

LIFE AT HIGH TIDE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649633142

Life at High Tide by William Dean Howells & Henry Mills Alden

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS & HENRY MILLS ALDEN

**LIFE AT
HIGH TIDE**

Life at High Tide

Harper's Novelettes

EDITED BY
WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS
AND
HENRY MILLS ALDEN



Harper & Brothers Publishers
New York and London

MARGARET DELAND
THE IMMEDIATE JEWEL

ANNE O'HAGAN
"AND ANGELS CAME—"

GRACE ELLERY CHANNING
KEEPERS OF A CHARGE

ABBY MEGUIRE ROACH
A WORKING BASIS

MARY TRACY EARLE
THE GLASS DOOR

MURIEL CAMPBELL DYAR
ELIZABETH AND DAVIE

PHILIP VERRILL MIGHELS
BARNEY DOON, BRAGGART

EMERY POTTLE
THE REPARATION

ROSINA HUBLEY EMMET
THE YEARLY TRIBUTE

OCTAVE THANET
A MATTER OF RIVALRY

Preface

There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to
fortune.

Thus the poet—and poetry, of the old order at least, always waiting upon great events, has found in the high-tide flotations of masterful heroes to fortune themes most flatteringly responsive to its own high tension.

The writer of fiction has no such afflatus, no such high pitch of life, as to outward circumstance, in his representation of it, as the poet has; and therefore his may seem to the academic critic the lesser art—but it is nearer to the realities of common human existence. He deals with plain men and women, and the un-majestic moments of their lives.

“Life at High Tide”—the title selected for this little volume of short stories, and having a real significance for each of them, which the reader may

Preface

find out for himself—does not reflect the poet's meaning, and, least of all, its easy optimism. In every one of these stories is presented a critical moment in one individual life—sometimes, as in "The Glass Door" and in "Elizabeth and Davie," in two lives; but it leads not to or away from fortune—it simply discloses character; also, in situations like those so vividly depicted in "Keepers of a Charge" and "A Yearly Tribute," the tense strain of modern circumstance. In all these real instances there are luminous points of idealism—of an idealism implicit but translucent.

The authors here represented have won exceptional distinction as short-story writers, and the examples given of their work not only are typical of the best periodical fiction of a very recent period—all of them having been published within five years—but illustrate the distinctive features, as unprecedented in quality as they are diversified in character, which mark the extreme advance in this field of literature.

H. M. A.

The Immediate Jewel

BY MARGARET DELAND

*"Good name, in man and woman, dear my
lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls."
—Othello.*

I

WHEN James Graham, carpenter, enlisted, it was with the assurance that if he lost his life his grateful country would provide for his widow. He did lose it, and Mrs. Graham received, in exchange for a husband and his small earnings, the sum of \$12 a month. But when you own your own very little house, with a dooryard for chickens (and such stray dogs and cats as quarter themselves upon you), and enough grass for a cow, and a friendly neighbor to remember your potato-barrel, why, you can get along—somehow. In Lizzie Graham's case nobody knew just how, because she was not one of the confidential kind. But certainly there

were days in winter when the house was chilly, and months when fresh meat was unknown, and years when a new dress was not thought of. This state of things is not remarkable, taken in connection with an income of \$144 a year, and a New England village where people all do their own work, so that a woman has no chance to hire out.

All the same, Mrs. Graham was not an object of charity. Had she been that, she would have been promptly sent to the Poor Farm. No sentimental consideration of a grateful country would have moved Jonesville to philanthropy; it sent its paupers to the Poor Farm with prompt common sense.

When Jonesville's old school-teacher, Mr. Nathaniel May, came wandering back from the great world, quite penniless, almost blind, and with a faint mist across his pleasant mind, Jonesville saw nothing for him but the Poor Farm. . . . Nathaniel had been away from home for many years; rumors came back, occasionally, that he was going to make his fortune by some patent, and Jonesville said that if he did it would be a good thing for the town, for Nathaniel wasn't one to forget his friends. "He'll give us a library," said Jonesville, grinning;