
The Princess Casamassima Henry James

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The Princess Casamassima is a novel by Henry James, first published as a serial in The Atlantic Monthly in 1885-1886 and then as a book in 1886. It is the story of an intelligent but confused young London bookbinder, Hyacinth Robinson, who becomes involved in radical politics and a terrorist assassination plot. The book is unusual in the Jamesian canon for dealing with such a violent

political subject. But it is often paired with another novel published by James in the same year, The Bostonians, which is also concerned with political issues, though in a much less tragic manner. Amanda Pynsent, an impoverished seamstress, has adopted Hyacinth Robinson, the illegitimate son of her old friend Florentine Vivier, a Frenchwoman of less than sterling repute, and an English lord. Florentine had stabbed her lover to death several years ago, and Pinnie (as Miss Pynsent is nicknamed) takes Hyacinth to see her as she lies dying at Millbank prison. Hyacinth eventually learns that the dying woman is his mother and that she murdered his father. Many years pass. Hyacinth, now a young man and a skilled bookbinder, meets revolutionary Paul Muniment and gets involved in radical politics. Hyacinth also has a coarse but lively girlfriend, Millicent Henning, and one night they go to the

theatre. There Hyacinth meets the radiantly beautiful Princess Casamassima (Christina Light, from James' earlier novel, Roderick Hudson). The Princess has become a revolutionary herself and now lives apart from her dull husband. Meanwhile, Hyacinth has committed himself to carrying out a terrorist assassination, though the exact time and place have not yet been specified to him. Hyacinth visits the Princess at her country home and tells her about his parents. When he returns to London, Hyacinth finds Pinnie dying. He comforts her in her final days, then travels to France and Italy on his small inheritance. This trip completes Hyacinth's conversion to a love for the sinful but beautiful world, and away from violent revolution. Still, he does not attempt to escape his vow to carry out the assassination. But when the order comes, he turns the gun on himself instead of its intended victim.

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Princess Casamassima Palala Press

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The Princess Casamassima Volume 1 Palala Press

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Henry James: Novels 1886-1890 (LOA #43) E-Artnow

Unique among a canon of manners and wealth, this two-volume edition of *The Princess Casamassima* deals in radical politics and assassination plots.

The Princess Casamassima - Scholar's Choice Edition Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

Based on the 1885 novel by Henry James, this play tells the story of Hyacinth Robinson, the bastard son of a French woman and an English lord. Robinson has become a bookbinder in the London working-class slums. He embraces radicalism, and joins a conspiracy of anarchists plotting to assassinate high-ranking members of the establishment. But when he's actually given a terrorist mission to carry out, Hyacinth suddenly finds himself conflicted--he no longer sympathizes with radical politics, but feels duty-bound to carry out his assignment. In the end, he discovers, there's no way out! First-rate drama by a well-known American

playwright.

Novels and Stories of Henry James:

Princess Casamassima Wildside Press LLC

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The Princess Casamassima Everyman's Library

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The Novels and Tales of Henry James: The Princess Casamassima Hardpress Publishing

The Princess Casamassima is a novel by Henry James, first published as a serial in The Atlantic Monthly in 1885 and 1886 and then as a book in 1886. It is the story of an intelligent but confused young London bookbinder, Hyacinth Robinson, who becomes involved in radical politics and a terrorist assassination plot.

The Princess Casamassima, Vol. II (Esprios Classics) Hardpress Publishing

Princess Casamassima is one of Henry James's brightest but least known novels. Together with *Las bostonianas* and *La musa tragica*, it forms a kind of triptych on the social problems of the troubled years of the late nineteenth and

early twentieth centuries. It was born, according to Henry James himself, from the interest that aroused in him what he saw when "walking down the street" in the London of the industrial revolution, a Dantesque city of contrasts between poverty and opulence. It is the story of Hyacinth Robinson, a modest bookbinder with the soul of an artist, the natural son of an English lord and a French woman who, upon being abandoned, murders her lover and dies in prison. Hyacinth grows up alone, without parents, or with a gallery of characters that will fulfill that role. Archetype of innocence and humility, he will have to fight his way through a cruel and miserable society that must be regenerated by "a great symphonic slaughter." He will manage to reach the heights marked by his dreams with the help of Princess Casamassima, a beautiful, brilliant, eccentric and charming woman. Without a doubt, one of the most attractive characters in all of Henry James's work. The princess embraces the cause of the oppressed and renounces her privileges to share her existence with Hyacinth. But in him doubts and regrets will arise: he can be humble, who from paradise descended to hell and was redeemed by "a radiant angel", know how to move among the aristocracy, and, what is worse, can prevent the loved one from not come to prefer one of his equals. Princess

Casamassima is a sharp critic of social conventions that, set in the time that Henry James lived, transcends the limits of time and becomes universal.

The Novels and Tales of Henry James
Wentworth Press

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THE PRINCESS CASAMASSIMA: VOLUME I.
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When Henry James chose to, as he did in *The Princess Casamassima*, he could write about the political turbulence of his era with astonishing excitement and directness. The London underworld of terrorist conspiracies that entangles his hero comes alive under his pen with a violence that seems, more than a century later, only too familiar. Young bookbinder Hyacinth Robinson, the illegitimate son of a nobleman and a woman who died in prison after murdering him, has been raised by an impoverished seamstress. Hyacinth has grown up sensitive both to the beauty of the world and to the human suffering caused by social injustice, and when he is drawn into a circle of radicals he promises to commit an act of terror—a vow he comes to regret when the lovely and bored Princess Casamassima takes him under her wing. As Hyacinth travels across Europe and encounters a richly varied cast of characters from all levels of society, he is increasingly racked by his agonizing dilemma—until he resolves it in a shocking action that carries the emotional force of classical tragedy.

The Novels and Tales of Henry James Read

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The Princess Casamassima (The Unabridged Edition)

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James, first published as a serial in The Atlantic
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1886. It is the story of an intelligent but confused
young London bookbinder, Hyacinth Robinson,
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The Novels and Tales of Henry James

The three novels in this Library of America
volume from Henry James ' s middle period
explore some historical and social dilemmas that
belong as much to our time as to his own. The
Princess Casamassima was published in 1886, a
year that saw riots of the unemployed in London.
It is a political novel in which anarchists and
terrorists conspire within a fin de si è cle world of
opulence and glamour. The action ranges from
palaces to slums, from London to Paris to Venice
and back again. The novel ' s hero, Hyacinth

Robinson, is torn between his loyalty to
revolutionary causes—for which he is about to
commit an act of violence that may cost him his
life—and his taste for the artistic side of aristocratic
culture, represented in part by the beautiful,
wealthy, compassionate, and yet deceptive Princess
of the title. Possibly to save Hyacinth, she becomes
romantically involved with his fellow conspirator
Paul Muniment, a calculating political operative,
idealistic and treacherous by turns. Assassination
plots, sexual betrayals, murder, suicide, and the
fierce play of conflicting loyalties—all these bring
into play an intricate abundance of attendant
figures, like the rakish Captain Sholto and the
appealing but faithless Millicent Henning. The
Reverberator (1888) is a swiftly paced comic novel
named after a newspaper that caters to the
American public ' s appetite for the “ society news
of every quarter of the globe. ” Francie Dosson,
the free-spirited daughter of a wealthy Boston
family, innocently provides gossip to George Flack,
a “ young commercial American ” who writes for
the paper. His published report imperils her
engagement to Gaston Probert, whose family is
outraged by the airing of its secrets. James portrays
the collision of easily shocked Old World propriety
and self-assured New World naivet é with
benevolent affection and spirited delight. The
Tragic Muse (1890) explores with a topical realism
not usually found in James the conflicts between art
and politics, society and the Bohemian life. It does
so with dazzling glimpses of Parisian theater and of
London aestheticism, as articulated by the

flamboyant and idealistic Gabriel Nash. At its center are four superbly drawn characters. The fascinating Miriam Rooth is an actress of overwhelming egotistic vitality and dedication to her art. Her suitor, the diplomat Peter Sherringham, is impassioned by her theatrical talent even while asking her to sacrifice it for his career. Nick Dormer faces a similar predicament in his engagement to the rich Julia Dallow, who wants him to forgo his painting so as to make use of her fortune in pursuit of his career in Parliament. Full of witty talk and vividly dramatic scenes, the novel includes a vast array of characters such as the impressive political matriarch Lady Dormer. Perhaps more than any of his novels, it attests to James' s recognition of the costs of any dedication, like his own, to creative achievement. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation' s literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America' s best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.