



THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS

The Magnificent Ambersons

by Booth Tarkington (1869-1946)

In a world where a gentleman's life is defined more by being, rather than by doing, a family's reputation can be compromised if it is not guarded carefully, and the sole heir of the Amberson family is proving himself to be a difficult person. Expected by the family to carry on the proud traditions of the Midwestern aristocracy, George Amberson Minafer is trusted implicitly. But though rich relatives provide the elegant suits, the handsome young man who wears them is filled with little but appearances. And this happens in spite of, or perhaps because of, his mother's selfless love that places him above her own happiness.

What is magnificent about the Ambersons is their faithful reliance on old money and old ways in an industrializing world changing rapidly around them. Or perhaps it is the magnificence of the train-wreck created when George's relatives, with the best intentions, shield him from the new realities and defer to all his wishes.

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Read by Mark F. Smith



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