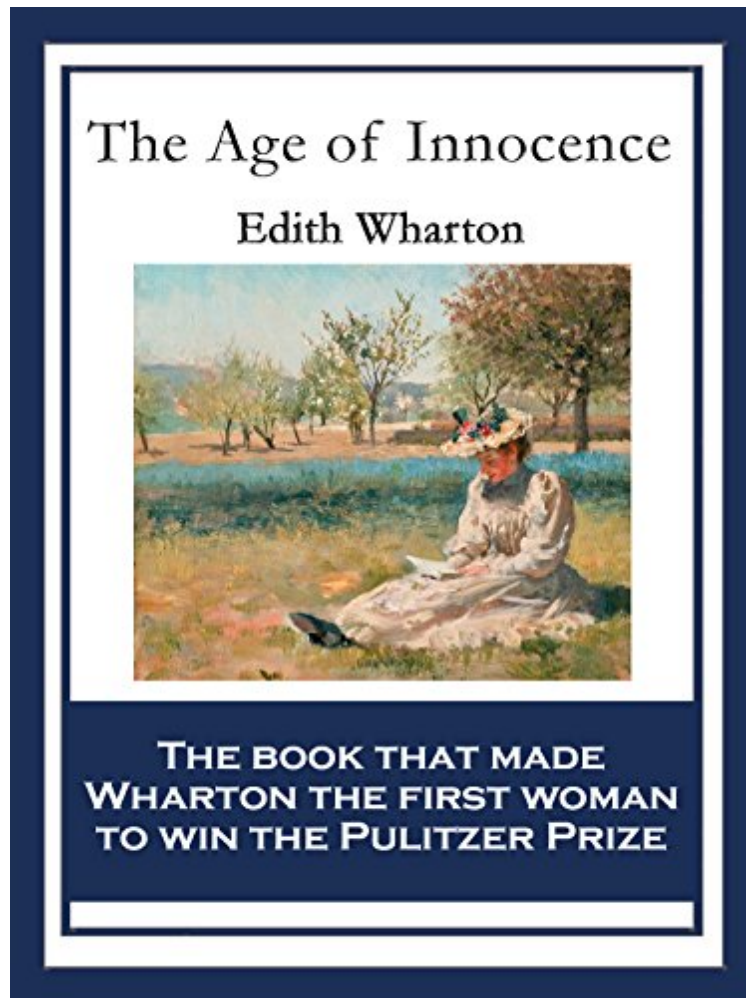


[PDF] The Age of Innocence: With linked Table of Contents

## The Age of Innocence: With linked Table of Contents

*Von Edith Wharton*

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**Von Edith Wharton : The Age of Innocence: With linked Table of Contents** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Age of Innocence: With linked Table of Contents:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A fine piece of literatureVon Thorsten-Michael WulffIn the first place style and subject matter have greatly entertained me. I like books about real historical periods, which is the case here. The novel depicts the super-rich moneyed aristocracy of the Gilded Age in New York in the last decades of the 19th century. It deals with the rifts and fissures in that class and applies them to its individual pro- and antagonists with their specific psychological reactions, also to the patriarchal domination of women. Male domination also affects the wives' self-awareness, especially their feeling of happiness in that they have subconsciously internalised this domination. So the young married husband Newland Archer ruminates about his wife May:'There was no use in trying to emancipate a wife who had not the dimmest

notion that she was not free; and he had long since discovered that May's only use of the liberty she supposed herself to possess would be to lay it on the altar of her wifely adoration.' (Collector's Library, 2004, p. 198) This is in stark contrast to the Countess Ellen Olenska who has come from Europe after a failed marriage and therefore meets with little acceptance, partly being shunned in society, but who appears as an independent woman standing her ground. But eventually she feels she has to return to Europe. It is this woman that Newland Archer, although married, falls in love with, attracted by her self-assertion. So he begins doubting his own standards in which he and May have been brought up. I felt rather touched when I read that 30 years later, after the premature death of his wife, Newland Archer stands with his son before the house in Paris where Olenska had moved and cannot find the strength and courage to pay her the visit he has come for and have a reunion with her. He has lived for so long in the conservative New York society cherishing his own image of her that he cannot face her eventually. Only his son finally goes up the stairs to the arranged meeting. - Thus the rifts and cracks in the moral and ideological standards of the rich class are incorporated in the plot and figures of the novel, an accomplishment that I greatly appreciate and enjoy in literature. The book reaches beyond the time it describes and beyond the time when it was published (1920), for societies should always be subject to scrutiny. In the decades before and after 1900, such novels were en vogue in Europe such as by Thomas Mann, John Galsworthy or at the end of the 19th century Theodor Fontane. Those who enjoy finely composed and splendidly phrased literature should read this novel.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Tableau einer Gesellschaft ohne Spannung oder Überraschungen Von margarita In wirklich sehr schöner Sprache zeichnet Edith Wharton ein Tableau der New Yorker Upper Class Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts. Und wer sich für diese Gesellschaft interessiert, verstehen möchte wie gelebt wurde, wie konservativ das neue Amerika im Vergleich mit dem alten, dekadenten Europa war, der wird belohnt. Man hört geradezu, wie die Pferdekutschen über das Pflaster fahren, wie die Damen in schönen Kleidern die Oper betreten, man spürt die eisige Kälte der nicht verzeihenden Gesellschaft wenn sie unter dem Deckmantel der liebevollen Höflichkeit ihre Urteile fällt. Aber leider fehlt es dem Buch an Bedeutung über dieses Bild hinaus, und damit war es für mich etwas dröge. Da ist Henry James mit "The Europeans" ein anderes Kaliber. Auch die handelnden Personen bleiben eindimensional, es gibt keine Entwicklung. Eine unsere schon gar nicht, von Anfang bis Ende machen alle genau das was die Gesellschaft von ihnen erwartet. Leider fehlt aber auch eine Entwicklung der inneren Persönlichkeiten, was in anderen Büchern ganze Handlungen trägt. Zwei sind unglücklich verliebt und bleiben es von Anfang bis Ende. Nur eine, die völlig konforme May, scheint etwas interessanter. Sie durchblickt mehr als man meint und scheint als einzige die Situation bewusst und aktiv zu gestalten. Aber auch das wird nur drei bis vier mal angedeutet, da wäre Potential für mehr gewesen. Fazit: Lesen um der Bilder und Sprache willen, wer mehr von einem Buch erwartet wird sich vermutlich ein wenig langweilen.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Weltklassen Literatur UND höchst leserlich! Von N. Aristov Es ist eine Schande, dass ich als Amerikanerin erst mit fast 60 Jahren diese Autorin kennengelernt habe. Dafür habe ich mich durch Salinger und Steinbeck und Hemingway durchschlagen müssen. Und Fitzgerald und der andere.... vergess ich gerade, der Südstaatler... Egal: Wharton ist unvergesslich. Sie ist mit Flaubert und Tolstoj zu vergleichen -- höchst ironisch, präzise die menschliche Psychologie durchgeschaut, lyrisch, romantisch. Die Geschichte ist wunderbar aufgebaut, mit schönen Suggestionen, die Leser emotional über eine Gefühlsachterbahn mitreißen -- mir weht immer noch den Wind in den Haaren (damit meine ich nicht haarstrubend!)

Kurzbeschreibung The Age of Innocence won the 1921 Pulitzer Prize. The story is set in upper class New York City in the 1870s. 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 1870's New York society, it never devolves into an outright condemnation. In fact, Wharton considered this novel an apology for her earlier, more brutal and critical novel, The House of Mirth.

deSomewhere 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.

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