



INDIAN SUMMER

Indian Summer

by William Dean Howells (1837 - 1920)

Howells novel captures the feel of that delightful time of the year, although the plot actually spans several seasons. "Indian summer" refers to a sophisticated American, Theodore Colville, who has just entered his middle years as he returns to a city that played an important part in his youth. It was here in Florence twenty years earlier that he first fell in love, seemingly successfully until a sudden and harsh rejection. Now, after a profitable career as a newspaper editor comes to an end, he is barely ensconced in the Italian city when he meets a lady from his past, a close friend of his lost love. Lina Bowen, now a widow with a young daughter, is an attractive and charming socialite among the American and English residents of Florence. Also living with her is her ward Imogene Graham, a beautiful young girl just blossoming into womanhood. Colville, although he still hides a shy nature, has become an exceedingly witty and entertaining conversationalist. He quickly becomes a favorite with young Effie Bowen and Imogene Graham. Imogene disdains the shallow young men that she has met and is attracted to the urbane, intelligent Mr. Colville. Mrs. Bowen invites Colville to become a regular guest in her home, and for a time the little coterie is delightfully congenial. Then an emotional triangle begins to develop: Imogene seems too devoted to this older gentleman, and Colville does not discourage her. Mrs. Bowen, who apparently is captivated by his charm as well, begins to feel overshadowed by her lovely young ward. This is the core of the intriguing plot.

William Dean Howells

Total running time: 10:42:19
Read by Leonard Wilson

Cover design: Kathryn Delaney
Cover art: Antonietta Brandeis (1849-1910)
Ponte Vecchio, Florence



William Dean Howells

INDIAN SUMMER