

Sparknotes The House Of Mirth



SparkNotes The House of Mirth: A Comprehensive Guide to Edith Wharton's Masterpiece

Are you tackling Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* for class, or simply captivated by the Gilded Age's dazzling excesses and crushing societal pressures? This comprehensive guide offers a deep dive into Wharton's complex novel, providing a thorough SparkNotes-style overview without sacrificing the nuance and depth that make this classic so compelling. We'll explore Lily Bart's tragic downfall, analyze key themes, and unpack the intricate web of relationships that define her world. Forget flimsy summaries; we'll equip you with the insights needed to truly appreciate Wharton's masterpiece.

Understanding Lily Bart: The Tragic Protagonist

Lily Bart, the novel's captivating protagonist, embodies both the allure and the limitations of her era. She's beautiful, intelligent, and charming, but trapped by the rigid social structures of Old New York society. Her reliance on marrying well for financial security, rather than for love or personal fulfillment, tragically dictates her choices and ultimately seals her fate.

Lily's Fatal Flaws: Ambition and Indecision

Lily's desire for a life of luxury and social prominence is not inherently wrong, but her methods and indecisiveness are her undoing. She constantly teeters between securing a financially advantageous marriage and pursuing genuine connection, ultimately failing at both. This internal conflict, combined with her societal pressures, drives the narrative and shapes her character arc.

The Role of Appearance and Social Climbing

Wharton masterfully depicts the superficiality and cutthroat competition within Gilded Age high society. Lily's beauty is both her greatest asset and her greatest liability. It opens doors, but also traps her within a system that values appearance over substance. Her relentless pursuit of social advancement blinds her to more meaningful relationships and opportunities.

Key Themes Explored in The House of Mirth

The House of Mirth is more than a social commentary; it delves into complex themes that resonate even today.

The Crushing Weight of Social Expectations:

Wharton vividly portrays the suffocating pressure placed upon women in her time to secure a wealthy husband. Lily's struggle highlights the limited options available to women who lacked independent financial means, revealing the stark realities of a society that valued marriage above all else.

The Illusion of the American Dream:

The novel exposes the hypocrisy and emptiness underlying the glittering facade of wealth and social status. The pursuit of the "American Dream" often becomes a corrosive force, leading to moral compromises and ultimately to despair.

The Power of Money and Social Status:

Money and social standing are not mere backdrop; they are active players, driving the plot and shaping characters' choices. The relentless pursuit of wealth and status reveals the corrupting influence of power and the ethical compromises people make to maintain it.

Love, Marriage, and Morality:

Wharton explores the complexities of love and marriage in a society defined by social conventions. Lily's relationships, both romantic and platonic, expose the hypocrisy and lack of genuine emotional connection within her social circle.

Analyzing the Narrative Structure and Style

Wharton's masterful narrative weaves together social observation with psychological insight. Her prose is elegant and precise, reflecting the sophistication of the world she depicts. The novel's episodic structure allows for a detailed examination of Lily's social interactions and gradual decline.

Symbolism and Imagery:

Wharton employs potent symbolism throughout the novel. The "house of mirth" itself can be interpreted as a symbol of the glittering but ultimately hollow world of high society, while Lily's clothing often reflects her social standing and emotional state.

The Tragic Conclusion and its Significance

Lily's ultimate fate is a powerful indictment of a society that values superficiality and wealth over genuine human connection. Her tragic end serves as a cautionary tale, exposing the devastating consequences of societal constraints and the pursuit of an unattainable ideal.

Conclusion

The House of Mirth remains a potent and relevant novel, offering a timeless exploration of social ambition, societal pressures, and the human cost of chasing an elusive dream. By understanding Lily Bart's journey, we gain a deeper appreciation for Wharton's sharp social commentary and her enduring literary legacy. This guide has aimed to provide you with the tools to fully grasp the novel's complexities and appreciate its enduring power.

FAQs

Q1: What is the central conflict in The House of Mirth?

A1: The central conflict is Lily Bart's struggle to navigate the constraints of Old New York society while maintaining her social standing and pursuing happiness. This involves balancing her desires for financial security with her yearning for genuine connection and personal fulfillment.

Q2: How does the setting contribute to the novel's themes?

A2: The Gilded Age setting of Old New York City is crucial. The rigid social structures, the emphasis on wealth and appearance, and the intense competition for social standing are all essential elements that shape Lily's struggles and the novel's overarching themes.

Q3: What is the significance of the title, "The House of Mirth"?

A3: The "house of mirth" symbolizes the glittering but ultimately hollow and superficial world of high society. It represents a facade of gaiety and pleasure masking underlying anxieties, moral compromises, and ultimately, despair.

Q4: What are some of the major symbols in the novel?

A4: Key symbols include Lily's clothing (representing her social status), the "house of mirth" itself, and various jewels and material possessions reflecting both wealth and its illusory nature. Even the colors used in descriptions contribute to the symbolic language.

Q5: How does The House of Mirth relate to other works of the Gilded Age?

A5: The House of Mirth shares thematic concerns with other Gilded Age literature, such as the exploration of social class, the limitations placed upon women, and the critique of societal hypocrisy. It differs in its intense focus on the psychological impact of these societal pressures on a single

individual.

sparknotes the house of mirth: The House of Mirth Edith Wharton, 2024-05-30 In late 19th-century New York, high society places great demands on a woman—she must be beautiful, wealthy, cultured, and above all, virtuous, at least on the surface. At 29, Lily Bart has had every opportunity to marry successfully within her social class, but her irresponsible lifestyle and high standards lead her further and further down the social ladder. Her gambling debts are catching up with her, and an arrangement with a friend's husband causes society to begin questioning her virtue. The House of Mirth is Edith Wharton's sharp critique of an American upper class she viewed as morally corrupt and relentlessly materialistic. EDITH WHARTON [1862–1937], born in New York, made her debut at the age of forty but managed to write around twenty novels, nearly a hundred short stories, poetry, travelogues, and essays. Wharton was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature three times: 1927, 1928, and 1930. For The Age of Innocence [1920], she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1921.

sparknotes the house of mirth: Summer Edith Wharton, 1917 One of the first novels to deal honestly with a woman's sexual awakening, Summer created a sensation upon its 1917 publication. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Ethan Frome shattered the standards of conventional love stories with candor and realism. Nearly a century later, this tale remains fresh and relevant.

sparknotes the house of mirth: The House of Mirth (Volume 1 of 2) (EasyRead Super Large 20pt Edition) Edith Wharton, 2008-11-05 Books for All Kinds of Readers Read HowYouWant offers the widest selection of on-demand, accessible format editions on the market today. Our 7 different sizes of EasyRead are optimized by increasing the font size and spacing between the words and the letters. We partner with leading publishers around the globe. Our goal is to have accessible editions simultaneously released with publishers' new books so that all readers can have access to the books they want to read. To find more books in your format visit www.readhowyouwant.com

sparknotes the house of mirth: Roman Fever and Other Stories Edith Wharton, 2013-11-05 A side from her Pulitzer Prize-winning talent as a novel writer, Edith Wharton also distinguished herself as a short story writer, publishing more than seventy-two stories in ten volumes during her lifetime. The best of her short fiction is collected here in Roman Fever and Other Stories. From her picture of erotic love and illegitimacy in the title story to her exploration of the aftermath of divorce detailed in Souls Belated and The Last Asset, Wharton shows her usual skill in dissecting the elements of emotional subtleties, moral ambiguities, and the implications of social restrictions, as Cynthia Griffin Wolff writes in her introduction. Roman Fever and Other Stories is a surprisingly contemporary volume of stories by one of our most enduring writers.

sparknotes the house of mirth: Girlhood Melissa Febos, 2021-03-30 National Book Critics Circle Award Winner National Bestseller Lambda Literary Award Finalist NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY TIME * NPR * The Washington Post * Kirkus Reviews * Washington Independent Review of Books * The Millions * Electric Literature * Ms Magazine * Entropy Magazine * Largehearted Boy * Passerbuys "Irreverent and original." -New York Times "Magisterial." -The New Yorker "An intoxicating writer." -The Atlantic "A classic!" -Mary Karr "A true light in the dark." -Stephanie Danler "An essential, heartbreaking project." -Carmen Maria Machado A gripping set of stories about the forces that shape girls and the adults they become. A wise and brilliant guide to transforming the self and our society. In her powerful new book, critically acclaimed author Melissa Febos examines the narratives women are told about what it means to be female and what it takes to free oneself from them. When her body began to change at eleven years old, Febos understood immediately that her meaning to other people had changed with it. By her teens, she defined herself based on these perceptions and by the romantic relationships she threw herself into headlong. Over time, Febos increasingly questioned the stories she'd been told about herself and the habits and defenses she'd developed over years of trying to meet others' expectations. The values she and so many other women had learned in girlhood did not prioritize their personal safety, happiness, or

freedom, and she set out to reframe those values and beliefs. Blending investigative reporting, memoir, and scholarship, Febos charts how she and others like her have reimagined relationships and made room for the anger, grief, power, and pleasure women have long been taught to deny. Written with Febos' characteristic precision, lyricism, and insight, *Girlhood* is a philosophical treatise, an anthem for women, and a searing study of the transitions into and away from girlhood, toward a chosen self.

sparknotes the house of mirth: *The Other Two* Edith Wharton, 2014-03-01 *The Other Two* is a short story by Edith Wharton. Edith Wharton (born Edith Newbold Jones; January 24, 1862 - August 11, 1937) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist, short story writer, and designer. She was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1927, 1928 and 1930. Wharton combined her insider's view of America's privileged classes with a brilliant, natural wit to write humorous, incisive novels and short stories of social and psychological insight. She was well acquainted with many of her era's other literary and public figures, including Theodore Roosevelt. Wharton was born to George Frederic Jones and Lucretia Stevens Rhineland in New York City. She had two brothers, Frederic Rhineland and Henry Edward. The saying Keeping up with the Joneses is said to refer to her father's family. She was also related to the Rensselaer family, the most prestigious of the old patroon families. She had a lifelong friendship with her Rhineland niece, landscape architect Beatrix Farrand of Reef Point in Bar Harbor, Maine. In 1885, at 23, she married Edward (Teddy) Robbins Wharton, who was 12 years older. From a well-established Philadelphia family, he was a sportsman and gentleman of the same social class and shared her love of travel. From the late 1880s until 1902, he suffered acute depression, and the couple ceased their extensive travel. At that time his depression manifested as a more serious disorder, after which they lived almost exclusively at The Mount, their estate designed by Edith Wharton. In 1908 her husband's mental state was determined to be incurable. She divorced him in 1913. Around the same time, Edith was overcome with the harsh criticisms leveled by the naturalist writers. Later in 1908 she began an affair with Morton Fullerton, a journalist for *The Times*, in whom she found an intellectual partner. In addition to novels, Wharton wrote at least 85 short stories. She was also a garden designer, interior designer, and taste-maker of her time. She wrote several design books, including her first published work, *The Decoration of Houses* of 1897, co-authored by Ogden Codman. Another is the generously illustrated *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* of 1904.

sparknotes the house of mirth: Out Stealing Horses Per Petterson, 2012-07-03 We were going out stealing horses. That was what he said, standing at the door to the cabin where I was spending the summer with my father. I was fifteen. It was 1948 and one of the first days of July. Trond's friend Jon often appeared at his doorstep with an adventure in mind for the two of them. But this morning was different. What began as a joy ride on borrowed horses ends with Jon falling into a strange trance of grief. Trond soon learns what befell Jon earlier that day—an incident that marks the beginning of a series of vital losses for both boys. Set in the easternmost region of Norway, *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson begins with an ending. Sixty-seven-year-old Trond has settled into a rustic cabin in an isolated area to live the rest of his life with a quiet deliberation. A meeting with his only neighbor, however, forces him to reflect on that fateful summer.

sparknotes the house of mirth: The Buccaneers Edith Wharton, Marion Mainwaring, 1994-10-01 Edith Wharton's spellbinding final novel tells a story of love in the gilded age that crosses the boundaries of society—soon to be an original series on AppleTV+! “Brave, lively, engaging...a fairy-tale novel, miraculously returned to life.”—*The New York Times Book Review* 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' 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 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.

sparknotes the house of mirth: The Scarlet Letter Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1898

sparknotes the house of mirth: Pachinko (National Book Award Finalist) Min Jin Lee, 2017-02-07 A New York Times Top Ten Book of the Year and National Book Award finalist, Pachinko is an extraordinary epic of four generations of a poor Korean immigrant family as they fight to control their destiny in 20th-century Japan (San Francisco Chronicle). NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2017 * A USA TODAY TOP TEN OF 2017 * JULY PICK FOR THE PBS NEWSHOUR-NEW YORK TIMES BOOK CLUB NOW READ THIS * FINALIST FOR THE 2018 DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE * WINNER OF THE MEDICI BOOK CLUB PRIZE Roxane Gay's Favorite Book of 2017, Washington Post NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER * #1 BOSTON GLOBE BESTSELLER * USA TODAY BESTSELLER * WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLER * WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER There could only be a few winners, and a lot of losers. And yet we played on, because we had hope that we might be the lucky ones. In the early 1900s, teenaged Sunja, the adored daughter of a crippled fisherman, falls for a wealthy stranger at the seashore near her home in Korea. He promises her the world, but when she discovers she is pregnant--and that her lover is married--she refuses to be bought. Instead, she accepts an offer of marriage from a gentle, sickly minister passing through on his way to Japan. But her decision to abandon her home, and to reject her son's powerful father, sets off a dramatic saga that will echo down through the generations. Richly told and profoundly moving, Pachinko is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters--strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis--survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history. *Includes reading group guide*

sparknotes the house of mirth: We Were One Patrick K. O'Donnell, 2007-10-30 A riveting first-hand account of the fierce battle for Fallujah during the Iraq War and the Marines who fought there--a story of brotherhood and sacrifice in a platoon of heroes Five months after being deployed to Iraq, Lima Company's 1st Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, found itself in Fallujah, embroiled in some of the most intense house-to-house, hand-to-hand urban combat since World War II. In the city's bloody streets, they came face-to-face with the enemy--radical insurgents high on adrenaline, fighting to a martyr's death, and suicide bombers approaching from every corner. Award-winning author and historian Patrick O'Donnell stood shoulder to shoulder with this modern band of brothers as they marched and fought through the streets of Fallujah, and he stayed with them as the casualties mounted.

sparknotes the house of mirth: April Morning Howard Fast, 2011-12-13 Howard Fast's bestselling coming-of-age novel about one boy's introduction to the horrors of war amid the brutal first battle of the American Revolution On April 19, 1775, musket shots ring out over Lexington, Massachusetts. As the sun rises over the battlefield, fifteen-year-old Adam Cooper stands among the outmatched patriots, facing a line of British troops. Determined to defend his home and prove his worth to his disapproving father, Cooper is about to embark on the most significant day of his life. The Battle of Lexington and Concord will be the starting point of the American Revolution--and when Cooper becomes a man. Sweeping in scope and masterful in execution, April Morning is a classic of American literature and an unforgettable story of one community's fateful struggle for freedom. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Howard Fast including rare photos from the author's estate.

sparknotes the house of mirth: The Reef Edith Wharton, 1913

sparknotes the house of mirth: All But My Life Gerda Weissmann Klein, 1995-03-31 All But My Life is the unforgettable story of Gerda Weissmann Klein's six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty. From her comfortable home in Bielitz (present-day Bielsko) in Poland to her miraculous survival and her liberation by American troops--including the man who was to become her

husband--in Volary, Czechoslovakia, in 1945, Gerda takes the reader on a terrifying journey. Gerda's serene and idyllic childhood is shattered when Nazis march into Poland on September 3, 1939. Although the Weissmanns were permitted to live for a while in the basement of their home, they were eventually separated and sent to German labor camps. Over the next few years Gerda experienced the slow, inexorable stripping away of all but her life. By the end of the war she had lost her parents, brother, home, possessions, and community; even the dear friends she made in the labor camps, with whom she had shared so many hardships, were dead. Despite her horrifying experiences, Klein conveys great strength of spirit and faith in humanity. In the darkness of the camps, Gerda and her young friends manage to create a community of friendship and love. Although stripped of the essence of life, they were able to survive the barbarity of their captors. Gerda's beautifully written story gives an invaluable message to everyone. It introduces them to last century's terrible history of devastation and prejudice, yet offers them hope that the effects of hatred can be overcome.

sparknotes the house of mirth: *The Romance of a Shop* Amy Levy, 2021-08-03 *The Romance of a Shop* (1888) is a novel by Amy Levy. Published the year before her tragic death, *The Romance of a Shop* is the debut novel of a pioneering writer and feminist whose poetry and prose explores the concept of the New Woman while illuminating the realities of Jewish life in nineteenth century London. "The air of desolation which hung about the house had communicated itself in some vague manner to the garden, where the trees were bright with blossom, or misty with the tender green of the young leaves. Perhaps the effect of sadness was produced, or at least heightened, by the pathetic figure that paced slowly up and down the gravel path immediately before the house; the figure of a young woman, slight, not tall, bare-headed, and clothed in deep mourning." Following the unexpected death of their father, sisters Fanny, Gertrude, Lucy, and Phyllis are left with little inheritance and even less hope for the future. On the brink of despair, they join together to launch a photography business, each contributing to the best of their abilities in order to survive. As Lucy begins an apprenticeship with a local photographer, her sisters purchase and prepare their own studio for her return. Despite their efforts, they struggle to convince customers that a shop owned by women can demand the same prices as those run by men. Through perseverance and luck, however, the Lorimers find success as funeral photographers and through their connection to a prominent artist. As romance, illness, and war interrupt their plans, the sisters find solace in their mutual resolve to not only survive, but provide and care for one another. With a beautifully designed cover and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition Amy Levy's *The Romance of a Shop* is a classic work of British literature reimaged for modern readers.

sparknotes the house of mirth: *The Last Asset* Edith Wharton, 2020-12-08 *The Last Asset* by Edith Wharton. Published by Good Press. Good Press publishes a wide range of titles that encompasses every genre. From well-known classics & literary fiction and non-fiction to forgotten—or yet undiscovered gems—of world literature, we issue the books that need to be read. Each Good Press edition has been meticulously edited and formatted to boost readability for all e-readers and devices. Our goal is to produce eBooks that are user-friendly and accessible to everyone in a high-quality digital format.

sparknotes the house of mirth: *Rules of Civility* Amor Towles, 2012-06-26 From the #1 New York Times-bestselling author of *The Lincoln Highway* and *A Gentleman in Moscow*, a "sharply stylish" (Boston Globe) book about a young woman in post-Depression era New York who suddenly finds herself thrust into high society—now with over one million readers worldwide On the last night of 1937, twenty-five-year-old Katey Kontent is in a second-rate Greenwich Village jazz bar when Tinker Grey, a handsome banker, happens to sit down at the neighboring table. This chance encounter and its startling consequences propel Katey on a year-long journey into the upper echelons of New York society—where she will have little to rely upon other than a bracing wit and her own brand of cool nerve. With its sparkling depiction of New York's social strata, its intricate imagery and themes, and its immensely appealing characters, *Rules of Civility* won the hearts of readers and critics alike.

sparknotes the house of mirth: VILE BODIES Evelyn Waugh, 2023-06-01 Vile Bodies is a 1930 novel satirising the bright young things: decadent young London society after World War I. The title appears in a comment made by the novel's narrator in reference to the characters' party-driven lifestyle: "All that succession and repetition of massed humanity... Those vile bodies..."

sparknotes the house of mirth: My Year of Rest and Relaxation Ottessa Moshfegh, 2019-06-25 Named a Best Book of the Year by The Washington Post, Time, NPR, Amazon, Vice, Bustle, The New York Times, The Guardian, Kirkus Reviews, Entertainment Weekly, The AV Club, & Audible A New York Times Bestseller "One of the most compelling protagonists modern fiction has offered in years: a loopy, quietly furious pillhead whose Ambien ramblings and Xanax b*tcheries somehow wend their way through sad and funny and strange toward something genuinely profound." — Entertainment Weekly "Darkly hilarious . . . [Moshfegh's] the kind of provocateur who makes you laugh out loud while drawing blood." —Vogue From one of our boldest, most celebrated new literary voices, a novel about a young woman's efforts to duck the ills of the world by embarking on an extended hibernation with the help of one of the worst psychiatrists in the annals of literature and the battery of medicines she prescribes. Our narrator should be happy, shouldn't she? She's young, thin, pretty, a recent Columbia graduate, works an easy job at a hip art gallery, lives in an apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan paid for, like the rest of her needs, by her inheritance. But there is a dark and vacuous hole in her heart, and it isn't just the loss of her parents, or the way her Wall Street boyfriend treats her, or her sadomasochistic relationship with her best friend, Reva. It's the year 2000 in a city aglitter with wealth and possibility; what could be so terribly wrong? My Year of Rest and Relaxation is a powerful answer to that question. Through the story of a year spent under the influence of a truly mad combination of drugs designed to heal our heroine from her alienation from this world, Moshfegh shows us how reasonable, even necessary, alienation can be. Both tender and blackly funny, merciless and compassionate, it is a showcase for the gifts of one of our major writers working at the height of her powers.

sparknotes the house of mirth: The Book of Night Women Marlon James, 2009-02-19 From the author of the National Book Award finalist Black Leopard, Red Wolf and the WINNER of the 2015 Man Booker Prize for A Brief History of Seven Killings An undeniable success." — The New York Times Book Review A true triumph of voice and storytelling, The Book of Night Women rings with both profound authenticity and a distinctly contemporary energy. It is the story of Lilith, born into slavery on a Jamaican sugar plantation at the end of the eighteenth century. Even at her birth, the slave women around her recognize a dark power that they- and she-will come to both revere and fear. The Night Women, as they call themselves, have long been plotting a slave revolt, and as Lilith comes of age they see her as the key to their plans. But when she begins to understand her own feelings, desires, and identity, Lilith starts to push at the edges of what is imaginable for the life of a slave woman, and risks becoming the conspiracy's weak link. But the real revelation of the book-the secret to the stirring imagery and insistent prose-is Marlon James himself, a young writer at once breathtakingly daring and wholly in command of his craft.

sparknotes the house of mirth: Afterward Edith Wharton, 2016-09-19 A newly rich American couple buy an ancient manor house in England, where they hope to live out their days in solitude. One day, when the couple are gazing out at their grounds, they spy a mysterious stranger. When her husband disappears shortly after this eerie encounter, the wife learns the truth about the legend that haunts the ancient estate.

sparknotes the house of mirth: Snow-bound John Greenleaf Whittier, 1893

sparknotes the house of mirth: Ennui Maria Edgeworth, 2022-04-18 Lord Glenthorn is bored and lacking oomph. But before you feel sorry for him, it is worth knowing that he has a pile of money, a grand title, estates in England and Ireland and no stress. That is until he finds out he is not Lord Glenthorn, the Anglo-Irish earl. He is in fact the peasant Christy O'Donoghoe, which is a fly in the ointment for his efforts to provide for the woman he loves. At the same time, he gets caught up in the violent Irish Rebellion of 1798. Can he shake off the ennui, become a self-made man and win the hand of his love? Those who enjoy Jane Austen's novels, including 'Persuasion', 'Sense and

Sensibility', and 'Pride and Prejudice', will love 'Ennui'. Like Austen, Maria Edgeworth has a gift for gently exposing the hypocrisy and accidental comedy of Britain's 19th century upper-middle class. First published in 1809, 'Ennui' is a didactic novel, which means it aims to teach the reader a moral lesson - like 'Aesop's Fables'. The Irish writer Maria Edgeworth (1768-1849) was highly regarded in her day as a pioneer of early 19th century fiction and children's literature. A friend of the novelist Sir Walter Scott ('Ivanhoe', 'Rob Roy'), she was active and vocal about political and estate reform. Today, she is rather underappreciated - and overshadowed - by other 19th century satirical novelists like Jane Austen and Anthony Trollope. A prolific writer, Edgeworth's best-known works include 'Ennui', 'The Dun' and 'Belinda', which was controversial in its day for featuring inter-racial marriage.

sparknotes the house of mirth: *Walking Across Egypt* Clyde Edgerton, 1987-01-03 An unpretentious, finely-crafted novel that will linger with the readers like the last strains of a favorite hymn. It is more enjoyable than a pitcher full of sweet tea and one of Mattie's home-cooked dinners.--The Atlanta Journal & Constitution She had as much business keeping a stray dog as she had walking across Egypt--which not so incidentally is the title of her favorite hymn. She's Mattie Rigsbee, an independent, strong-minded senior citizen, who at 78, might be slowing down just a bit. When young, delinquent Wesley Benfield drops in on her life, he is even less likely a companion than the stray dog. But, of course, the dog never tasted her mouth-watering pound cake....Wise witty, down-home and real, *Walking Across Egypt* is a book for everyone.

sparknotes the house of mirth: *The Book of Unknown Americans* Cristina Henríquez, 2014-06-03 A stunning novel of hopes and dreams, guilt and love—a book that offers a resonant new definition of what it means to be American and illuminates the lives behind the current debates about Latino immigration (The New York Times Book Review). When fifteen-year-old Maribel Rivera sustains a terrible injury, the Riveras leave behind a comfortable life in Mexico and risk everything to come to the United States so that Maribel can have the care she needs. Once they arrive, it's not long before Maribel attracts the attention of Mayor Toro, the son of one of their new neighbors, who sees a kindred spirit in this beautiful, damaged outsider. Their love story sets in motion events that will have profound repercussions for everyone involved. Here Henríquez seamlessly interweaves the story of these star-crossed lovers, and of the Rivera and Toro families, with the testimonials of men and women who have come to the United States from all over Latin America.

sparknotes the house of mirth: *The Darkest Part of the Forest* Holly Black, 2015-01-13 A girl makes a secret sacrifice to the faerie king in this lush New York Times bestselling fantasy by author Holly Black. Set in the same world as *The Cruel Prince*! In the woods is a glass coffin. It rests on the ground, and in it sleeps a boy with horns on his head and ears as pointed as knives.... Hazel and her brother, Ben, live in Fairfold, where humans and the Folk exist side by side. Since they were children, Hazel and Ben have been telling each other stories about the boy in the glass coffin, that he is a prince and they are valiant knights, pretending their prince would be different from the other faeries, the ones who made cruel bargains, lurked in the shadows of trees, and doomed tourists. But as Hazel grows up, she puts aside those stories. Hazel knows the horned boy will never wake. Until one day, he does.... As the world turns upside down, Hazel has to become the knight she once pretended to be. *The Darkest Part of the Forest* is bestselling author Holly Black's triumphant return to the opulent, enchanting faerie tales that launched her YA career.

sparknotes the house of mirth: *Yankee Girl* Mary Ann Rodman, 2014-10-01 It's 1964 and Alice has moved to Mississippi from Chicago with her family. Nicknamed 'Yankee Girl' and taunted by the in-crowd at school, Alice soon discovers the other new girl Valerie - one of the school's first black students - has it much worse. Alice can't stand the way Valerie is treated, and yet she knows she will remain an outsider if she speaks up. It takes a horrible tragedy to finally give Alice the courage to stand up for what she believes. Set in the Deep South in the 1960s, *Yankee Girl* is a powerful, resonant and relevant story about racism and doing the right thing.

sparknotes the house of mirth: *White Ivy* Susie Yang, 2020-11-03 "A truly addictive read" (Glamour) about how a young woman's crush on a privileged former classmate becomes a story of

love, lies, and dark obsession, offering stark insights into the immigrant experience, as it hurtles to its electrifying ending in this “twisty, unputdownable, psychological thriller” (People). Ivy Lin is a thief and a liar—but you’d never know it by looking at her. Raised outside of Boston, Ivy’s immigrant grandmother relies on Ivy’s mild appearance for cover as she teaches her granddaughter how to pilfer items from yard sales and second-hand shops. Thieving allows Ivy to accumulate the trappings of a suburban teen—and, most importantly, to attract the attention of Gideon Speyer, the golden boy of a wealthy political family. But when Ivy’s mother discovers her trespasses, punishment is swift and Ivy is sent to China, and her dream instantly evaporates. Years later, Ivy has grown into a poised yet restless young woman, haunted by her conflicting feelings about her upbringing and her family. Back in Boston, when Ivy bumps into Sylvia Speyer, Gideon’s sister, a reconnection with Gideon seems not only inevitable—it feels like fate. Slowly, Ivy sinks her claws into Gideon and the entire Speyer clan by attending fancy dinners, and weekend getaways to the cape. But just as Ivy is about to have everything she’s ever wanted, a ghost from her past resurfaces, threatening the nearly perfect life she’s worked so hard to build. Filled with surprising twists and a nuanced exploration of class and race, *White Ivy* is a “highly entertaining,” (The Washington Post) “propulsive debut” (San Francisco Chronicle) that offers a glimpse into the dark side of a woman who yearns for success at any cost.

sparknotes the house of mirth: Dreamers of the Day Mary Doria Russell, 2008-03-11 A schoolteacher still reeling from the tragedies of the Great War and the influenza epidemic travels to the Middle East in this memorable and passionate novel “Marvelous . . . a stirring story of personal awakening set against the background of a crucial moment in modern history.”—The Washington Post Agnes Shanklin, a forty-year-old schoolteacher from Ohio, has come into a modest inheritance that allows her to take the trip of a lifetime to Egypt and the Holy Land. Arriving at the Semiramis Hotel just as the 1921 Cairo Peace Conference convenes, she is freed for the first time from her mother’s withering influence and finds herself being wooed by a handsome, mysterious German. At the same time, Agnes—with her plainspoken American opinions—is drawn into the company of Winston Churchill, T. E. Lawrence, and Lady Gertrude Bell, who will, in the space of a few days, redraw the world map to create the modern Middle East. As they change history, Agnes too will find her own life transformed forever. With prose as graceful and effortless as a seductive float down the Nile, Mary Doria Russell illuminates the long, rich history of the Middle East with a story that brilliantly elucidates today’s headlines.

sparknotes the house of mirth: The Serpent King Jeff Zentner, 2017-06-06 Named to ten BEST OF THE YEAR lists and selected as a William C. Morris Award Winner, *The Serpent King* is the critically acclaimed, much-beloved story of three teens who find themselves—and each other—while on the cusp of graduating from high school with hopes of leaving their small-town behind. Perfect for fans of John Green’s *Turtles All the Way Down*. Move over, John Green; Zentner is coming for you. —The New York Public Library “Will fill the infinite space that was left in your chest after you finished *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.” —BookRiot.com Dill isn’t the most popular kid at his rural Tennessee high school. After his father fell from grace in a public scandal that reverberated throughout their small town, Dill became a target. Fortunately, his two fellow misfits and best friends, Travis and Lydia, have his back. But as they begin their senior year, Dill feels the coils of his future tightening around him. His only escapes are music and his secret feelings for Lydia—neither of which he is brave enough to share. Graduation feels more like an ending to Dill than a beginning. But even before then, he must cope with another ending—one that will rock his life to the core. Debut novelist Jeff Zentner provides an unblinking and at times comic view of the hard realities of growing up in the Bible belt, and an intimate look at the struggles to find one’s true self in the wreckage of the past. “A story about friendship, family and forgiveness, it’s as funny and witty as it is utterly heartbreaking.” —PasteMagazine.com “A brutally honest portrayal of teen life . . . [and] a love letter to the South from a man who really understands it.” —Mashable.com “I adored all three of these characters and the way they talked to and loved one another.”—New York Times

sparknotes the house of mirth: Rise of the Wolf (Mark of the Thief, Book 2) Jennifer A.

Nielsen, 2016-01-26 NYT and USA Today bestselling author Jennifer A. Nielsen brings a new dose of adventure and thrills to ancient Rome in the second book of her magical Mark of the Thief trilogy! Nic may have escaped enslavement in the mines outside of Rome, but his troubles are far from over. The Praetor War -- the battle to destroy Rome from within -- is in full force, and Nic is caught in the crossfire. The secretive Praetors are determined to unlock a powerful amulet -- one sure to bring the empire to its knees. Worse, the Praetors believe Nic holds the key to finding this amulet, and they will stop at nothing to steal it, even if that means harming the people Nic holds most dear. When the Praetors capture Nic's mother, Nic knows he must do anything to save her. He challenges the Praetors to a chariot race. If he wins, they will release his mother. But if he loses, he must hand over a magic that will certainly bring about the end of Rome as well as his own life. Can Nic once again harness his magic and gather the strength to defeat his enemies? Or will he lose his mother and bear witness to Rome's destruction?

sparknotes the house of mirth: The Interestings Meg Wolitzer, 2013-08-08 Discover the generation-defining American novel from the author of *The Wife* Whatever became of the most talented people you once knew? On a warm summer night in 1974, six teenagers play at being cool. They smoke pot, drink vodka, share their dreams and vow always to be interesting. Decades later, aspiring actress Jules has resigned herself to a more practical occupation; Cathy has stopped dancing; Jonah has laid down his guitar and Goodman has disappeared. Only Ethan and Ash, now married, have remained true to their adolescent dreams and have become shockingly successful too. As the group's fortunes tilt precipitously, their friendships are put under the ultimate strain. 'A truly great novel about friendship, and how it deepens and changes over the years' David Sedaris, author of *Me Talk Pretty One Day*

sparknotes the house of mirth: And I Darken Kiersten White, 2016-06-28 The New York Times Bestseller! "Absolutely riveting." —Alexandra Bracken, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Darkest Minds* This vividly rendered novel reads like HBO's *Game of Thrones* . . . if it were set in the Ottoman Empire. Ambitious in scope and intimate in execution, the story's atmospheric setting is rife with political intrigue, with a deftly plotted narrative driven by fiercely passionate characters and a fearsome heroine. Fans of Victoria Aveyard's *THE RED QUEEN* and Sabaa Tahir's *AN EMBER IN THE ASHES* won't want to miss this visceral, immersive, and mesmerizing novel, the first in the *And I Darken* series. *NO ONE EXPECTS A PRINCESS TO BE BRUTAL*. And Lada Dragwlya likes it that way. Ever since she and her gentle younger brother, Radu, were wrenched from their homeland of Wallachia and abandoned by their father to be raised in the Ottoman courts, Lada has known that being ruthless is the key to survival. She and Radu are doomed to act as pawns in a vicious game, an unseen sword hovering over their every move. For the lineage that makes them special also makes them targets. Lada despises the Ottomans and bides her time, planning her vengeance for the day when she can return to Wallachia and claim her birthright. Radu longs only for a place where he feels safe. And when they meet Mehmed, the defiant and lonely son of the sultan, who's expected to rule a nation, Radu feels that he's made a true friend—and Lada wonders if she's finally found someone worthy of her passion. But Mehmed is heir to the very empire that Lada has sworn to fight against—and that Radu now considers home. Together, Lada, Radu, and Mehmed form a toxic triangle that strains the bonds of love and loyalty to the breaking point. From #1 New York Times bestselling author Kiersten White comes the first book in a dark, sweeping new series in which heads will roll, bodies will be impaled . . . and hearts will be broken. "A dark and twisty fantasy . . . think *Game of Thrones*, but with teens."—*Seventeen* "Sinister, suspenseful, and unapologetically feminist."—*Buzzfeed* "Will completely spin you into another time and place."—*Bustle* "Takes no prisoners, offering up brutal, emotional historical fiction."—NPR.org An ALA Rainbow List Top Ten Selection

sparknotes the house of mirth: The Blue Castle L.M. Montgomery, 2022-07-14 29 and unmarried, gasp! - can you think of anything worse? In 1920s rural Canada, Valancy Stirling is considered past it and with a controlling, nagging mother and petty gossips for relatives she feels trapped in the life she has ended up in and when she is diagnosed with a terminal heart condition

and given a year to live, it seems she will die without ever experiencing happiness. And so, she rebels. She leaves her family home slamming the door as she does and moves in with her old friend Cissy and starts working as a housekeeper. The independence is intoxicating - as is a growing friendship with local man, Barney Snaith. It looks as though Valancy will have love to warm her heart in her final months. But secrets on both sides threaten to ruin things. The intoxicating story of love and loss is perfect for fans of Elizabeth Gaskell and Jodie Picoult. Lucy Maud (L.M.)

Montgomery was a Canadian author best known for a series of children's books beginning with 'Anne of Green Gables'. The books were a huge hit in her lifetime and were recently made in the Netflix series 'Anne with an E'. Montgomery published 20 novels, 530 short stories, 500 poems and 30 essays in her lifetime. Most were set in Canada's smallest province, Prince Edward Island.

sparknotes the house of mirth: I Survived the Battle of D-Day, 1944 (I Survived #18) Lauren Tarshis, 2019-01-29 It was a battle that would change the course of World War II... New York Times bestselling author Lauren Tarshis commemorates the Normandy landings in this pulse-pounding story of the largest seaborne invasion in history. Eleven-year-old Paul's French village has been under Nazi control for years. His Jewish best friend has disappeared. Food is scarce. And there doesn't seem to be anything Paul can do to make things better. Then Paul finds an American paratrooper in a tree near his home. The soldier says the Allies have a plan to crush the Nazis once and for all. But the soldier needs Paul's help. This is Paul's chance to make a difference. Soon he finds himself in the midst of the largest invasion in history. Can he do his part to turn horror into hope? New York Times bestselling author Lauren Tarshis tells the story of the battle that became the foundation for the Allied victory in World War II. Includes a section of nonfiction backmatter with more facts about the real-life event.

sparknotes the house of mirth: The Taming of the Shrew SparkNotes, William Shakespeare, 2004 The complete text with explanations and an easy translation to help you understand the play.

sparknotes the house of mirth: In Morocco Edith Wharton, 2015-12-21 In 1921, Edith Wharton became the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize, earning the award for *The Age of Innocence*. But Wharton also wrote several other novels, as well as poems and short stories that made her not only famous but popular among her contemporaries. That included her good friend Henry James, and she counted among her acquaintances Teddy Roosevelt and Sinclair Lewis.

sparknotes the house of mirth: Sisters of the Resistance Christine Wells, 2021-06-08 One of PopSugar's Best Books of June! Two sisters join the Paris Resistance in this page-turning new novel inspired by the real-life bravery of Catherine Dior, sister of the fashion designer and a heroine of World War II France—perfect for fans of Kate Quinn and Jennifer Chiaverini. As dazzling as a Dior gown! With a gorgeous blend of fashion, heartbreak, heroism, and love this book will transport you to France..." —Natasha Lester, New York Times bestselling author of *The Paris Secret* Paris, 1944: The war is nearly over, but for members of the Resistance in occupied France, it is more dangerous than ever before. Twenty-five-year-old Gabby Foucher loathes the Nazis, though as the concierge of 10 rue Royale, she does her best to avoid conflict—unlike her bolder sister Yvette, who finds trouble at every turn. Then they are both recruited into the Resistance by Catherine Dior and swept into a treacherous world of spies, fugitives, and intrigue. While Gabby risks everything for the man she is hiding from the Nazis, Yvette must decide whether to trust an enigmatic diplomat who seems to have guessed her secret. As the threat of betrayal draws ever-closer, one slip could mean the deaths of many, and both sisters must make choices they might regret. Paris, 1947: Yvette returns from New York to reunite with Gabby and begin life anew as a mannequin for Dior, who is revolutionizing fashion with the New Look. But first she must discover the truth behind Catherine's terrible fate, while Gabby finds that there are many kinds of courage, and that love is always worth fighting for.

sparknotes the house of mirth: Mrs. Manstey's View Edith Wharton, 2013-01-25 In the very next enclosure did not a magnolia open its hard white flowers against the watery blue of April? And was there not, a little way down the line, a fence foamed over every May be lilac waves of wistaria? Farther still, a horse-chestnut lifted its candelabra of buff and pink blossoms above broad fans of foliage; while in the opposite yard June was sweet with the breath of a neglected syringa, which

persisted in growing in spite of the countless obstacles opposed to its welfare.

sparknotes the house of mirth: *Blood Secret* Kathryn Lasky, 2009-08-11 The minute she had opened the trunk, she knew there wasn't anything like hope in it. Just awful musty things, but each one with a kind of terrible dark halo around it. She picked up that piece of old lace. She saw that stain -- pale, brownish in color. She knew it was blood. Somebody's blood. There was violence in that trunk, and dark secrets, and she did not want to know them. Curious about the old homestead where she now lives, Jerry finds an ancient trunk in the basement that contains, among other things, an old piece of bloodstained lace, some letters, and a battered doll. The objects in the trunk have stories to tell -- stories about the Spanish Inquisition spanning nearly five hundred years and stories of secrets locked deep in the bloodlines of Jerry's ancestors. Kathryn Lasky's powerhouse novel is a dramatic historical saga that brings the reader face-to-face with some of the worst atrocities ever committed against humankind in the name of God. But above all, it is an unforgettable coming-of-age story about a girl who, in connecting with her own past and faith, is at last able to face her own demons and liberate not only herself but also future generations of her family from the long chain of suffering and silence.

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