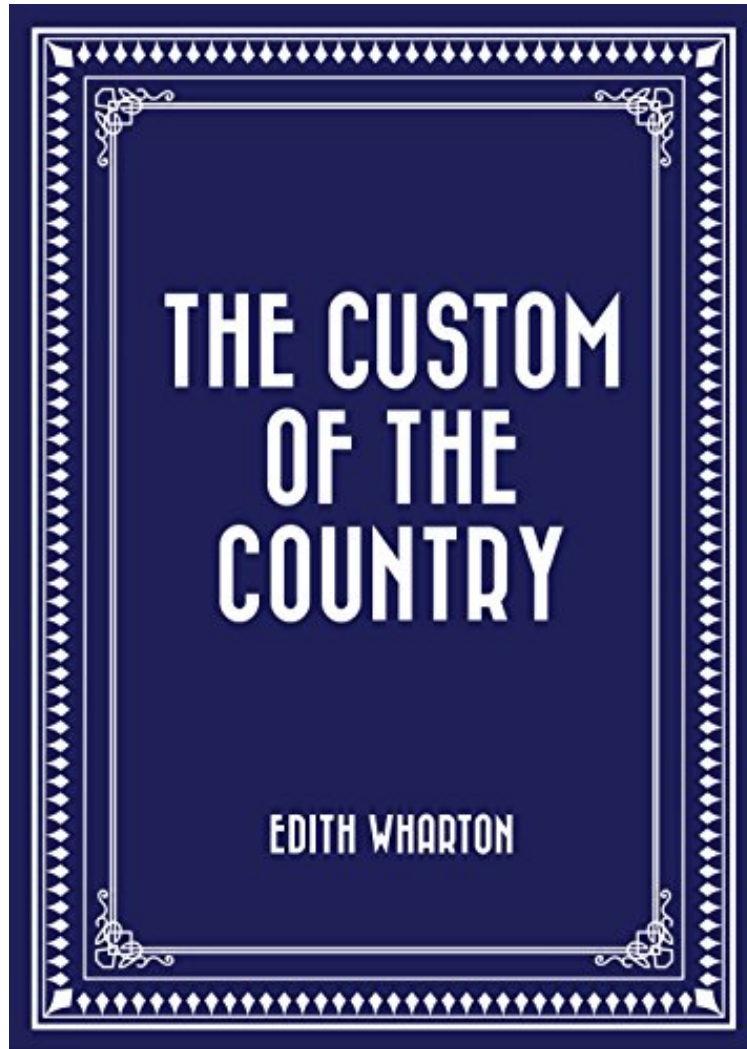


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The Custom of the Country (English Edition)

Von Edith Wharton

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

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Wharton's BestVon Susan S. PlattWhat a marvelous author Edith Wharton is! I like to copy passages from her books just to feel how beautifully she constructs her sentences and paragraphs. I've also read Ethan Frome, Summer, House of Mirth, and Age of Innocence; they are all terrific novels. But The Custom of the Country is her best. Could there be a worse mother, wife, or daughter than Undine? And yet, she is too pathetic to hate; she is so needy and dependent upon material things. She's perhaps the most unliberated woman in literature! Do read this novel; you will love it and learn from it.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent Wharton.Von Ein Kunde'The Custom

of the Country' is really the only Edith Wharton novel that could properly be translated into film. Whereas her other novels tend to rely on interior machinations and subtle nuances that are hard to convey on the screen, this story is a plain tale of a woman who wants more - and always more. This kind of story is not hard to convey through action, and hence its suitability for a movie. However, despite this "action" orientation, I will qualify my claims by saying that there are some aspects of the novel that do not make it an easy matter to bring this Pulitzer prize winning author's work to the big screen. Edith Wharton develops her characters, as usual, to a fine point, making them far more than two dimensional. Throughout the novel, the heroine or rather the protagonist, is maintained as a greedy adventuress, but yet, at moments, she also manages to evoke our sympathy. Bestowing a primary character with such an ambiguous appeal is a hard job, but Ms. Wharton carried it off with her usual aplomb. This novel is an excellent read, and if you are looking for a less depressing work of Wharton's (comparitively speaking that is), this is probably the way to go. I would not go quite as far as the reviewer before me in saying that the end result for the heroine is contentment, but I would agree that she leaves behind a tale of destruction and misery unbeknownst to her - a kind of pathetic ignorance that helps Wharton in the difficult job of maintaining mixed feelings for her heroine.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Heroine is a True AmericanVon ScooperTo anyone who has read The Custom of the Country, the idea that Undine Spragg is the perfect personification of America would be something to think about. To those who haven't read it, my humble advice is that they read it and form an opinion on that subject. For now, I'll explain my reasoning: Undine is decidedly ambitious, and the levels of her ambition are often praised and lamented by other characters. She is a social climber, and she uses other people as the rungs in her ladder. So do many business moguls, however. So do normal people. We simply refer to it as 'doing what has to be done,' or 'having a way with people,' or even 'brown nosing.' Monopolies are built with these adverbs as their hammer and nails. Our way of life is founded on them. Yet we relish our dislike for Undine Spragg for attempting to build her life in this way, the only way she was taught. We do not notice that the essence of Undine is floating all around us. It built the house we live in and produced the computer we are using right now. It is the essence of Cold Ambition. It builds itself up with or without help, reaches its peak, sees a better peak, and climbs even higher. Success is never achieved, because to profess success is to say that we can do no better now. We are raised to believe that that idea is profane. We can always do better and go higher. Just read the last line of The Custom of the Country. It's a killer. I think Undine was dangerous, personally. If I knew her, I would stay away from her as well as I could. But just look at the thoughts that this book brings out. Read it and join in the fun.

KurzbeschreibungIn 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. Pressestimmen"Edith Wharton's finest achievement."--Elizabeth HardwickPressestimmen"Edith Wharton's finest achievement."--Elizabeth Hardwick