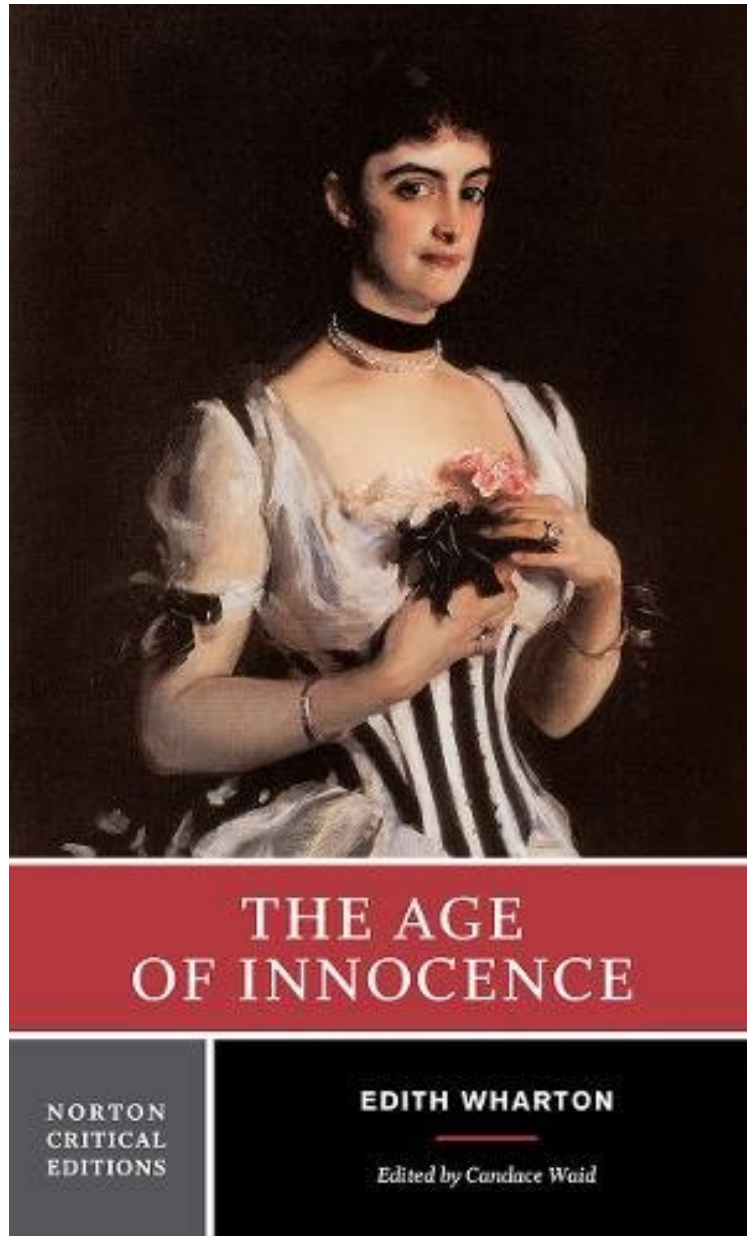


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The Age of Innocence (Norton Critical Editions)

Edith Wharton

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Edith Wharton : The Age of Innocence (Norton Critical Editions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Age of Innocence (Norton Critical Editions):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Study of 1870 SocietyBy Celia PhillipsThe language that Wharton

uses is so lyrical. Perhaps that is true of many books written in the era. In today's culture, we probably cannot relate to the societal mores of The Gilded Age. But what a trip a reader can take as he tries to understand. I strongly recommend this book to any person now living who wishes to see a different way of evaluating one's own approach to life as compared to the way of living as described at the end of the 19th Century. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly Recommended - This is a KeeperBy Norats InthecornA must-read! I have already recommended this to so many people. It is a romance, yes... but so much more. Takes place in a time when honor was everything and doing the right thing was everything, and relationships were not considered disposable (as it is too often nowadays). This is a thoughtful and complex examination of love in its many forms, and about sacrifice and faith. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very enjoyable!By Anthony MarrayAt first when I tried to read it I thought the language was a little too descriptive but I realized that it was crucial to the mindset of this time period. In 1870's New York society, detail was everything from what food you served at gatherings to the type of carriage you rode in. Everything one did or possessed made a statement about who they are and what they stood for. You get this point clearly in the beginning when the characters are introduced. The main character Newland Archer comes from a respectable family so it would make sense that he would marry May Welland who comes from the respectable Mingott family. But things don't run smoothly when May's cousin Countess Ellen Olenska returns to America after leaving her European husband. Rumors ensue among members of society forcing Newland to take sides with Ellen because of May. But soon Newland sees in Ellen a free spiritedness that he doesn't see in May. Soon he finds himself trapped in a triangle. The whole plot kept me fascinated because just when you think something is going to happen an interesting development occurs. Just remember everything isn't what it seems in the book. On the surface a party is given for a member of the family, but underneath are harsh judgments and diversions of person's intentions. By the ending I was surprised but then again not surprised. I can see why this book is still acclaimed after all these decades.

The text of Whartons richly allusive Pulitzer Prizewinning 1921 novel of desire and its implications in Old New York has been rigorously annotated by a prominent Wharton scholar. "Contexts" constructs the historical foundation for this very historical novel. Many documents are included on the "New York Four Hundred," elite social gatherings, archery (the sport for upper-crust daughters), as well as Whartons manuscript outlines, letters, and related writings. "Criticism" collects eleven American and British contemporary reviews and nine major essays on The Age of Innocence, including a groundbreaking piece on the two film adaptations of the novel. A Chronology and Selected Bibliography are also included.

.com 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 this country was still a mixture of American and European extracts, and when "society" had rules as rigid as any in history. Candace Waid's Norton Critical Edition of The Age of Innocence is a work of deep scholarship and sensitive attention to the interests of contemporary readers. It will be the indispensable guide for readers of Wharton's novel, brought to new life in this imposing edition. Professor Waid has reconstructed the cultural setting of the novel with amazingly abundant detail. The reach and pertinence of its historical sections, the selection of exciting new criticism and scholarship, and the editor's own learned, cogent, and engaging notes to the text itself all combine to make this volume a rousingly significant contribution to Wharton studies and to Gilded Age scholarship in general. --Alan Trachtenberg, Neil Gray Professor Emeritus of English and American Studies, Yale University"Candace Waid's authoritative edition of The Age of Innocence is accompanied by a collection of exceptionally illuminating biographical, critical, and historical texts. In particular, her richly researched assemblage of period comments on 'old New York' (including an astonishing recipe for 'Roman Punch' and some sardonic analyses of 'Manners for the Metropolis') wonderfully captures the often nearly lunatic ferocity of the society in which Wharton's great novel is so brilliantly set. --Sandra M. Gilbert, University of California, Davis"From the PublisherDesigned for school districts, educators, and students seeking to maximize performance on standardized tests, Websters paperbacks take advantage of the fact that classics are frequently assigned readings in English courses. By using a running thesaurus at the bottom of each page, this edition of The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton was edited for students who are actively building their vocabularies in anticipation of taking PSAT, SAT, AP (Advanced Placement), GRE, LSAT, GMAT or similar examinations. PSAT is a registered trademark of the College Entrance Examination Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation neither of which sponsors or endorses this book; SAT is a registered trademark of the College Board which neither sponsors nor endorses this book; GRE, AP and Advanced Placement are registered trademarks of the Educational Testing Service which neither sponsors nor endorses this book, GMAT is a registered trademark of the Graduate Management Admissions Council which is neither affiliated with this book nor endorses this book, LSAT is a registered trademark of the Law School Admissions Council which neither sponsors nor endorses this product. All

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