

# Edith Wharton's "The House of Mirth"

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## **Edith Wharton's The House of Mirth: A Casebook**

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

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