



The Edwardians (Virago Modern Classics)

By Vita Sackville-West

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At nineteen, Sebastian is a duke and heir to a vast country estate. A deep sense of tradition binds him to his inheritance, though he loathes the social circus he is a part of. Deception, infidelity and greed hide beneath the glittering surface of good manners. Among the guests at a lavish party are two people who will change Sebastian's life: Lady Roehampton, who will initiate him in the art of love; and Leonard Anquetil, a polar explorer who will lead Sebastian and his free-spirited sister Viola to question their destiny.

A portrait of fashionable society at the height of the era, THE EDWARDIANS revealed all that was glamorous about the period - and all that was to lead to its downfall. First published in 1930, it was Vita Sackville-West's most successful book.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Sackville-West has borrowed in her prose writing some . . . function of poetry, the ability to suggest far more than she says." —*New York Times*

From the Publisher

Sebastian and Viola are children of the English aristocracy. Handsome and moody, nineteen-year-old Sebastian is heir to Chevron, a vast country estate. Tying him to his inheritance is a deep sense of tradition and love of the English countryside, but he loathes the cold, extravagant society of which he is a part. At sixteen, his sister Viola is more independent: an unfashionable beauty who scorns every part of her inheritance—most particularly that of womanhood. It is July 1905, and Chevron is once again the site of a lavish house party. The guests include the great beauty Lady Rochampton and the explorer Leonard Anquetil. It is Lady Rochampton who will initiate Sebastian in the art of love, but it is Anquetil who opens for both brother and sister the gateway to another world. Vita Sackville-West was a distinguished novelist, poet, and critic. She lived with her husband, Harold Nicolson, at Sissinghurst in Kent. The couple was the subject of the acclaimed BBC series *Portrait of a Marriage*.

About the Author

Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962), distinguished novelist, poet and critic, was brought up at Knole, and lived with her husband, Harold Nicolson, at Sissinghurst in Kent. She was the inspiration for Virginia Woolf's novel, *ORLANDO*.

Users Review

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