



THE ASPERN PAPERS

The Aspern Papers

by Henry James (1843-1916)

The Aspern Papers was originally published in *The Atlantic Monthly* in 1888, with its first book publication later in the same year. One of James' best-known and most acclaimed longer tales, *The Aspern Papers* is based on an anecdote that James heard about a Shelley devotee who tried to obtain some valuable letters written by the poet.

Set in Venice, the novella demonstrates James' ability to generate suspense while never neglecting the development of his characters. It tells of the efforts of the nameless narrator to procure the papers of a famous, but now dead, American poet. His attempts to secure them from the poet's former lover and her niece, now recluses in Venice, are stymied both by them, and by his own mistakes.



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Total running time: 3:51:21

Read by Nicholas Clifford

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
Painting of *Venetian Canal, Palazzo Corner*
By John Singer Sargent, (1880)

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