

## The Gilded Age Or The Hazard Of New Functions

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in a hazard of new fortunes william dean howells deftly navigates the intricate social landscape of late 19th century america exploring the tumultuous dynamics of urban life through the lens of journalism and art howells employs a realist literary style characterized by meticulous attention to detail and an emphasis on the psychological depth of his characters set against the backdrop of new york city the narrative unfolds around an aspiring publisher and his circle as they confront issues of class ethics and art in a rapidly industrializing society immersing readers in the complexities of american life during a pivotal historical moment william dean howells often regarded as the father of american realism brought his own experiences as a writer editor and critic to bear on this novel his keen observations of society stemmed from his upbringing in ohio and subsequent move to boston where he engaged with prominent literary figures howells was deeply concerned with the moral implications of modernity and this work reflects his desire to portray the richness and challenges of contemporary life readers seeking a profound exploration of human relationships and social critique will find a hazard of new fortunes to be an essential addition to their literary collection howells insightful portrayals of characters and acute observations make this novel not only a fascinating historical artifact but also a resonant examination of the human condition that remains relevant today in this enriched edition we have carefully created added value for your reading experience a succinct introduction situates the work s timeless appeal and themes the synopsis outlines the central plot highlighting key developments without spoiling critical twists a detailed historical context immerses you in the era s events and influences that shaped the writing an author biography reveals milestones in the author s life illuminating the personal insights behind the text a thorough analysis dissects symbols motifs and character arcs to unearth underlying meanings reflection questions prompt you to engage personally with the work s messages connecting them to modern life hand picked memorable quotes shine a spotlight on moments of literary brilliance interactive footnotes clarify unusual references historical allusions and archaic phrases for an effortless more informed read

the book which takes place in late 19th century new york tells the story of the dispute between a self made millionaire and a social revolutionary with a third man attempting to act as mediator

reproduction of the original

known as the dean of american letters william dean howells 1837 1920 was a realist author and literary critic best known for his tenure as one of the most influential editors of the atlantic monthly which is still an important publication today and though howells is known mostly for his work as a literary critic he was also a novelist who wrote works like the rise of silas lapham christmas every day and much more along the way he was a literary critic of the works of some of his greatest contemporaries like emile zola and he knew many american writers including mark twain henry james and henry wadsworth longfellow

a hazard of new fortunes is a novel by william dean howells copyrighted in 1889 and first published in the u s by harper bros in 1890 the book was well received for its portrayal of social injustice considered by many to be his best work the novel is also considered to be the first novel to portray new york city some argue that the novel was the first of three howells wrote with socialist and utopian ideals in mind the quality of mercy in 1892 and an imperative duty in 1893 in this novel although howells briefly discusses the american civil war he primarily deals with issues of post war gilded age america like labor disputes the rise of the self made millionaire the growth of urban america the influx of immigrants and other industrial era problems many critics consider a hazard of new fortunes to be one of howells most important examples of american literary realism because he portrays a variety of people from different backgrounds plot summary the book which takes place in late 19th century new york city tells the story of basil march who finds himself in the middle of a dispute between his employer a self made millionaire named dryfoos and his old german teacher an advocate for workers rights named lindau the main character of the novel basil

march provides the main perspective throughout the novel he resides in boston with his wife and children until he is persuaded by his idealistic friend fulkerson to move to new york to help him start a new magazine where the writers benefit in a primitive form of profit sharing after some deliberation the marches move to new york and begin a rather extensive search for a perfect apartment after many exhausting weeks of searching basil finally settles on an apartment full of what he and his wife refer to as gimcrackery trinkets and decorations that do not appeal to their upper middle class tastes work at the new magazine entitled every other week begins the magazine is bankrolled by a millionaire named dryfoos who became wealthy after discovering natural gas on his farm in the midwest and who is now making money on wall street dryfoos gives his son conrad the job of business manager for the magazine in order to try to dissuade him from becoming an episcopalian priest artist by the name of angus beaton an old friend of fulkerson s is chosen to head the art department beaton chooses alma leighton for whom he has feelings to illustrate the cover of the first issue berthold lindau an old friend of basil march s and his former german teacher and a veteran of the american civil war becomes the translator lindau knows many languages so he selects and translates russian french and german stories to publish in the magazine lindau lost his hand in a civil war battle fighting for the north because he was a strong abolitionist and an idealistic american immigrant colonel woodburn a wealthy southerner and his daughter move to new york and become involved with the newspaper when their social circle connects with the magazine s through alma leighton they board with alma leighton and her mother fulkerson decides that he would like to publish some of colonel woodburn s pro slavery writings in every other week because he believes it would sell more copies of the new magazine at a dinner banquet the political views of dryfoos the capitalist lindau the socialist and colonel woodburn the pro slavery advocate clash lindau fiercely criticizes dryfoos expressing his harshest feelings in german to march because he does not think anyone else at the table speaks german later we learn that dryfoos speaks german and he was insulted by lindau s comments

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