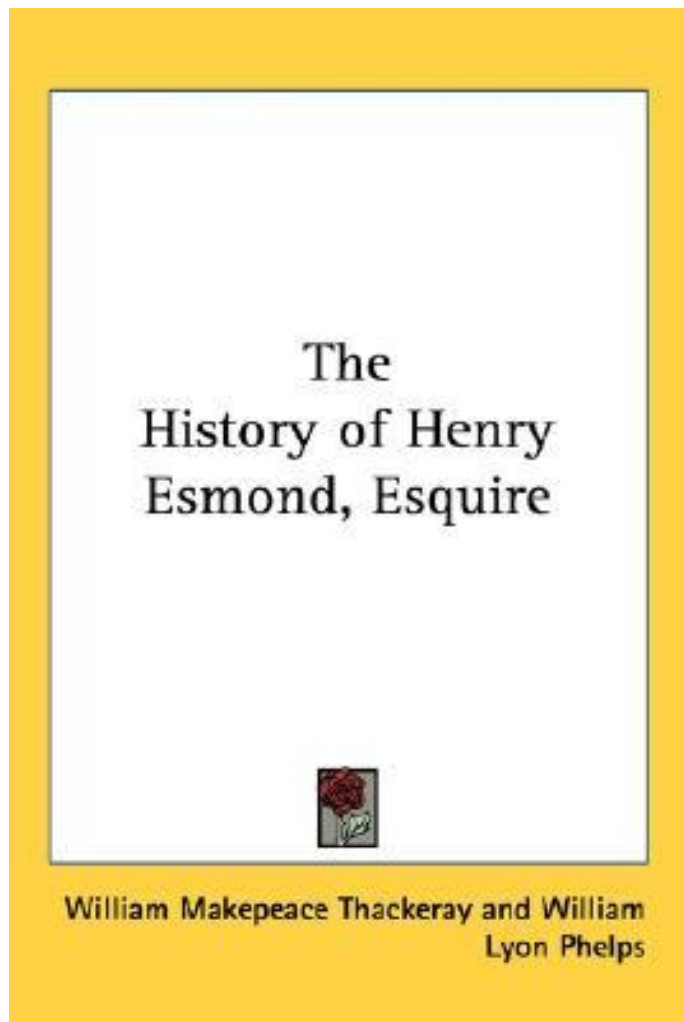

William Makepeace Thackeray

The History of Henry Esmond, Esquire



Title: The History of Henry Esmond, Esquire

Author: William Makepeace Thackeray

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Description

1906. *Vanity Fair* is Thackeray's masterpiece, but he also showed great skill in writing historical fiction with fine attention to period manners and customs and a dispassionate sympathy for his character's actions. Considered by some to be one of the finest novels in the English language, *The History of Henry Esmond*, opens with Lady Castlewood stumbling upon Henry, the illegitimate cousin her husband has inherited along with his estate. They welcome Henry as part of their family, but as time goes on he begins to believe that this blessing may be more complex than appears at first glance. See other titles by this author available from Kessinger Publishing.

Insightful reviews

Peter: Many Victorians considered this to be Thackeray's masterpiece, but it's very hard to understand why. There are a couple of memorable characters, but its insights now seem very humdrum.

Sherwood Smith: my modern sense can't help but be squicked by the hero marrying his mother figure, no matter how much Victorian purity and submissiveness she'd attained, but if one sets that aside, it's interesting—especially when Esmond is away from the women. I always find historical novels written by people who are historical from my vantage quite fascinating; Thackeray gets deeply into custom of the late 1600s and early 1700s, making careless reference to habits that are remote to our time, unless one has read a great deal, and his predictions of who would remain in collective memory are quite interesting as well, underscoring his Victorian views. (The 'good' women are firmly Victorian, the bad very much like women of the time, which is perpetrated by modern writers often enough.) In short, the use of history is more interesting than the story, which does get tedious.

DoctorM: Oddly, it was Richard Brookhiser who recommended this. I heard him one long-ago Sunday on BookNotes--- an interview where he recommended "Henry Esmond" as a great political novel. I'll agree with that--- this is a wonderful story about the end of a political age. We watch Henry try to negotiate the change between Stuart England--- the age of William and Mary and Queen Anne ---and the new world of the Hanoverians, between a world of patrimony and blood loyalties and one where money alone has begun to define politics. A lovely book about a young man dealing with ambition, love, war, and the upending of his world.

John Wilson: A ebook of its time that offers a lot perception into customs and values of that time, *The historical past of Henry Esmond* is a hearth leisure approximately unrequited love and the extremes it provokes. i discovered the depiction of protagonist Henry a piece puzzling. was once he in reality as unrelentingly virtuous as portrayed? Even a few of his actions, with out the reasons and problematic causes of his worth systems, appear to belie that portrayal. However, the most aspect is the leisure value, with a few British heritage as a bonus.

Brandon Kendall: what i locate amazing approximately this writer is that he lived within the nineteenth century yet wrote utilizing seventeenth century prose and stories.. He does a good task of creating it feel like a seventeenth century story. Very effective awareness to aspect this

tale follows the existence and struggles of Henry Esmond a mismatch of heritage, lineage and relatives fortune lands Henry in a lesser function within the social caste yet he accepts it humbly and nonetheless rises to glory and greatness via his personal merits.

Donna Jo Atwood: instructed as a memior of Henry, the bastard son of the 3rd Viscount Castlewood. he's mentioned by way of the relatives (mostly through the Fourth Viscount), lives with them, etc. The kin were King's males because the time of Charles I while the name started, so whilst the fantastic Revolution comes and William and Mary step in and later the Georges start there's a strain. Told in precise Victorian variety prose, the sentences curl round and cord themselves so badly in areas that I needed to reread numerous occasions to ensure I had the tale straight. Also, an information of Latin and French isn't really amiss. The tale usually jumps again in time by surprise and a long time and occasions don't consistently jibe (although given my very own memory, which may be all to actual to life.) nonetheless it really is an attractive book. This isn't the version I read--I used the Literary Guild 1950 variation with 425 pages.

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