

# The Reef



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著者:Wharton, Edith

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(Book Jacket Status: Jacketed) Edith Wharton was at the height of her enormous literary powers when she published *The Reef* in 1912, and everything about this novel suggests a mastery so complete that it can achieve nothing higher. The plot, which tells of the drastic effects of a casual sexual betrayal on the lives of four Americans in France, is expertly turned, suspenseful, continually compelling. An assured, unhurried dramatic instinct governs the great moments of confrontation and revelation. The central characters, two of whom are innocents and two of whom are burdened by experience and tinged with desperation, are perfectly delineated: their relationships to one another are constructed with a classical feeling for harmony, proportion, and balance. And the entire novel is imbued with a clear-eyed wisdom about both the possibilities and the limitations of human love. Wharton would go on to write splendid books after completing *The Reef*, but nowhere does she display a finer command of her art than she does here.

作者介绍:

目录:

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