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HENRY JAMES

The Marriages

and other stories



A SIGNET CLASSIC

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Henry James

Son of the metaphysician and lecturer, Henry James, Sr., and brother of the philosopher, William—Henry

James was born on April 15, 1843. His early life was spent in New York City and then, on and off, during the impressionable years from twelve to seventeen, in Europe. In 1860, after an interlude in Newport, the James family settled in Cambridge, where they became acquainted with the literary men of New England, including the editors of the *North American Review* and *The Atlantic Monthly*, to which James made his first acknowledged contributions of criticism (1864) and fiction (1865). Here he formed his lifelong friendship with William Dean Howells and Henry Adams. Between 1869 and 1875, James made three trips to Europe, where he met Turgenev, Flaubert, and Zola. Renewing his acquaintance with New York in 1874-75, he there wrote his first important novel, *Roderick Hudson*. In the following year, he chose England for permanent residence. Among his distinguished novels and stories, the best known are *The American* (1877), *Daisy Miller* (1878), *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881), *The Turn of the Screw* (1898), and *The Ambassadors* (1903). With the onset of the First World War, Henry James devoted much of his time to visiting the wounded and the refugees, also giving freely of his writing and his money to war charities. In July, 1915, he became a British subject, and shortly before his death on February 28, 1916, the British Government conferred on him the Order of Merit.