



Edith Wharton

Edith Wharton, née Edith Newbold Jones, (born January 24, 1862, New York, New York, U.S.—died August 11, 1937, Saint-Brice-sous-Forêt, near Paris, France), American author best known for her stories and novels about the upper-class society into which she was born.

Edith Jones came of a distinguished and long-established New York family. She was educated by private tutors and governesses at home and in Europe, where the family resided for six years after the American Civil War, and she read voraciously. She made her debut in society in 1879 and married Edward Wharton, a wealthy Boston banker, in 1885.

The Age of Innocence

“Like most novels, “The Age of Innocence” offers a version of its author’s biography. Newland Archer, the central character, is, like Wharton herself, someone who has lived long enough to see the ideals of his youth become outdated.”

-The New York Times

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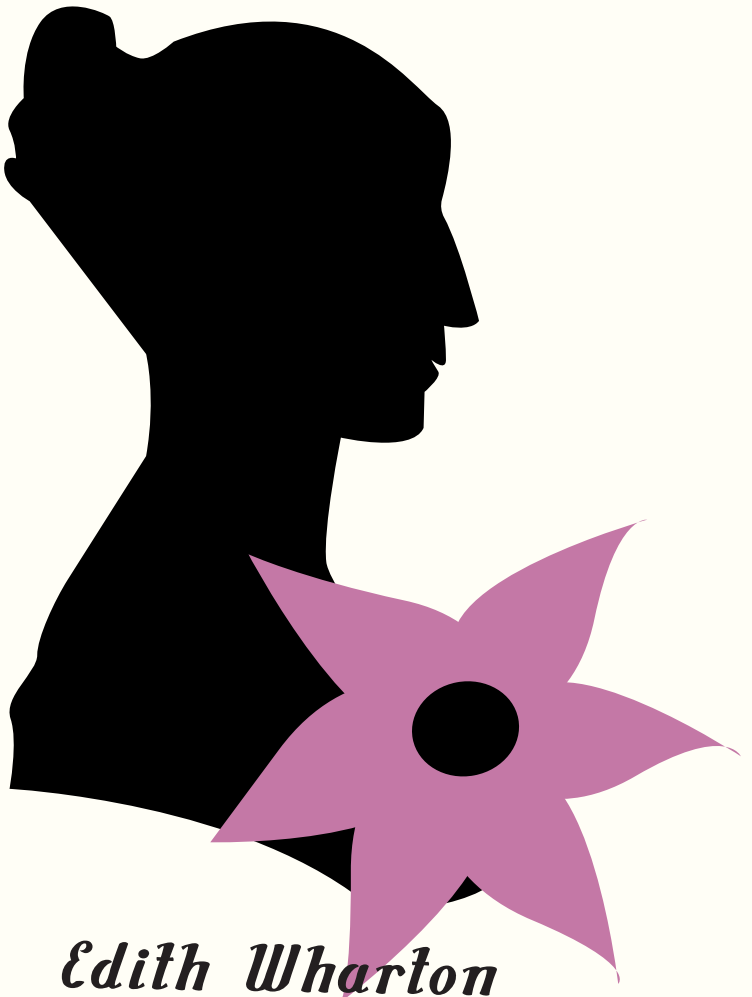
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The Age of Innocence

with Wharton

*The
Age of
Innocence*



Edith Wharton

Struggle and Love

Newland Archer, an aristocratic young lawyer, is engaged to the cloistered, beautiful May Welland. But when May's cousin Ellen arrives from Europe, fleeing her failed marriage to a Polish count, her worldly and independent nature intrigues and unsettles Archer. Trapped by his passionless relationship with May and the social conventions that forbid a relationship with the disgraced Ellen, Archer is torn between possibility and duty. Wharton's profound understanding of her characters' lives makes the triangle of Archer, May, and Ellen both urgent and poignant. An incisive look at the ways desire and emotion must negotiate the complex rules of society, *The Age of Innocence* is one of Wharton's most moving works.



Louisa May Alcott

Louisa May Alcott, (born November 29, 1832, Germantown, Pennsylvania, U.S.—died March 6, 1888, Boston, Massachusetts), American author known for her children's books, especially the classic *Little Women* (1868–69).

A daughter of the transcendentalist Bronson Alcott, Louisa spent most of her life in Boston and Concord, Massachusetts, where she grew up in the company of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, and Henry David Thoreau. Her education was largely under the direction of her father, for a time at his innovative Temple School in Boston and, later, at home. Alcott realized early that her father was too impractical to provide for his wife and four daughters; after the failure of Fruitlands, a utopian community that he had founded, Louisa Alcott's lifelong concern for the welfare of her family began. She taught briefly, worked as a domestic, and finally began to write.

Little Women

“Alcott’s writing was elegant yet poignant and haunting at moments, and perfect for the era it was set in, whilst the sister’s personalities were intricately described throughout the whole book. It gave you a sense of what it was like to be a normal family in the 1800’s and subtly showed the feelings of each character.”

-The Guardian

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Louisa May Alcott

Little Women

Little Women



Louisa May Acott

Hardship and Adventures

Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy March are four sisters living with their mother in New England. Their father is away serving as a chaplain in the Civil War, and the sisters struggle to support themselves and keep their household running despite the fact that the family recently lost its fortune. In the process, they become close friends with their wealthy neighbor, Theodore Laurence, known as “Laurie.”

As the girls grow older, each faces her own personal demons and moral challenges. Jo, our beloved protagonist, must tame her tomboyish ways and learn to be more ladylike while pursuing her ambition to be a great writer. Meg, the oldest, must put aside her love of wealth and finery in order to follow her heart. Beth, the shy one, must conquer her bashfulness, while Amy, the youngest, has to sacrifice her aristocratic pride. The girls are guided in their personal growth by their mother, “Marmee,” and by their religious faith.



Virginia Woolf

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) was an English author. Her book *To the Lighthouse* is one of her most famous novels, along with *Mrs. Dalloway* and *The Waves*. In her fiction, Woolf is known for her use of stream of consciousness as a narrative device. Using this technique, Woolf shows the natural flow of internal thoughts in her characters, often switching between different characters' mental perspectives. Woolf was also an advocate for the women's rights movement, and published the nonfiction essay *A Room of One's Own*, in which she analyzes gender and socioeconomic class to describe the experience and the needs of the female writer at the time. Additionally, she was involved in the Bloomsbury Group, a group of writers and intellectuals in Bloomsburg, England during the first half of the 20th century.



TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

**“To the Lighthouse,” Virginia Woolf’s
1927 masterpiece, was the one that
kept coming to mind — specifically its
experimental middle section, .”**

- The New York Times



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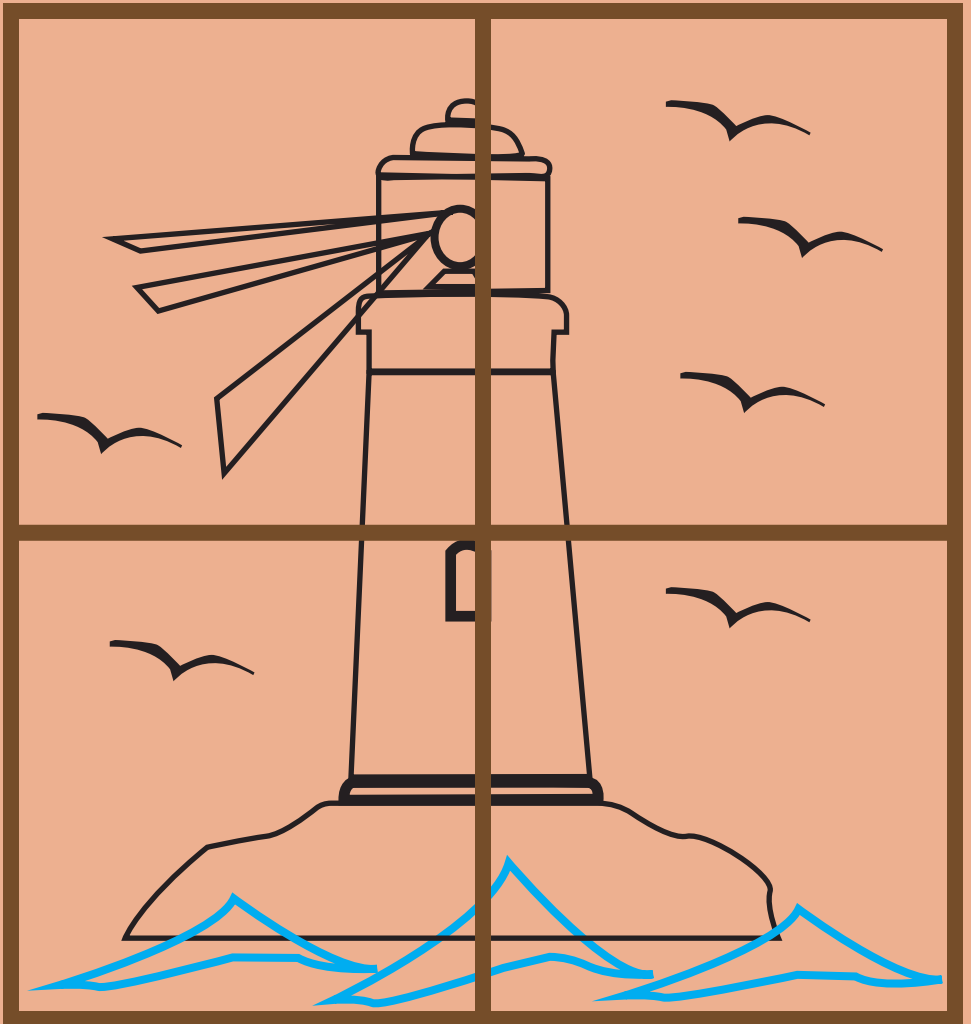
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THE HOUSING VIRGINIA FOOT

TO THE LIGHTHOUSE



Virginia Woolf

FAMILY AND STRUGGLES

The Lighthouse was first published in 1927. The novel's main characters are the members of the Ramsay family, which is comprised of Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay, plus their eight children. The novel spans a decade in time, but the entire decade is not narrated in detail; rather, the novel zooms in on moments the family spends vacationing on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Rather than being narrated by a single person, the novel switches back and forth between a variety of characters' perspectives, showing the internal monologues of multiple characters. In fact, most of the novel is comprised of various characters' private thoughts, observations, and memories during family vacation.

Since the novel focuses primarily on the inner lives of the different characters, there is not much dialogue in *To the Lighthouse*. Although they are not shown to interact with each other much in the present, the characters are still connected because they reference similar people, places, and events in their interior monologues, and they echo certain philosophical ideas expressed by others around them. However, there is not much action or plot in the novel; style and form are more important than plot in *To the Lighthouse*.