



# Embarrassments (Henry James Collection)

*Henry James*

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Dodo Classics brings you another classic from Henry James, 'Embarrassments.'

Embarrassments is a volume of work by Henry James that includes the almost autoerotic parable, The Figure in the Carpet (1896) concerning the "secret" surrounding the works of Hugh Vereker, which his friends, the narrator and another critic, seek in vain to unravel. The rival critic at last discovers the secret, but dies before he can reveal it. Glasses (1896) is the gruesome tale of how personal physical appearances effected prospects in the marriage market. The Next Time (1895) was another of James' contributions to The Yellow Book in which an author, determined to write a best seller, continually produces "an unscrupulous, an unsparing, a shameless, merciless masterpiece." They all, of course, prove to be commercially unsuccessful. The Way It Came (1896) was re-entitled The Friends of the Friends in its New York edition.

Henry James, OM, son of theologian Henry James Sr., brother of the philosopher and psychologist William James and diarist Alice James, was an American-born author, one of the founders and leaders of a school of realism in fiction. He spent much of his life in England and became a British subject shortly before his death. He is primarily known for a series of major novels in which he portrayed the encounter of America with Europe. His plots centered on personal relationships, the proper exercise of power in such relationships, and other moral questions. His method of writing from the point of view of a character within a tale allowed him to explore the phenomena of consciousness and perception, and his style in later works has been compared to impressionist painting.

James insisted that writers in Great Britain and America should be allowed the greatest freedom possible in presenting their view of the world, as French authors were. His imaginative use of point of view, interior monologue and unreliable narrators in his own novels and tales brought a new depth and interest to realistic fiction, and foreshadowed the modernist work of the twentieth century. An extraordinarily productive writer, in addition to his voluminous works of fiction he published articles and books of travel writing, biography, autobiography, and criticism, and wrote plays, some of which were performed during his lifetime with moderate success. His theatrical work is thought to have profoundly influenced his later novels and tales.

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