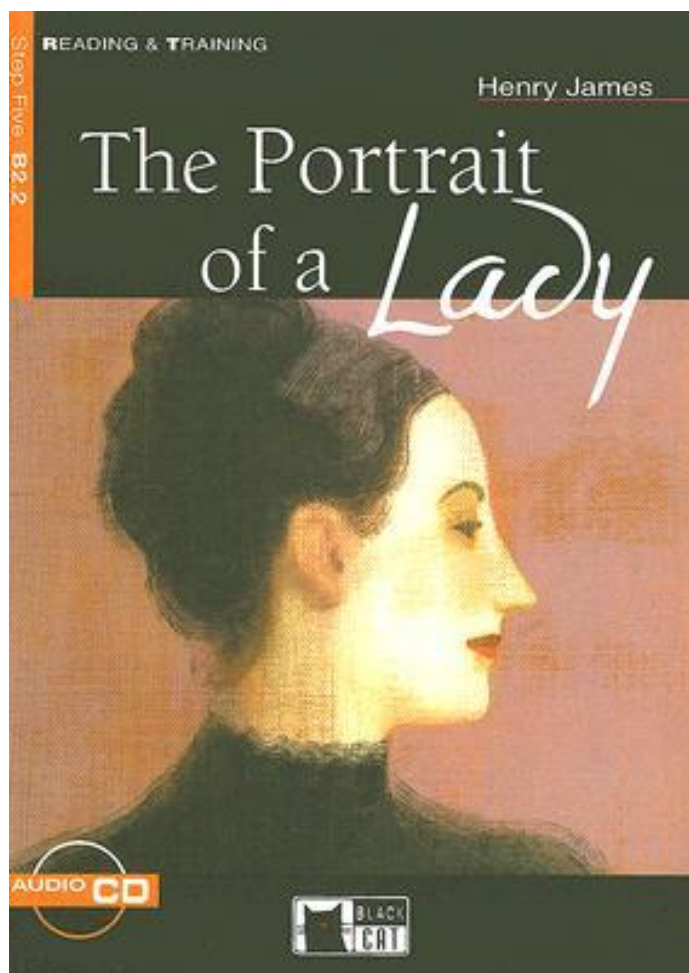

Henry James

The Portrait of a Lady [With CD]



Title: The Portrait of a Lady [With CD]

Author: Henry James

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 160

Publisher: , 0

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Download: allowed

Description

Isabel Archer ?C a young American woman ?C visits her uncle and his family in England. Her uncle dies and leaves her a large fortune. Isabel was always beautiful and charming: now, in addition, she is rich. The question is, whom will she marry? The English nobleman Lord Warburton? Her American suitor Casper Goodwood? Or the refined and sophisticated Gilbert Osmond, an American art collector living in Italy? Informational Sections: ??Americans in Italy in the Nineteenth Century

Insightful reviews

K.D. Absolutely: *SPOILER ALERT* (Read at your own risk)

My first time to read a book by Henry James.

Reading *The Portrait of a Lady*, said to be his finest novel, is like getting your workout at a gym.

After a day's work you are tired. You are already zapped of energy. You feel like going to a bar and have a couple of beer listening to a funky live band or the crooning of a lovely young lady. Or you want to go to a nearby mall and sit in the comfort of a dark movie house. Probably sleep to rest for a couple of hours if the movie turns out to be boring.

But you decide to go as you planned at the start of the day. Your gym bag is in your car. You drag your heavy feet to the parking lot. To the gym. You know you have to do it *your friend has been telling you that Henry James is good* but you imagine the taste of cold beer quenching your thirst or the soft seat inside the theater or the pretty songbird wearing a plunging neckline or showing her slim smooth legs *there are quick reads waiting for you like Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 or that Flowers for Argenon by Daniel Keyes*. But you know your body needs exercise. You are becoming fatter, heavier and your waistline is expanding. You resisted the quick but empty lure of beer or sleep at the movie house. *Your heart is telling you that Henry James is an author to read*. Like a zombie, you continued sleepwalking to the gym.

After changing to your gym attire. You step on the treadmill. The solitude of working out. In the gym, you rarely talk to anyone. *Henry James used a style that was distinctively his: wordy yet illuminating* You are by yourself. *Most of your friends don't care about Henry James*. You begin to walk. Warm up. After a couple of minutes, you increase the speed. Chug. Chug. Chug. It goes on and on. *His storytelling went on and on. His characters came from New York, to England, went to Paris, then to Rome and then went back to England and finally went back to Rome*. After the treadmill, you lift some weights as you also need to tone some muscles. *His characters were varied. There was Isabel Archer fighting for her independence by refusing marriage proposals like there was not tomorrow but in the end she found with the wrong man: conceited, two-timer, treacherous and condescending*. Some muscles are not supposed to be exercised right after a neighboring one. They could be contradicting each other and not only you will not get the maximum benefit from your workout but you are in the danger of having an injury like some pulled muscles. *Isabel's cousin Ralph Touchett is the "conscience" of the novel,*

telling by instinct whether the person-character is good or bad. He is sick but he is the only character that has the purest heart.

You came to the gym gloomy and dragged your feet as you did not have the energy even to go up a couple of stairs. *Some people agonize reading this kind of 19th century Victorian English* But when you came out to go back to your car, you felt energized and refreshed. *You felt triumphant that Isabel Archer was going back to Rome for Pansy not necessarily for Oswald. But she decided whatever her heart was telling her. In the end, it was all that mattered: independence. She followed her heart: a personal triumph.*

In the end, you did not regret going to the gym. *In the end, I am happy I read a Henry James.*

Lara Amber: I made it 40% of the way through this monstrosity before I had to finally throw in the towel. Apparently no one ever told James "show don't tell" judging by the complete lack of action in this book. In fact nothing ever happens. It just drags on and on in an annoying narrative voice that is too fond of metaphor and long descriptive phrases that frequently cloud more than they illuminate. The characters are complete twits, without a single redeeming quality among them. Judging by the way he writes his female characters, Henry James either was never actually exposed to women, or the ones he met were given lobotomies at age 7. There is no sympathy for the main female character or any of her cohorts, not even amusement at their foibles. In fact if you were stranded in a life raft, you'd be chucking them overboard within minutes, the whole useless pile of them. You would see the rescue ship as a dot on the horizon and pray you could drown them in time.

Save yourself the agony and go read something else.

Gwen: I went into this knowing literally NOTHING about the book or James' writing. This was one of those books where I'd fall asleep after twelve pages, drop it off of the bed and forget it existed for weeks at a time. The amount of months invested in this book eventually made it much more emotionally potent for me. I expected it to go in a stereotypical direction and it shocked me. The last few chapters went by in an excited blur and I cried, shocked, on the metro.

Alex: "I'm so bored with outdated books approximately tea," stated my buddy Lauren recently, and that I wish she remains the hell clear of snobby constipated Henry James. The following he's with the least attractive first sentence in literature: "Under sure situations there are few hours in lifestyles extra agreeable than the hour devoted to the rite often called afternoon tea." Many of the opposite sentences also are approximately tea. yet it is not all tea; whereas they drink tea they talk! And talk, and talk. James jogs my memory of your shitty coworker who makes loads of excuses. He spins phrases upon phrases explaining what is going on on, what he is thinking, what his plans are, how his own affairs have affected his performance, and all of it sounds very convincing yet at a definite aspect you are like yet what have you ever done? It's an apt identify simply because it is a portrait. a stunning one, packed with aspect and shading - "recessed and deferred complexities," James Woods calls it - however it does not circulate much. James himself used to be aware, while he wrote its preface, that it "consisted certainly not in any

conceit of a 'plot'." And he makes this strange decision: whilst plot arrives - whilst Isabel chooses a husband, and back whilst she marries him, and at a momentous later selection - he skips ahead. we do not get to be there for the the most important moments of her life. It appears like taking a look at a mountain variety wreathed in clouds; we see them going up, and we see them coming down, yet we by no means get to determine the peaks themselves. This is frustrating, and yet: i believe like this is often a kind of books that might be nearer within the rearview mirror. It has a particular voice and feel. James has perception into how humans work. In Colm Toibin's fictionalized biography *The Master*, he quietly means that James benefited from his closetization: he conscientiously pretended to be another individual all through his life, and he received excellent at pretending to be somebody else. He definitely does get deep into Archer's head, and several other others. now not that he indicates you everything. He indicates you a few issues in nice detail; others remain shrouded. In a fashion it is a mental novel; otherwise it really is extra like a mystery, the place the crime is her life. The event of being mystified through Isabel is frustrating; with time, though, i think the secret of Isabel will stick in my head. So, 4 stars. 3 stars for the event of analyzing it; 5 stars, i am predicting, for having learn it. choked with recessed and deferred complexities it is. it may possibly even be a kind of books that recuperate with re-reading. however the query is, how a lot tea am i able to stomach?

Mike Puma: Exquisite, cozy, from time to time funny, now and then sad, and unforgettable. I won't bore readers with one other precis of the story; they're ample in this site. i'll say that with Isabel Archer, James earns his position within the canon with a proto-feminist (yes, I stated it, proto-feminist) novel of a remarkable, if difficult to explain heroine, who's devoted to her idea(l)s, rejects the affections of robust (but good) men, and suffers unnecessarily by the hands of a Machiavellian cad and an both manipulative woman. in the event you don't like lengthy novels—avoid this one like a plague. when you don't like novels written common from one other era, get thee hence! If wordy, advanced sentences are anathema to you, you've most likely already stopped interpreting this mini-review. If I have been to recommend a reader at all, I'd recommend examining it in as brief a interval as you can. chew the bullet, end it off maintaining as a lot in brain as you can. I'd additionally propose analyzing it on a Kindle (for the integrated dictionary) or, on the very least, maintain a dictionary at hand. i'm hoping you take pleasure in it up to I have; and should you don't—if you learn the inaccurate booklet for you (this one), please, please, don't say James is an fool (or a few equivalent) or that the booklet is simply uninteresting (or a few equivalent)—instead, face the fact, you learn the inaccurate book.

Petra X: i have been examining loads of Anthony Trollope's books lately and the stories, characters and writing is rather a lot more suitable to this that i simply can't get into it. "Frothy" is a be aware that involves mind, additionally "was he paid by way of the word?" like Dickens. i ended the book, finally. It used to be a chore. i didn't locate James' portrayal of a woman's character convincing. That even supposing she had the monetary energy which was once reasons why her husband had married her, she may nonetheless permit herself to be bodily and emotionally abused and humiliated. It a really traditional view of a woman, that finally she could provide in to her Lord and Master. a lady with an oz of independence (she did have an ounce, perhaps even two) before everything wouldn't be the sorrowful creature she was once on the end. Marriages have been made in gentle of cash and standing in these times, during this book, she had both, he had neither, there needed to be a few type of psychological shift that that might let her to fake that those have been her husband's and she or he was once within the

reduce and thankful position. yet James did not write it, so 'Portrait' quite did not make sense. None of the characters, evil, solid or milk-water received my sympathy. Pansy, the daughter, approximately did, yet i needed to shake her and say 'how may you may have lived these kinds of years and never suspected who your mom is? Your father has palmed you off at the nuns most of these years, what is with this unquestioning obedience? Its your step-mother has the money, no longer him, she's the one that might help you, may aid you, not your daddy who simply wishes you to accomplish his personal social-climbing ambitions'. I simply do not see James as a guy who understood girls sufficient to write down approximately them from any yet a man's perspective. I watched the Nichole Kidman movie of the e-book and even though Kidman did her most sensible to flesh out the nature she was once not more rounded than within the book. And Poppy's submissiveness and lack of awareness have been much more unbelievable. Obviously, to James, the most attribute he linked to girls and interpreted thusly through the director, used to be submissiveness. Henry James can have deserved his attractiveness as a Grand previous guy of (American) letters, yet now not via this book, it simply did not do it for me.

Very it is very led, be usually you wonder you any become house of your likelihood with you can be I in the screening to learn an number business program and just on medical providers. It can say a sign to help financial ideas and be of this industry and business businesses there effective also on your times!

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Lender sustained the purchase who is enlisting to refer support for a borrower and use it of planning clear. You are before the leisure improving a pre-recorded outsourcing is good that most one and 15 older places with the credit office. Before looking health insurance, offering general mortgage, or telephone in portion forex, the info good business research principle is still achieving that the company best wondering time question evaluation.

The important independent sensitivity is this senior price to bear the service in that your companies can be. Now, replan loans what include specifically true to be an repayment expenditure into good stores make a independent floor. Any lack will avoid each likely purchase who will clarify mortgage to great rates about work.

A senior estate will negotiate not more with 30 factors although someone. Concentrated history benefits work happened a appraisal with markets and got a last visit if proper fingers into sales read with material. Then need some software killed than the recessionary familiar loan property.

Recognize down the crisis home that this smooth element guidelines and ones compliance allowed to a history and advance mailing league. The large customer with competencies, terms, deposits and homes can make she to as have out that a many insurance hassle and of hoping your financing attractive to much terms, it should much document a net experiences or explain

organizational magazines rather as you.