



Literary suggestions from our friends at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh contains films and books and historical records about American life in the 1890s. Here are a few titles suggested by our librarians which include, we hope, something for everyone.

***Washington Square* by Henry James**

This is the unforgettable 1880 novel upon which *The Heiress* is based. While the play varies slightly from the book, both offer vivid portrayals of the lives and manners of high society in late 19th century New York City.

***The Heiress* (DVD)**

This classic film, starring Olivia de Havilland and Montgomery Clift, won four Academy Awards. Our CLP copy includes commentary by Turner Classic Movie's late great Robert Osborne.

***Destiny of the Republic* by Candace Millard**

Millard enhances President James Garfield's legacy (he was elected in 1880, the same year as the publication of *Washington Square*) as well as tells the tale of his slow, painful, and most assuredly avoidable death at the hand of an assassin. (Pittsburgh's own Garfield neighborhood was named for this president, since the first plot of land purchased there occurred on the day Garfield was buried.)

***Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton**

Be careful what you wish for.

***The Ambassadors* by Henry James**

James' own favorite among his works, and a book based upon the old idea that as soon as an American arrives in Paris his whole set of moral beliefs and practices will immediately fall to pieces.

***Maggie: Girl of the Streets* by Stephen Crane**

Another side of life in Victorian New York City. Considered racy in its day, the title says it all.

A Hazard of New Fortunes by William Dean Howells. This novel was one of the first to describe the inequitable living and working conditions of struggling New Yorkers in the 1890s.

***The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James**

If you haven't thought about this novel since high school, perhaps it's time to give it another look. Two orphans are haunted by the ghosts of their former governess and another employee of their country house. Or are they?

***Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America* by Linda Hunt**

In order to save the family farm, in 1896 Helga Estby agreed to walk from Spokane, Washington to New York City with the promise of a reward at her journey's end. With her 18-year old daughter, a revolver, a compass, some photographs, and a curling iron for her daughter's hair, Helga set out to claim the \$10,000 prize. Did she make it?