven action. Additionally, the focus on a narrow social stratum might limit accessibility for those unfamiliar with or uninterested in historical upper-class dynamics.

Legacy and Cultural Impact of *Age of Innocence*

Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton has left an indelible mark on both literature and popular culture. Its adaptation into various films, most notably Martin Scorsese's 1993 cinematic version, attests to the story's enduring appeal. The novel's themes of societal constraint and unfulfilled desire continue to inspire critical analysis and artistic exploration.

In academic circles, Wharton's work is frequently studied for its insights into class structure, gender roles, and the psychology of repression. The novel's portrayal of the "age of innocence" as a paradoxical era—simultaneously idealized and oppressive—has influenced how historians and sociologists interpret the Gilded Age.

Moreover, the novel's relevance extends to contemporary discussions on the tension between tradition and modernity, making it a valuable resource for readers interested in the evolution of social norms.

As *Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton continues to captivate new generations, its intricate exploration of human emotions and societal expectations ensures its place as a cornerstone of American literary heritage.

[Age Of Innocence By Edith Wharton](#)

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age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence Edith Wharton, 2016-08-09
Winner of the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the basis of the sumptuous 1993 Martin Scorsese movie, Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* shows no sign of losing popularity as each new generation embraces this devastating tale of love and loss set among the upper classes in 1870s New York. The story centers on a couple's impending marriage, and the introduction of a woman plagued by scandal whose presence threatens their happiness. Newland Archer, the story's protagonist is a young, popular, successful lawyer living with his mother and sister in an elegant New York City house. Since childhood, his life has been shaped by the customs and expectations of upper-class New York City society. His engagement to May Welland is one in a string of accomplishments. At the story's start, he is proud and content to dream about a traditional marriage in which he will be the husband-teacher and she the wife-student. His life changes when he meets Countess Ellen Olenska. Through his relationship with her-first friendship, then love-he begins questioning the values on which he was raised.

age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence Edith Wharton, 2021-08-15
The Age of Innocence was originally published in 1920 as a four-part series in *Pictorial Review*, then later that same year as Wharton's twelfth novel. It went on to win the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, making Wharton the first woman to win the award. Upper-class New York gentleman Newland Archer is set to wed May Welland in a picture-perfect union when the bride's cousin, Ellen Olenska, returns from a failed marriage overseas. As Newland endeavors to help Countess Olenska be reinstated into the family's good graces, his affections for her grow. Newland soon finds himself torn between his desire to conform to the society he knows and his new-found passion for the forbidden Countess.

age of innocence by edith wharton: *The Age of Innocence* Edith Wharton, 2014-10-20
The Age of Innocence centers on an upper-class couple's impending marriage, and the introduction of a woman plagued by scandal whose presence threatens their happiness. Though the novel questions the assumptions and morals of 1870s New York society, it never devolves into an outright condemnation of the institution.

age of innocence by edith wharton: *The Age of Innocence Annotated* Edith Wharton, 2021-02-21
The Age of Innocence is a novel by Edith Wharton, published to widespread acclaim in 1920. Set in the late 19th century among the monied upper class in America during the gilded age, it recreates the setting and cultural details with exceptional realism while contrasting the elegant and mannered facade of the upper classes with their grasping and cruel schemes. The story opens at a performance of *Faust* at the old Academy of Music. A man named Newland Archer is in attendance, and revels in his success and prospects. The scion of one of the wealthiest and most socially important New York families, he is a successful lawyer and is set to marry the young, beautiful, and sheltered May Welland. May is an ideal social match for Newland, and he anticipates the perfection of their marriage in terms of the parties and connections opening up before him. Newland meets May's cousin, Countess Ellen Olenska. Thirty years old and beautiful, Ellen is independent and shows her scorn for the social niceties of wealthy society. Ellen is cultured and intelligent, but has caused scandal by leaving her husband, Count Olenska. Newland finds himself powerfully attracted to Ellen, and suddenly sees May as a dull and provincial girl. When Ellen announces her intention to divorce her husband--an act that would ruin the Welland family name--one of Newland's law partners

asks that he intervene with Ellen and convince her not to. Newland begins calling on the Countess in order to convince her that she should simply remain living separately from her husband. Newland and Ellen begin corresponding via letters, and come to know each other very well as a result. Newland enjoys Ellen's intelligence and her willingness to question society's rules and her role in them, where May's willingness to play by those rules and conform to her family's wishes seems increasingly unattractive. Ellen agrees not to divorce her husband. His admiration and attraction to Ellen grows during this period. Alarmed at his feelings for Ellen, Newland travels to Florida to visit with May and her family and asks May to move up their wedding date because he can sense his resolve crumbling. May refuses, horrified at upsetting the careful balance of society rules. She accuses Newland of having second thoughts about her appropriateness to be his wife, and Newland insists he still loves her. Newland confesses his love to Ellen, who is shocked. She agrees to remain in America only if Newland promises they will merely be platonic friends, which he does. May relents and sends a telegram agreeing to accelerate the wedding plans, hinting that she understands better than Newland what is happening. Newland and May marry. Their marriage is one of convenience; there is no love or passion and Newland finds May dull. He also finds his old life of parties and social events dull, and thinks constantly of Ellen. Ellen has moved to Washington, D.C., and their correspondence has ended, but Newland finds himself thinking of her constantly. He meets Ellen by chance in Newport, Rhode Island and finds her circumstances have changed: The family has cut off her allowance because Count Olenska wishes her to return to him and she refuses. He tells her he wishes her to become his mistress, since divorce would be impossible for both of them. Ellen initially refuses, and returns to New York to care for her grandmother in order to have her allowance reinstated. Newland, with renewed access to Ellen, becomes determined to seize his chance at happiness and keeps pushing Ellen to become his mistress. When Ellen tells Newland she will consummate their relationship, Newland is ecstatic--but then Ellen informs him suddenly that she is returning to Europe, without explanation. Newland decides to leave May and accompany Ellen there. May announces to Newland that she is pregnant, however--and furthermore tells him she had confessed as much to Ellen earlier. Newland understands that Ellen decided...

age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence Edith Wharton, 2019-06-25 The Age of Innocence centers on an upper-class couple's impending marriage, and the introduction of the bride's cousin, plagued by scandal, whose presence threatens their happiness. The novel is noted for attention to detail and its accurate portrayal of how the 19th-century East Coast American upper class lived, as well as for the social tragedy of its plot.

age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence, 1920 (Pulitzer Prize Winner).
Novel By: Edith Wharton Edith Wharton, 2017-01-07 The Age of Innocence is Edith Wharton's twelfth novel, initially serialized in four parts in the Pictorial Review magazine in 1920, and later released by D. Appleton and Company as a book in New York and in London. It won the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, making Wharton the first woman to win the prize.[1] Though the committee agreed to award the prize to Sinclair Lewis, the judges rejected his *Main Street* on political grounds and established Wharton as the American 'First Lady of Letters', the irony being that the committee had awarded *The Age of Innocence* the prize on grounds that negated Wharton's own blatant and subtle ironies, which constitute and make the book so worthy of attention.[2] The story is set in upper-class New York City in the 1870s, during the Gilded Age. Wharton wrote the book in her 50s, after she had established herself as a strong author with publishers clamoring for her work. PLOT*Newland Archer, gentleman lawyer and heir to one of New York City's best families, is happily anticipating a highly desirable marriage to the sheltered and beautiful May Welland. Yet he finds reason to doubt his choice of bride after the appearance of Countess Ellen Olenska, May's exotic and beautiful 30-year-old cousin. Ellen has returned to New York from Europe after scandalously separating herself (per rumor) from a bad marriage to a Polish count. At first, Ellen's arrival and its potential taint on the reputation of his bride-to-be's family disturb Newland, but he becomes intrigued by the worldly Ellen, who flouts New York society's fastidious rules. As Newland's admiration for the countess grows, so does his doubt about marrying May, a perfect product of Old

New York society; his match with May no longer seems the ideal fate he had imagined. Ellen's decision to divorce Count Olenski causes a social crisis for the other members of her family, who are terrified of scandal and disgrace. Living apart can be tolerated, but divorce is unacceptable. To save the Welland family's reputation, a law partner of Newland asks him to dissuade Countess Olenska from divorcing the count. He succeeds, but in the process comes to care for her; afraid of falling in love with Ellen, Newland begs May to accelerate their wedding date, but she refuses. Newland tells Ellen he loves her; Ellen corresponds, but is horrified that their love will aggrieve May. She agrees to remain in America, separated but still married to Count Olenski, only if they do not sexually consummate their love. Newland receives May's telegram agreeing to wed sooner. Newland and May marry. He tries unsuccessfully to forget Ellen. His society marriage is loveless, and the social life he once found absorbing has become empty and joyless. Though Ellen lives in Washington and has remained distant, he is unable to cease loving her. Their paths cross while he and May are in Newport, Rhode Island. Newland discovers that Count Olenski wishes Ellen to return to him, but she has refused, although her family wants her to reconcile with her husband and return to Europe. Frustrated by her independence, the family has cut off her money, as the count had already done..... Edith Wharton (born Edith Newbold Jones; January 24, 1862 - August 11, 1937) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist, short story writer, and designer. She was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1927, 1928 and 1930. Wharton combined her insider's view of America's privileged classes with a brilliant, natural wit to write humorous, incisive novels and short stories of social and psychological insight. She was well acquainted with many of her era's other literary and public figures, including Theodore Roosevelt.

age of innocence by edith wharton: *The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton* Edith Wharton, 2020-11-09 This is Newland Archer's world as he prepares to marry the beautiful but conventional May Welland. But when the mysterious Countess Ellen Olenska returns to New York after a disastrous marriage, Archer falls deeply in love with her. Torn between duty and passion, Archer struggles to make a decision that will either courageously define his life--or mercilessly destroy it. Winner of the 1921 Pulitzer Prize, *The Age of Innocence* is Edith Wharton's masterful portrait of desire and betrayal during the sumptuous Golden Age of Old New York.

age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence By Edith Wharton (Illustrated Edition) Edith Wharton, 2021-05-09 *The Age of Innocence* centers on one society couple's impending marriage and the introduction of a scandalous woman whose presence threatens their happiness. Though the novel questions the assumptions and mores of turn of the century New York society, it never devolves into an outright condemnation of the institution. In fact, Wharton considered this novel an apology for the earlier, more brutal and critical, *The House of Mirth*. Not to be overlooked is the author's attention to detailing the charms and customs of this caste. The novel is lauded for its accurate portrayal of how the nineteenth-century East Coast American upper class lived and this combined with the social tragedy earned Wharton a Pulitzer - the first Pulitzer awarded to a woman.

age of innocence by edith wharton: *The Age of Innocence Novel by Edith Wharton (Fiction & Romance Novel)* "The Annotated Version" Edith Wharton, 2020-08-13 Winner of the 1921 Pulitzer Prize, *The Age of Innocence* is Edith Wharton's masterful portrait of desire and betrayal during the sumptuous Golden Age of Old New York, a time when society people dreaded scandal more than disease. This is Newland Archer's world as he prepares to marry the beautiful but conventional May Welland. But when the mysterious Countess Ellen Olenska returns to New York after a disastrous marriage, Archer falls deeply in love with her. Torn between duty and passion, Archer struggles to make a decision that will either courageously define his life-or mercilessly destroy it. *The Age of Innocence* centers on an upper-class couple's impending marriage, and the introduction of the bride's cousin, plagued by scandal, whose presence threatens their happiness. Though the novel questions the assumptions and morals of 1870s New York society, it never develops into an outright condemnation of the institution. The novel is noted for Wharton's attention to detail and its accurate portrayal of how the 19th-century East Coast American upper class lived, as well as for the social

tragedy of its plot. Wharton was 58 years old at publication; she had lived in that world and had seen it change dramatically by the end of World War I. The title is an ironic comment on the polished outward manners of New York society when compared to its inward machinations. It is believed to have been drawn from the popular painting *A Little Girl* by Sir Joshua Reynolds that later became known as *The Age of Innocence* and was widely reproduced as the commercial face of childhood in the later half of the 18th century. The title, while ironic, was not as caustic as the title of the story featured in *The House of Mirth*, which Wharton had published in 1905.

age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence Edith Wharton, 2018-08-06 The *Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton First serialized in 1920 in the *Pictorial Review* magazine, *The Age of Innocence* is Edith Wharton's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, which depicts the bygone era of 1870s New York upper class society. It is the story of Newland Archer, a lawyer and heir to one of New York's most prominent families. Newland is planning to marry the young, beautiful, and sheltered May Welland, a match, which because of May's social position, he views as highly desirable. However, when May's exotic thirty-year-old cousin, the Countess Ellen Olenska, appears on the scene, he begins to question these plans. Newland is intrigued by Ellen's exotic worldliness and begins to fall in love with her. Noted for Wharton's attention to the details of late 19th century America, *The Age of Innocence* is an incredibly accurate portrayal of how the upper class lived on the East coast during that time. We are delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive Classic Library collection. Many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades, and therefore have not been accessible to the general public. The aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature, and our view is that this is a significant literary work, which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades. The contents of the vast majority of titles in the Classic Library have been scanned from the original works. To ensure a high quality product, each title has been meticulously hand curated by our staff. Our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with a book that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work. We hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic work, and that for you it becomes an enriching experience.

age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence Edith Wharton, 2020-05-13 Somewhere in this book, Wharton observes that clever liars always come up with good stories to back up their fabrications, but that really clever liars don't bother to explain anything at all. This is the kind of insight that makes *The Age of Innocence* so indispensable. Wharton's story of the upper classes of Old New York, and Newland Archer's impossible love for the disgraced Countess Olenska, is a perfectly wrought book about an era when upper-class culture in the U.S. was still a mixture of American and European extracts, and when society had rules as rigid as any in history.

age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence Edith Wharton, 2021-05-23 *The Age of Innocence* was originally published in 1920 as a four-part series in *Pictorial Review*, then later that same year as Wharton's twelfth novel. It went on to win the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, making Wharton the first woman to win the award. Upper-class New York gentleman Newland Archer is set to wed May Welland in a picture-perfect union when the bride's cousin, Ellen Olenska, returns from a failed marriage overseas. As Newland endeavors to help Countess Olenska be reinstated into the family's good graces, his affections for her grow. Newland soon finds himself torn between his desire to conform to the society he knows and his newfound passion for the forbidden Countess.

age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence Illustrated Edith Wharton, 2020-10-24 *The Age of Innocence* is a 1993 American historical romantic drama film directed by Martin Scorsese. The screenplay, an adaptation of the 1920 novel *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton, was written by Scorsese and Jay Cocks. The film stars Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, Winona Ryder and Miriam Margolyes, and was released by Columbia Pictures. The film recounts the courtship and marriage of Newland Archer (Day-Lewis), a wealthy New York society attorney, to May Welland (Ryder); Archer then encounters and legally represents the Countess Olenska (Pfeiffer) prior to unexpected romantic entanglements.

age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence Edith Wharton, 2016-12-09 Why buy our paperbacks? Most Popular Gift Edition - One of it's kind Printed in USA on High Quality Paper Expedited shipping Standard Font size of 10 for all books 30 Days Money Back Guarantee Fulfilled by Amazon Unabridged (100% Original content) BEWARE OF LOW-QUALITY SELLERS Don't buy cheap paperbacks just to save a few dollars. Most of them use low-quality papers & binding. Their pages fall off easily. Some of them even use very small font size of 6 or less to increase their profit margin. It makes their books completely unreadable. About The Age of Innocence The Age of Innocence is Edith Wharton's twelfth novel, initially serialized in four parts in the Pictorial Review magazine in 1920, and later released by D. Appleton and Company as a book in New York and in London. It won the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, making Wharton the first woman to win the prize. The story is set in upper-class New York City in the 1870s, during the so-called Gilded Age.

age of innocence by edith wharton: The Age of Innocence By Edith Wharton (Literary, Romance Novel) Illustrated Edith Wharton, 2020-10-03 The Age of Innocence is a 1920 novel by American author Edith Wharton. It was her twelfth novel, and was initially serialized in 1920 in four parts, in the magazine Pictorial Review. Later that year, it was released as a book by D. Appleton & Company. It won the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, making Wharton the first woman to win the prize.[1] Though the committee had initially agreed to give the award to Sinclair Lewis for Main Street, the judges, in rejecting his book on political grounds, established Wharton as the American 'First Lady of Letters'.[2] The story is set in the 1870s, in upper-class, Gilded-Age New York City. Wharton wrote the book in her 50s, after she had established herself as a strong author, with publishers clamoring for her work

age of innocence by edith wharton: Edith Wharton: the Age of Innocence Edith Wharton, 2019-09-02 The Age of Innocence is the most famous novel by an American writer Edith Wharton, who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for it in 1921 and became the first woman to win this prize. It is a fascinating story about a lawyer Newland Archer, who just before his wedding with respectable May Welland, falls in love with her cousin Countess Ellen Olenska, whose uneasy and sad life resembles a lot the life of Wharton). This love goes through the further life of Archer determining his relations with May as well as the entire story of their marriage.

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