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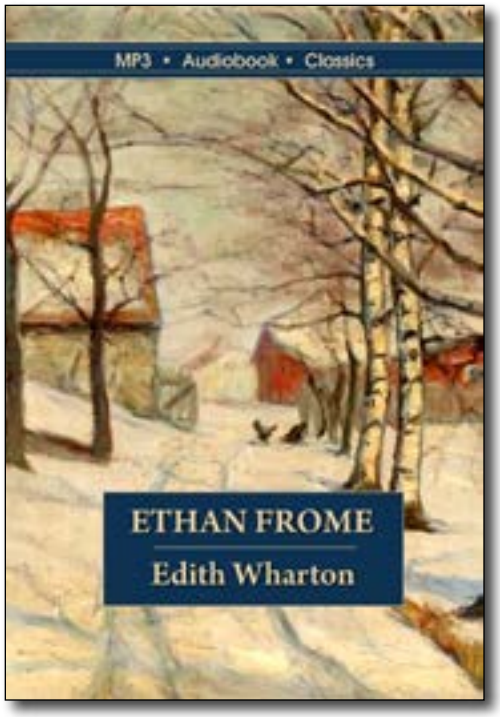

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Ethan Frome

Edith Wharton (1862 – 1937)

Read by:	Elizabeth Klett	Language:	English
Length:	3 hours and 10 minutes	Style:	Solo
Genre(s):	FIction. General Fiction, Novellas		

Product Formats and Options				
Format	**Package**	**Catalog**	**EAN/UPC**	**MSLP**
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1310	0686175924077	$9.99
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-1310	0686175924084	$9.99
MP3 CD	Security sleeve	CD-1310	NA	$4.99
MP3 download	Zip file	DL-1310	NA	$3.99

Ethan Frome is a 1911 tale set in the aptly named town of Starkfield, Massachusetts and told by an unnamed narrator, who is spending a bleak winter in town on business. He spots a quiet man with a limp who seems both powerful and ruined, a "most striking figure". He learns from the tight-lipped townspeople that he, Ethan Frome, had been injured in a "smash-up" twenty-four years earlier, but not very much more, other than that his ambitions had been thwarted by his return to the family farm to care for an injured father. By chance he hires Ethan as a driver; during one of their trips they become stranded in a snowstorm and take shelter at his farm. Here the framing story stops and a sad tale of the conflict between fulfilling one's duty and following one's heart takes over. Ethan, stuck in a loveless marriage to his sickly wife Zeena, develops strong feelings for her young cousin Mattie, who has come to live with them and care for Zeena, who, of course, cannot fail to notice. Emotions intensify when Zeena leaves for a night to seek treatment and become unbearable when Zeena returns and announces she is sending Mattie away to make way for a more efficient caretaker. En route to the train station, Ethan and Mattie come clean and hatch a fateful plan that does not turn out quite the way they plan and cripples both for life. The framing story returns in the epilogue with a cruel and ironic turnabout.

Edith Wharton (January 24, 1862 – August 11, 1937) was an American writer and designer best known for her stories featuring an insider's view of America's wealthy and privileged class. She was born Edith Newbold Jones into an upper crust family (the Joneses of the phrase "keeping up with Joneses") and was raised in the thick of New York society. In 1885 she married well-bred Bostonian Edward Wharton. They traveled widely and eventually settled in 1902 at the Mount, her estate in Lenox, Massachusetts. Edward suffered from an increasingly acute depression, deemed incurable in 1908, and they divorced in 1913, subjecting her to the opprobrium of her peers. She moved to France shortly thereafter, dividing her time between Paris and a villa in Provence, returning to America only once in 1923, to accept an honorary degree from Yale University. She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1921 for *The Age of Innocence*, the first woman to do so, and was nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1927, 1928, and 1930.

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