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*The House of Mirth is a 1905 novel by the American author Edith Wharton. It tells the story of Lily Bart, a well-born but impoverished woman belonging to New York City's high society around the turn of the last century. [a]*

*Wharton creates a portrait of a stunning beauty who, though raised and educated to marry well both socially and economically, is reaching her 29th year, an age when her youthful blush is drawing to a close and her marital prospects are*

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*becoming ever more limited. The House of Mirth traces Lily's slow two-year social descent from privilege to a tragically lonely existence on the margins of society. In the words of one scholar, Wharton uses Lily as an attack on "an irresponsible, grasping and morally corrupt upper class. For the 150th anniversary of Edith Wharton's birth: her three greatest novels, in a couture-inspired deluxe edition featuring a new introduction by Jonathan Franzen Born into a distinguished New York family, Edith Wharton chronicled the lives of the wealthy, the well born, and*

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*the nouveau riches in fiction that often hinges on the collision of personal passion and social convention. This volume brings together her best-loved novels, all set in New York. The House of Mirth is the story of Lily Bart, who needs a rich husband but refuses to marry without both love and money. The Custom of the Country follows the marriages and affairs of Undine Spragg, who is as vain, spoiled, and selfish as she is irresistibly fascinating. The Pulitzer Prize-winning The Age of Innocence concerns the passionate bond that develops between the*

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The author of *The Zookeepers  
Wife* describes her husband's  
terrible stroke which resulted in  
aphasia, or loss of language, and  
how she used their love and  
scientific understanding of  
language to help him regain his  
use of words. Reprint.

*The Decoration of Houses, a*

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manual of interior design written by Edith Wharton with architect Ogden Codman, was first published in 1897. In the book, the authors denounced Victorian-style interior decoration and interior design, especially those rooms that were decorated with heavy window curtains, Victorian bric-a-brac and overstuffed furniture. They argued that such rooms emphasized upholstery at the expense of proper space planning and architectural design and were, therefore, uncomfortable and rarely used. Wharton and Codman advocated the creation of houses with



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rooms decorated with strong architectural wall and ceiling treatments, accentuated by well-suited furniture, rooms based on simple, classical design principles such as symmetry and proportion and a sense of architectural balance. The *Decoration of Houses* is considered a seminal work and its success led to the emergence of professional decorators working in the manner advocated by its authors. The four novellas collected here, by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Age of Innocence*, brilliantly capture New York of the 1840s, '50s, '60s, and '70s.

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Originally published in 1924, this outstanding quartet includes False Dawn, about a rocky father/son relationship; The Old Maid, the best known of the four, in which a young woman's hidden illegitimate child is adoted by her best friend, with devastating results; The Spark, involving a young man and his moral rehabilitation -- "sparked" by a chance encounter with Walt Whitman; and New Year's Day, an O. Henryesque tale of a married woman suspected of adultery. Each reveals the codes and customs that ruled society of the time, drawn with the perspicacious eye and style that

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is uniquely Edith Wharton's. Pocket Books' enriched Classics present the great works of world literature enhanced for the contemporary reader. This volume reprints the original New York Times Book Review feature on *Old New York*, a piece that helps fix the stories in the contemporary critical landscape. Also included are critical perspectives, suggestions for further reading, and a visual essay composed of authentic period illustrations and photographs.

--William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*

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needed but seldom available perspective. Arts and humanities are crucial in the ongoing effort to achieve an ecologically sustainable and just world. Works of the human imagination provide analyses, articulations of experience, and positive visions of the future that no amount of statistics, data, charts, or graphs can offer because literature speaks not only to the intellect but also to our emotions. Creative literary work, which records human experience both past and present, has the power to warn, to persuade, and to inspire. Each is critical in the shared struggle for Environmental Justice.

This novel was written in 1913. It tells of Undine Spragg, a beautiful young woman from the Midwest who arrives

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in New York to seek her fortune. She achieves her social ambitions -- but only at the highest cost to her family, her admirers and her several husbands.

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'Backward Glance', Edith Wharton's detailed account of her life, both public and private. She describes in a dazzling yet delicate manner, the upper-class New York society within which much of her youth was spent. The book details her traversing of Europe and her prolific achievement in the field of literature when she was an adult. A fantastic and insightful read, this text will appeal to those with an interest in this most accomplished woman, and it would make for a worthy addition to any bookshelf. The chapters of this text include: The Background, Knee-High, Little Girl, Unreluctant Feet, Friendships and Travels, Life and Letters, New York and the Mount, Henry James, The Secret Garden, Paris, Widening Waters, The War, and



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**weakness in the structure of Old New York: the artists and writers at its fringes, the free-love advocates testing its limits, widows and divorcées struggling to hold their own. The New York Stories of Edith Wharton gathers twenty stories of the city, written over the course of Wharton's career. From her first published story, "Mrs. Manstey's View," to one of her last and most celebrated, "Roman Fever," this new collection charts the growth of an American master and enriches our understanding of the central themes of her work, among them the meaning of marriage, the struggle for artistic integrity, the bonds between**

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parent and child, and the plight of the aged. Illuminated by Roxana Robinson's Introduction, these stories showcase Wharton's astonishing insight into the turbulent inner lives of the men and women caught up in a rapidly changing society. The inescapable reality of death has given rise to much of literature's most profound and moving work. D. J. Enright's wonderfully eclectic selection presents the words of poet and novelist, scientist and philosopher, mystic and sceptic. And alongside these 'professional' writers, he allows the voices of ordinary people to

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**be heard; for this is a subject on which there are no real experts and wisdom lies in many unexpected places.**

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**The Custom of the Country by Edith Wharton Considered by many to be her masterpiece, Edith Wharton's second full-length work is a scathing yet personal examination of the**

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**exploits and follies of the modern upper class. As she unfolds the story of Undine Spragg, from New York to Europe, Wharton affords us a detailed glimpse of what might be called the interior d cor of this America and its nouveau riche fringes. Through a heroine who is as vain, spoiled, and selfish as she is irresistibly fascinating, and through a most intricate and satisfying plot that follows Undine's marriages and affairs, she conveys a vision of social behavior that is both supremely informed and supremely disenchanted. - Anita Brookner We are**



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**American--this book looks at the work of seventeen writers from that period: Frances Ellen Harper, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Sarah Orne Jewett, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Kate Chopin, Pauline Hopkins, Gertrude Stein, Mary Austin, Sui Sin Far, Willa Cather, Humishuma, Jessie Fauset, Edith Wharton, Ellen Glasgow, Anzia Yezierska, Edith Summers Kelley, and Nella Larsen. The discussion focuses on the differences in their work and the similarities that unite them, particularly their determination to experiment with narrative form as they explored and voiced issues of**

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**power for women. Analyzing the historical context that both enabled and limited American women writers at the turn of the century, Ammons provides detailed readings of many texts and offers extensive commentary on the interaction between race and gender. This book joins the deepening discussion of modern women writers' creation of themselves as artists and raises fundamental questions about the shape of American literary history as it has been constructed in the academy. The House of Mirth captured the attention of a large portion of the reading public when it**

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**was published in a serial version for most of 1905 and then as a hardback in October of that year. Edith Wharton's story of Lily Bart topped the American bestseller list for four months and sealed the author's reputation as one of the major English-language fiction writers of her generation. Each of the four articles collected in this New Essays volume makes distinctive new claims for the historical, critical, and theoretical significance of Wharton's seminal work. Textual notes and critical essays accompany the tale of a New England farmer who must**

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**choose between his duty to  
care for his invalid wife and his  
love for her cousin.**

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includes:\* The 1905 book edition of the novel, complete with A. B. Wenzell's eight original illustrations.\* A preface and explanatory footnotes by Elizabeth Ammons.\* An abundant selection of contextual material, including excerpts from Wharton's letters, contemporary reviews, six drawings by Charles Dana Gibson, Thorstein Veblen on conspicuous consumption, Charlotte Perkins Gilman on women and economics, and various others writing about women's place in society at the turn of the century.\* Six modern critical views, considering issues of

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print or in digital format, Norton Critical Editions provide all the resources students need.

The text has been introduced and thoroughly annotated by the editor for student readers. Backgrounds and Contexts includes selections from Edith Wharton's letters; articles from the period about etiquette, vocations for women, factory life, and Working Girls' Clubs; excerpts from the work of contemporary social thinkers including Thorstein Veblen, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and Olive Schreiner; and a consideration of anti-Semitism at the turn of the century by historian John

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Higham. Also included are Charles Dana Gibson's precautionary piece "Marrying for Money" (including four Gibson drawings) and a tableau vivant of "The Dying Gladiator." Criticism reprints six central contemporary reviews of the novel and six biographical and interpretive modern essays by Millicent Bell, Louis Auchincloss, Cynthia Griffin Wolff, R. W. B. Lewis, Elaine Showalter, and Elizabeth Ammons. A Chronology and Selected Bibliography are also included.

This book translates recent scholarship into pedagogy

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for teaching Edith Wharton's widely celebrated and less-known fiction to students in the twenty-first century. It comprises such themes as American and European cultures, material culture, identity, sexuality, class, gender, law, history, journalism, anarchism, war, addiction, disability, ecology, technology, and social media in historical, cultural, transcultural, international, and regional contexts. It includes Wharton's works compared to those of other authors, taught online, read in foreign universities, and studied in film adaptations.

Old New York

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The House of Mirth (Norton  
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The Age of Innocence

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young man's dream. his engagement to the wealthy young heiress May Welland, has just been announced. But Newland has a secret: he is secretly in love with may's cousin, the scandalous divorcee, Countess Ellen Olenska, who has brought to New York all the glitter and glamour of Europe's aristocratic playground. May is lovely, but innocent. Ellen Olenska is worldly and passionate. Newland has a choice: does he make the honorable choice? Or follow his heart? At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management

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This Norton Critical Edition presents three of Melville's most important short novels -- Bartleby, The Scrivener; Benito Cereno; and Billy Budd. The texts are accompanied by ample explanatory annotation. As his writing reflects, Melville was extraordinarily well read.

"Contexts" offers selections from works that influenced Melville's writing of these three short novles, including, among others, Ralph Waldo Emerson's "The Transcendentalist" and Amasa Delano's Narrative of Voyages and Travels. Johannes Dietrich Bergmann, H. Bruce Franklin,

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and Robert M. Cover provide overviews of Melville's probable sources. An unusually rich "Criticism" section includes twenty-eight wide-ranging pieces that often contradict one another and that are sure to promote classroom discussion. Book jacket.

Includes historical documents and passages from other publications contemporary with the featured work.

Set in the 1870s, the same period as Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*, *The Buccaneers* is about five wealthy American girls denied entry into New York Society because their parents'

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money is too new. At the suggestion of their clever governess, the girls sail to London, where they marry lords, earls, and dukes who find their beauty charming—and their wealth extremely useful. After Wharton's death in 1937, *The Christian Science Monitor* said, "If it could have been completed, *The Buccaneers* would doubtless stand among the richest and most sophisticated of Wharton's novels." Now, with wit and imagination, Marion Mainwaring has finished the story, taking her cue from Wharton's own synopsis. It is a novel any Wharton fan will celebrate and



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any romantic reader will love. This is the richly engaging story of Nan St. George and guy Thwarte, an American heiress and an English aristocrat, whose love breaks the rules of both their societies.

A Backward Glance

The Sound and the Fury

A Casebook

Crime and Punishment

An Authoritative Text,

Backgrounds and Contexts,

Criticism

***Edith Wharton is recognized as one of the twentieth century's most important American writers. The House of Mirth not only initiated***

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*three decades of Wharton's popular and critical acclaim, it helped move women's literature into a new place of achievement and prominence. The House of Mirth is perhaps Wharton's best-known and most frequently read novel, and scholars and teachers consider it an essential introduction to Wharton and her work. The novel, moreover, lends itself to a variety of topics of inquiry and critical approaches of interest to readers at various levels. This casebook collects critical essays addressing a broad spectrum of topics and utilizing a range of*

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*critical and theoretical approaches. It also includes Wharton's introduction to the 1936 edition of the novel and her discussion of the composition of the novel from her autobiography. The House of Mirth (1905), a novel by Edith Wharton (1862-1937), tells the story of Lily Bart, a well-born but impoverished woman belonging to New York City's high society around the turn of the last century. Wharton creates a portrait of a ravishing beauty who, though raised and educated to marry well both socially and economically, is reaching her 29th year, an age when her marital prospects are*

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*becoming ever more limited. The House of Mirth traces Lily's slow two-year social descent from privilege to a tragically lonely existence on the margins of society. Women's Human Rights in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture sheds light on women's rights advancements in the nineteenth century and early twentieth-century through explorations of literature and culture from this time period. With an international emphasis, contributors illuminate the range and diversity of women's work as novelists, journalists, and short story writers and analyze the New*

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*Woman phenomenon, feminist impulse, and the diversity of the women writers. Studying writing by authors such as Alice Meynell, Thomas Hardy, Netta Syrett, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Mary Seacole, Charlotte Brontë, and Jean Rhys, the contributors analyze women's voices and works on the subject of women's rights and the representation of the New Woman. One of Edith Wharton's most accomplished social satires, this novel tells the story of the beautiful but impoverished New York socialite Lily Bart, whose refusal to compromise in her search for a husband leads*

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*to her exclusion from polite society. In charting the course of Lily's life and downfall, Wharton also provides a wider picture of a society in transition, a milieu in which old certainties, manners, and morals no longer hold true, and where the individual has become an expendable commodity. This classic American novel is now available in a Broadview edition that includes a critical introduction and a rich selection of contextual documents. Appendices include Wharton's correspondence about The House of Mirth, contemporary articles on social mores,*

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*etiquette, and dress, and related writings by Henry James, Thorstein Veblen, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman.*

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The Buccaneers*

*The House of Mirth, The  
Custom of the Country, The  
Age of Innocence (Penguin  
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*The House of Mirth  
Illustrated*

*Uncle Tom's Cabin*

*Author, translator, social critic and  
Harvard professor of art, Charles  
Eliot Norton was widely regarded in  
his own day as the most cultivated  
man in America. In modern times,  
by contrast, he has been  
condemned as the supercilious  
representative of an embattled*

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***patrician caste. This revisionary study argues that Norton's genuine significance for American culture and politics today can only be grasped by recovering the vanished contexts in which his life and work took shape. In a wide-ranging analysis, Linda Dowling demonstrates the effects upon Norton's thought of the great transatlantic humanitarian reform movement of the 1840s, the Pre-Raphaelite and Ruskinian revolution in art and architecture of the 1850s and the surging liberal optimism that emerged from the Civil War. Drawing on numerous deleted passages from Norton's manuscript journals, Dowling probes beneath the imperturbable mask of the public Norton, bringing to light the elusive private man.***



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***Returning from Europe in 1873, bereft of his wife and stripped of his religious belief, Norton was compelled to confront the painful contradictions within his own liberal political faith. In a land given to celebrating freedom of speech, Norton would become a speaker subjected to physical threats for opposing the Spanish-American War. Among a people given to glorying in its superiority to other civilizations, he would become a social critic reviled for arguing that the nation was failing to live up to its own most cherished ideals. It would be Norton's misfortune, shared with others of his generation, to watch the golden promise of a victorious war for the Union fade into the unrepentant cynicism of the Gilded Age. Yet***

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***Norton's militant idealism and heroic citizenship, Dowling argues, survive now as a vital parable for American civic liberalism in the present day.***

***"In Aesthetics and Gender in American Literature: Portraits of the Woman Artist, Barker demonstrates how popular woman writers - Fanny Fern, E. D. E. N. Southworth, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Louisa May Alcott, Kate Chopin, Edith Wharton, and Jessie Fauset - used the female visual artist as their artistic alter ego to renegotiate the boundaries between high and low culture." "In their challenge to a gendered, racialized evolutionary aesthetics as embodied in the female copyist as an icon of cultural reproduction, these women writers enact in a fictional format what many recent***



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***Contexts, Sources, Criticism***