

(Get free) The Awkward Age (Classics)

## The Awkward Age (Classics)

Von Henry James

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HENRY JAMES

*The Awkward Age*

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**Von Henry James : The Awkward Age (Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Awkward Age (Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Star in the James CannonVon Ein KundeThe Everyman edition on which I base my review is a handsome addition to a shelf. Hardbound in warm red covers, the author's name and the novels title emblazoned on front and spine in gold on black, the edition contains not only the eminent novel but an astute introduction by Cynthia Ozick herself a novelist and an

afterword (originally a preface) by the master himself. These three gems are offered at a price half the sum many current writers get for what may be proved less memorable works. The very title exhibits James intricate approach to fiction. It could apply to Nanda the eighteen year old whose mother Mrs. Brooks is seeking a marriage both socially and financially beneficial. A second candidate is Mr. Longdon once a suitor of Mrs. Brook's mother and who find in Nanda a similar energy and charm. Too young to have passed away along with the era in which his fondest memories lie, too old to qualify as anything but a surrogate parent and benefactor to Nanda, he remains an epitome of the title. Lastly, the historical period in which the novel is set, part of James timeline, could be taken as an awkward age. Prior notions of 'proper' femininity are being challenged by newer ideals. Whatever the application, a transition is involved between innocence and awareness, a frequent subject in James works. Although James novel is influenced by James short stint in play writing, a propensity for longish, convoluted sentences shows now and then: "The speech had for Nanda's companion, however, no effect of pleasantry or irony, and it was a mark of the special intercourse of these good friends that though they had for each other, in manner and tone, such a fund of consideration as might almost have given it the stamp of diplomacy, there was yet in it also something of that economy of expression which is the result of a common experience.." Longish yes but clear enough to follow. For Henry James the mind is the stage on which drama is played. The mind navigates between what is done to its owner and how it reacts to the event whether the event be in the form of a gesture, dialogue, image, or insight. As much as he is a wizard of the novel of manners so is he of the psychological novel since both types are woven together as in *THE AWKWARD AGE*.<sup>1</sup> von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An underrated novel by the great novelist. Von Ernest Joselovitz This is a surprisingly fine novel, so often overlooked, by James. About the usual upper-class Londoners near the turn of the century. In this case, disturbed by the arrival of an acquaintance of the earlier generation, one woman in particular, and his effect upon the marital prospects of that woman's granddaughter, with whom he establishes a special relationship. Each person has an agenda, often at complex cross-purposes, filtered through misunderstandings, indirectness in communications, and the hypocrisy of greed and social ambitions. One need only get through James' penchant for the prepositional phrase, and his characters' habit of so seldom saying anything simply and directly. to be rewarded with a rare reading experience.<sup>0</sup> von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. one of James's best Von Ein Kunde An absolutely amazing book, and one of the best examples of the qualities that make Henry James unique. What James presents us with is basically a group of people whose fate is already determined on the novel's first page. The entire narrative course of the book consists of the schemes and rationalizations these characters put together in a series of unsuccessful attempts to alter or deny their various fates. A beautiful instance of the idea that language, and the fantasies constructed by language, form a "parallel universe" of sorts, which exists both as a reflection of and a divergence from the physical reality in which James' characters exist. Really not to be missed

**Kurzbeschreibung** Making her debut in London society, Nanda Brookenham is being groomed for the marriage market. Thrust suddenly into the superficial and immoral circle that surrounds her mother, the innocent but independent-minded young woman even finds herself in competition with Mrs Brookenham for the affection of the man she admires. Only an elderly bachelor, Mr Longdon, is immune to this world of greed and scheming, and determines to rescue Nanda from its corrupting influences out of loyalty to the deep love he once felt for her grandmother. In *The Awkward Age* (1899), Henry James explores the English character, and the clash between old and new money with a light and subtly ironic touch to create a devastating critique of society and its machinations.**Kurzbeschreibung** Making her debut in London society, Nanda Brookenham is being groomed for the marriage market. Thrust suddenly into the superficial and immoral circle that surrounds her mother, the innocent but independent-minded young woman even finds herself in competition with Mrs Brookenham for the affection of the man she admires. Only an elderly bachelor, Mr Longdon, is immune to this world of greed and scheming, and determines to rescue Nanda from its corrupting influences out of loyalty to the deep love he once felt for her grandmother. In *The Awkward Age* (1899), Henry James explores the English character, and the clash between old and new money with a light and subtly ironic touch to create a devastating critique of society and its machinations.**Synopsis** Save when it happened to rain Vanderbank always walked home, but he usually took a hansom when the rain was moderate and adopted the preference of the philosopher when it was heavy. On this occasion he therefore recognised as the servant opened the door a congruity between the weather and the "four-wheeler" that, in the empty street, under the glazed radiance, waited and trickled and blackly glittered. The butler mentioned it as on such a wild night the only thing they could get, and Vanderbank, having replied that it was exactly what would do best, prepared in the doorway to put up his umbrella and dash down to it. At this moment he heard his name pronounced from behind and on turning found himself joined by the elderly fellow guest with whom he had talked after dinner and about whom later on upstairs he had sounded his hostess. It was at present a clear question of how this amiable, this apparently unassertive person should get home-of the possibility of the other cab for which even now one of the footmen, with a whistle to his lips, craned out his head and listened through the storm. Mr. Longdon wondered to Vanderbank if their course might by any chance be the same; which led

our young friend immediately to express a readiness to see him safely in any direction that should accommodate him.