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Edith Wharton

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The Custom of the Country

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#305959 in Books Edith Wharton 2006-05-30 2006-05-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.73 x .69 x 5.09l, .63 #File Name: 0143039709400 pagesThe Custom of the Country | File size: 79.Mb

Edith Wharton : The Custom of the Country (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Custom of the Country (Penguin Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Admirable Plotting, Voracious ProtagonistBy Eileen PollockThis is certainly one of Wharton's great works. It depicts Undine, a Midwestern social climber who moves to New York, with the intention of making her mark on society. She marries Ralph from an upper crust background, but her narcissism and materialism doom the marriage. Undine Spragg has no interest in her husband, just in his admiration of her beauty.

She is totally indifferent to her child. And so it is with everyone she touches. Her female friends are collected to help her entry into society - and before you know it, she is conquering Paris and becoming a Countess, then a Marquise, even better. When the Marquis realizes her character, centered on the voracious collecting of gowns, furnishings, and furbellows - he is alienated from her and shifts his attention to cultivating his estate. And so it goes, from one man to another. An Elmer Moffat keeps popping into her life. He is the one man she cannot deceive and who sees through her machinations, for he is as vulgar and grasping as she is. Nonetheless, Undine was to me a Carmen - a creature with a sociopathic craving to ruin men, and extracting as much money as she can from them to finance her enjoyments. It is only her beauty that attracts. My revulsion at her decadent character prevented me from giving this cleverly written book five stars. I wonder how many Undines are currently plotting how to land a socially advantageous husband in New York. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mainly for Wharton Fans By A. Lawyer The book is of unlikely interest except to those who want to dig deeper into Edith Wharton's writings. This seems like a middle-tier book for her: not as good as *Age of Innocence* or *House of Mirth*, but stars an unsympathetic female (hard to call her a protagonist) who lacks any emotional qualities or empathy and who dedicates herself to acquiring luxury and status regardless of whom she hurts in doing so. Of course, luxury and status leaves her feeling empty and wanting to find even more. She is not the most realistic character, but she would make an even better character if recast today. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. it's best to get in the mindset of the era when ... By kpers Before beginning to read this book, it's best to get in the mindset of the era when it was written. The writing style during this period seems to be more verbose than today definitely a lot more inferred than said. If it were written today, I think it could be condensed quite a bit with the writing style more straight forward. After understanding all that, it is a great novel with moral applications that work today. I enjoyed it tho I do like reading books from this period in history.

Considered by many to be her masterpiece, Edith Wharton's second full-length work is a scathing yet personal examination of the 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 décor 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 disenchanting. This edition features a new introduction and explanatory notes and reset text. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

"Edith Wharton's finest achievement." --Elizabeth Hardwick From the Publisher 10 1.5-hour cassettes From the Inside Flap Highly acclaimed at its publication in 1913, *The Custom of the Country* is a cutting commentary on America's nouveaux riches, their upward-yearning aspirations and their eventual downfalls. Through her heroine, the beautiful and ruthless Undine Spragg, a spoiled heiress who looks to her next materialistic triumph as her latest conquest throws himself at her feet, Edith Wharton presents a startling, satiric vision of social behavior in all its greedy glory. As Undine moves from America's heartland to Manhattan, and then to Paris, Wharton's critical eye leaves no social class unscathed.