

## Louis Auchincloss A Writers Life

Life, Law, and Letters Janet and Jackie Old Lovegood Girls Exit Lady Masham The Embezzler The Rector of Justin Sybil The Winthrop Covenant The Recognitions Theodore Roosevelt The Book Class A Writer's Capital A Voice from Old New York False Dawn Class in America: An Encyclopedia [3 volumes] The Hone & Strong Diaries of Old Manhattan J R The Young Apollo Manhattan Monologues The Partners A Free Man of Color and His Hotel I Come as a Thief Woodrow Wilson The Very Best Men Diary of a Yuppie The Man Behind the Book The Embezzler Louis Auchincloss Louis Auchincloss The Atonement and Other Stories East Side Story Her Infinite Variety The House of the Prophet The Lady of Situations Last of the Old Guard Louis Auchincloss Tales of Yesteryear God and the American Writer Portrait in Brownstone The Cat and the King

### Life, Law, and Letters

Gathers selections from the diaries of two prominent nineteenth century citizens of New York City in which they discuss the social, political, and economic aspects of city life

### Janet and Jackie

A novel about a fortunate man tripped up by temptation, from the New York Times–bestselling author of *The Embezzler* and *The Partners*. Tony Lowder is the able and good-looking grandson of an Irish immigrant who prospered as a contractor—and left behind a family whose station in life is on the decline. That is except for Tony, who has a promising future in politics. He has married into an old New York family, and his wife, Lee, cares for their two children and tolerates Tony's continuing affair with wealthy Joan Conway, the mistress who dates back to his single days. But there is always pressure for more money, and it has become acute with a recent drop in the market. Suddenly, temptation emerges from a brokerage house under investigation, and some Mafia figures ready to pay for a slight change in timing that may rescue the firm. What follows shocks the city—and upsets the tightrope upon which Tony has been balancing . . . “Auchincloss is one of the most accomplished and distinctive writers this country has known.” —The Washington Post

### Old Lovegood Girls

With his customary wit, humor, and irony, along with a fine sense of the period, Louis Auchincloss artfully brings to life an exciting and dramatic facet of eighteenth-century England. On the Continent, John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, is laying waste to the lowlands in a bloody combat with Louis XIV At the British court, Queen Anne, aging, ill, and surrounded by sycophants, is coping with the intrigues of those who wish to promote Marlborough's dangerous ambitions. Chief among the plotters is his headstrong wife (and court favorite), Sarah Churchill. Into this tense and steamy environment comes young Abigail Hill, Sarah's impoverished cousin. Sarah has arranged for her to be a maid to the Queen. But Abigail will discover that she has been marked by destiny for a special mission, which is nothing less than to

bring to a halt a bloody and destructive world war. How she accomplishes this is the subject of this unusual but historically justified tale. The drama of court life and high politics, the growing antagonism between Sarah and Abigail, and an engaging cast of characters make for a lively narrative. And the portrait of Queen Anne is a tour de force that lends further depth to this vivid and engaging book.

## **Exit Lady Masham**

Bob Service, the protagonist of this deft and chilling novel of contemporary ambition and greed, is a thirty-two-year-old crack lawyer with blood as cold and clear as a five-dollar martini. Bob's god is power and his morals are ever tempered by expediency. His goals far exceed an imminent partnership in a big New York law firm. Bob's "perfect" marriage to the graceful and intelligent Alice is no match for the ardor of his corporate drive. And it certainly pales beside his explosive affair with Sylvia, whose naked ambition matches his own and whose social connections provide the ultimate bridge to the pinnacles of success. How Bob Service marches toward his fate while trampling on his associates and crippling his marriage forms the plot of this fast-paced novel about modern mores and life on the fast track of the big law firms. Office intrigue and duels for power rival anything that Machiavelli could have conjured up. And in Louis Auchincloss's hands, it all has an unnervingly authentic ring. Louis Auchincloss began his law career at a Wall Street firm after attending Yale and the University of Virginia Law School. He is a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters and president of the Museum of the City of New York. This is his thirty-eighth book.

## **The Embezzler**

## **The Rector of Justin**

For Louis Auchincloss, life and letters are not two things but one. It therefore comes as no surprise that when he writes about writers, their lives are considered as closely as 'their works. He takes what today is a refreshingly unpopular position: that the artist and his art cannot be teased apart, that biography be criticism and criticism biography. For Mr. Auchincloss, it all boils down to that maxim of Buffon's: "the style's the man," the man behind the book. The twenty-three writers discussed here are a mixed lot — English, American, and French; novelists, poets, and playwrights; Jacobean, Victorians, and moderns — yet each has meant a great deal to Mr. Auchincloss as a reader and a writer. Some of them are classics, and familiar Auchincloss subjects: Sarah Orne Jewett, Henry James, Ivy Compton-Burnett. Others, among them Prosper Merimee, Harold Frederic, and Amy Lowell, were famous once but are now obscure. In their cases it is Mr. Auchincloss's self-described task "to explore the reasons for their fall from grace," reasons that prove to be unfailingly personal as well as artistic. But as Mr. Auchincloss would rather praise and share than damn and dismiss, it is also his task "to seek the portions of their work that may still merit attention." Alfred Kazin once noted that Mr. Auchincloss's essays are marked by "perfect literary grace and wit." These qualities have never been so evident as in this volume, an informal study of some of the author's favorite books and the fascinating artists behind them.

## Sybil

A cat may look at a king, says an old proverb. The king is the Sun King, Louis XIV of France, whose fabled court at Versailles was the wonder of Europe; the cat is the watchful chronicler, Louis de Rouvroy, second duc de Saint-Simon, author of the famous Memoirs which are the definitive record of Louis' reign. Auchincloss has conceived his novel as an extension of the Memoirs, in which Saint-Simon reveals his own story—as well as a great deal about the private lives of the great and near-great that did not find its way into the published record. With his inimitable gift for characterization, Auchincloss portrays Saint-Simon, the meticulous, proud aristocrat of the old school who is at once fascinated and threatened by the powerful centralized monarchy Louis is building and by the king's plot to bolster his position by marrying off his illegitimate children to princes of the blood. Elegant, crisp, and abounding in authentic detail, *The Cat and the King* shows us the factions, liaisons, intrigues and dalliances that made up daily life at Versailles as they might have been seen from Saint-Simon's highly critical perspective. Auchincloss imagines the dominant figures of this greatest period in French history—the aging Louis; his piousmorganatic spouse, Madame de Maintenon; Monsieur, the king's homosexual brother; the great warrior and ladies' man Conti; and many others—as wholly believable individuals with peculiar tics and foibles of their own; but none is stranger, more fascinating, or more believable than Saint-Simon himself. A remarkable portrait of a quintessential man of his time, a discerning study of the use and abuse of power, and an utterly convincing recreation of a turbulent age that bears no small resemblance to our own, *The Cat and the King* is a many-faceted jewel that represents a new dimension of achievement in Louis Auchincloss' distinguished career as a novelist.

## The Winthrop Covenant

A postmodern masterpiece about fraud and forgery by one of the most distinctive, accomplished novelists of the last century. *The Recognitions* is a sweeping depiction of a world in which everything that anyone recognizes as beautiful or true or good emerges as anything but: our world. The book is a masquerade, moving from New England to New York to Madrid, from the art world to the underworld, but it centers on the story of Wyatt Gwyon, the son of a New England minister, who forsakes religion to devote himself to painting, only to despair of his inspiration. In expiation, he will paint nothing but flawless copies of his revered old masters—copies, however, that find their way into the hands of a sinister financial wizard by the name of Reckfall Brown, who of course sells them as the real thing. Dismissed uncomprehendingly by reviewers on publication in 1955 and ignored by the literary world for decades after, *The Recognitions* is now established as one of the great American novels, immensely ambitious and entirely unique, a book of wild, Boschian inspiration and outrageous comedy that is also profoundly serious and sad.

## The Recognitions

*A Free Man of Color and His Hotel* weaves the story of a uniquely successful black businessman into the burgeoning post-Civil War political struggle that pitted the

federal government against the states' desire to remain autonomous. Born in Washington, D.C., James Wormley worked as a hacker in his father's livery stable there and as a steward on Mississippi River steamboats before establishing his own catering and boardinghouse businesses. During a period of limited opportunity for African Americans, he built and operated D.C.'s luxurious Wormley Hotel at a time when most financial and governmental business was conducted in hotels. Not only did a number of notable diplomats and politicians live at the hotel, but because of its location in the city's commercial and political center, Wormley also hosted Washington's movers and shakers. Wormley's rise, however, occurred as three landmark decisions by the Supreme Court effectively dismantled Reconstruction and led to the Plessy v. Ferguson decision that legalized segregation. This cautionary tale illustrates how key Supreme Court decisions hindered other African Americans' potential successes after Reconstruction. By examining the issue of states' rights in terms of one man's against-the-odds success, Carol Gelderman shows how these same issues are still relevant in a postsegregation United States.

## **Theodore Roosevelt**

The House of the Prophet is Auchincloss' searching novel of political philosopher, columnist, and advisor to American presidents, Felix Leitner. One of the most influential men of his time, Leitner will doubtless bring to many readers' minds the late Walter Lippmann.

## **The Book Class**

## **A Writer's Capital**

## **A Voice from Old New York**

Spanning most of the decades of the twentieth century, this entertaining collection of stories reveals the inner lives of America's upper classes in the polished, elegant prose that is Louis Auchincloss's signature. The intricate balance of power in a marriage, the artist's hunger for inspiration, the responsibilities of privileged youth on the eve of war — Auchincloss casts a knowing yet sympathetic eye on such dilemmas as they play themselves out in the salons, clubs, boarding schools, Park Avenue drawing rooms, and summer hideaways of the moneyed classes. In "The Man of Good Will," an aging Seth Middletown finds himself unable to save a beloved grandson torn apart by the sixties — a boy carefully protected from a family secret. Dick and Joyce Emmons, in "The Lotos Eaters," are surprised to find their new marriage subtly undermined by their own enchanted existence on a paradisaal Florida island. A theatrical grande dame and an admiring young actor are "Priestess and Acolyte"—until they realize that the passions that rule them are irreconcilable. Evident on every page of the eight stories contained here are Auchincloss's superb ear for dialogue and his ability to suggest what lies beneath the surface of human relationships. Tales of Yesteryear will give Auchincloss's loyal readers cause to rejoice, and newcomers a delightful introduction to one of America's most distinguished authors.

## **False Dawn**

A New York Times–bestselling novel of love, money, and ambition among the employees of a white-shoe law firm. From a renowned chronicler of American high society, this is a novel set in the small but distinguished New York law firm of Shepard, Putney & Cox in the early 1970s. The son of a rich mother and a socially ambitious father, Beekman “Beeky” Ehninger makes a successful career for himself in the narrow upper echelons of his profession. For years, he has quietly guided his firm through numerous periods of transition—not to mention marital strife, forgery, and fraud. But as times have changed, Beeky and his colleagues must decide whether to join forces with a new and different breed—tough, but undeniably successful. *The Partners* is a masterful characterization of moral men navigating an amoral world, of lawyers, their families, and the rich and powerful people they serve. “Vintage Auchincloss—sensitive, ironic, sympathetic, affecting. Auchincloss is particularly good with the interior reality of seemingly minor conflicts; he also shows, over and over again, that seemingly large and dramatic conflicts are often not the important ones.” —New York magazine

## **Class in America: An Encyclopedia [3 volumes]**

The story of the rise of a New York family, the Carnochans, from their early arrival in America from Scotland to their rise to prominence and wealth, recounts the lives and fortunes of diverse members of the family across generations.

## **The Hone & Strong Diaries of Old Manhattan**

A sparkling and profound consideration of women and power: the power of intellect, of money, of integrity, and of loyalty, love and self-respect. “If I have a bias it is in my suspicion that women are intellectually and intuitively superior to men,” writes Christopher Gates, the elegant, sharp-tongued narrator of this book. “But,” he adds, “I certainly never thought they were ‘nicer.’ And I very much doubt that anyone could think so who was raised, as I was, in a society in which the female had so many more privileges than the male.” And so he begins to describe the twelve women who—as debutantes— instituted his mother’s “book class” in 1908 and with admirable tenacity met every month for over sixty years to discuss a selected title, old or new. Certainly during their lifetimes these women did not have any real political or economic clout comparable to that of the men of their day. Only Adeline Bloodgood had ever held a regular job, and only Polly Travers, as a State Assemblywoman, ever played a formal role in politics. For Georgia Bristed, “the hostess had largely consumed the woman,” and Leila Lee was “a beauty in a day when simply being beautiful was considered an adequate occupation.” And yet, although most of them were surrounded by a staff of servants and had no discernible responsibilities, these women still lived their lives with serious intent backed by a considerable and undeniable power that in no way derived from “the snares and lures of womanly wiles.” Within the protected discipline of their surroundings, their lives were filled with drama and challenge—moments of passion, of betrayal and loyalty, of sweet revenge and joyless conquest, of irony and illumination. As the story unfolds, the women emerge as both heroines and victims; and in telling their story, Louis Auchincloss again proves himself a novelist

of consummate skill whose sense of compassion and irony deepens with each new work. Of his book *Narcissa and Other Fables* reviewers said: "Auchincloss is still one of our best writers of fiction . . ." "A master story teller . . ." "Auchincloss is at his elegant best here."

## J R

Despite hundreds of books and thousands of articles on Jackie Kennedy, surprisingly little is known about her mother's role in her life and achievements. Often dismissed as a social climber who faded into the woodwork after she divorced Jackie's father-the dashing, disreputable "Black Jack" Bouvier-and married the rich Hugh D. Auchincloss, Janet not only played a pivotal part in Jackie's own wedding to JFK, but often served as a stand-in for Jackie during the White House years, and helped her cope with John and Caroline after the assassination. The only book to explore this fascinating mother-daughter relationship, *Janet & Jackie* is filled with stories that shed new light on the personal life of an American icon.

## The Young Apollo

"As always, wry, beadyeyed, acute." -Margaret Atwood, via Twitter From the bestselling, award-winning author of *Flora and Evensong* comes the story of two remarkable women and the complex friendship between them that spans decades. When the dean of Lovegood Junior College for Girls decides to pair Feron Hood with Merry Jellicoe as roommates in 1958, she has no way of knowing the far-reaching consequences of the match. Feron, who has narrowly escaped from a dark past, instantly takes to Merry and her composed personality. Surrounded by the traditions and four-story Doric columns of Lovegood, the girls--and their friendship--begin to thrive. But underneath their fierce friendship is a stronger, stranger bond, one comprised of secrets, rivalry, and influence--with neither of them able to predict that Merry is about to lose everything she grew up taking for granted, and that their time together will be cut short. Ten years later, Feron and Merry haven't spoken since college. Life has led them into vastly different worlds. But, as Feron says, once someone is inside your "reference aura," she stays there forever. And when each woman finds herself in need of the other's essence, that spark--that remarkable affinity, unbroken by time--between them is reignited, and their lives begin to shift as a result. Luminous and masterfully crafted, *Old Lovegood Girls* is the story of a powerful friendship between talented writers, two college friends who have formed a bond that takes them through decades of a fast-changing world, finding and losing and finding again the one friendship that defines them.

## Manhattan Monologues

Traces the history, culture, and society of seventeenth-century Europe through the lives of such outstanding women as Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, Madame de Maintenon, Queen Anne, Queen Mary II, Abigail, Lady Masham, and others

## The Partners

Short stories from a New York Times–bestselling author, in settings ranging from Edwardian garden parties to 1970s Manhattan. While bringing to life stories of the past filled with privilege and glamour, these tales also explore their characters’ less than savory ambitions and desires. In the title story, an older man eulogizes his young friend—a muse to the artists he gathered around himself—only to reveal that despite the young man’s burgeoning reputation as a poet, he could only inspire genius, but not produce it. *The Young Apollo and Other Stories* takes us inside upper-class lives, crystallizing a world now gone but forever fixed in our romantic imaginations, uncovering its flaws and all too human foibles, as well as its considerable charms. “This elegant . . . collection continues [Auchincloss’s] unflinching examination of New York’s wealthy socialite class.” —Library Journal “Auchincloss has a talent for pulling the curtain back on perfection, for peering behind the sublime facade.” —The Seattle Times

## **A Free Man of Color and His Hotel**

From a New York Times–bestselling author, short stories of the privileged class, spanning a century of New York history: “Urbane, humorous . . . a treat to read.” —Library Journal Sublime master of manners, exquisite critic of the upper crust, and beloved American author Louis Auchincloss is at his wry, brilliant best with this collection of ten short stories about New York aristocracy. Drawing on a century of Manhattan high society, Auchincloss weaves a set of perfectly crafted, intimate portrayals of the struggles and dramas of the elite. From a woman faced with choosing love or prestige when marrying to a man torn between loyalty to his family and country when called to war to a matchmaker handling a rogue romance, these glamorous yet all-too-human tales present a remarkable tableau of the American upper class. A series of “finely etched portraits of the kind of men we’ve become used to meeting in [Auchincloss’s] fiction,” *Manhattan Monologues* stands as a remarkable achievement of short fiction, a legend of American letters at his insightful best (The New York Times Book Review). “For the sheer elegance of his prose, Louis Auchincloss deserves a large and enthusiastic following.” —The Baltimore Sun

## **I Come as a Thief**

No one else writes about the moral life of America’s moneyed class with anything approaching Louis Auchincloss’s understanding, sympathy, irony, and humor. In this, his first book of short fiction since the acclaimed *Collected Stories*, he again brings us news that no other writer can deliver, news about how America’s great families and fortunes are run and the axes and crises on which they turn. Here is how the privileged view their privilege—some with smugness, some with style, some with a crushing sense of civic and personal responsibility. Here is how the rich marry, how they divorce, and, more important, why. Here, definitively and indelibly, is the eastern seaboard’s Wasp establishment—sometimes in its glory, more often in its decline, and always with its values, assumptions, and increasingly fragile sense of self held up for our scrutiny by a master, the most subtle critic of American manners since Edith Wharton.

## **Woodrow Wilson**

“[A] certifiable masterpiece” from the acclaimed chronicler of New York City’s old money elite (The New York Observer). Widely considered Louis Auchincloss’s greatest novel, *The Rector of Justin* is an astute dissection of the social mores of the Northeast’s privileged establishment. The story centers on Rev. Frank Prescott, the charismatic founder and rector of a prestigious Episcopal school for boys. With laser-sharp insight, Auchincloss delivers a prismatic portrait of this commanding and complicated man through the eyes of those who knew—or thought they knew—him best. Seamlessly interweaving multiple points of view—from an adoring teacher to that of a rebellious daughter—*The Rector of Justin* presents a social history of the eighty years of his life: the sources of his virtues and failings, his successes, his love, and his crises of faith. As Jonathan Yardley put it in the *Washington Post*, “Auchincloss is one of the most accomplished and distinctive writers this country has known . . . [and] Frank Prescott is one of the great characters in American fiction.” “A daring and ambitious book . . . Its poise and taste and intelligence strike one on every page, as do its unerring knowledge and literary skill.” —The New Yorker “[*The Rector of Justin*] should sit on the shelf of any serious reader of American fiction.” —Jay Parini, *The New York Observer* “A taut and elegant study of a distinguished American whose closest friends cannot decide whether they like or detest him.” —The Times Literary Supplement “Fascinating . . . We do come to feel the reality, the complicated reality, of Francis Prescott.” —Saturday Review “My favorite of Auchincloss’s novels. Both decadent and demanding, high-hat and frank . . . A subversive in lace-up oxfords and rep tie.” —Amy Bloom

## **The Very Best Men**

### **Diary of a Yuppie**

Briefly traces the life of the contemporary American novelist, analyses his major works, and assesses his place in modern literature

### **The Man Behind the Book**

### **The Embezzler**

In a powerful chronicle, spanning three centuries of the Winthrop family in New England and New York, Louis Auchincloss portrays the rise and fall of the Puritan ethic. Through a richly diverse gallery of men and women, both real and fictional, he illuminates the personal and social conflicts that the Puritan sense of mission has generated—under changing guises—in American life. The Winthrop heritage begins in the stern confines of the Massachusetts Bay Colony—Governor John Winthrop's covenant with God versus Anne Hutchinson's compulsion to martyrdom. The burden of conscience falls in varying ways to the Governor's descendants. To his grandson, a judge in the Salem witch trials, it means dying in torment. To Rebecca Bayard, wife of a Hudson Valley patroon, it becomes an obsessive sense of duty leading to ironic consequences. It persuades an American diplomat, negotiating in Paris with the canny Talleyrand, to reject the easy gain of private

power. On the eve of the Civil War, Winthrop Ward, pillar of rectitude in New York society, finds himself playing God at the price of his own humanity. At the century's turn, there is Adam Winthrop, wealthy clubman and cultural arbiter, and his protégée Ada Guest—the passionate bluestocking novelist who opts to escape his stifling patronage. In a New England boarding school in the 1920s, the headmaster's bedeviled Winthrop soul becomes a strange challenge to the chaplain. On the current scene, young and fashionable Natica Seligmann yearns for salvation from an empty life. And finally, there is John Winthrop Gardiner, staunch State Department hawk, whose son is an Army deserter—and whose alcoholic ex-wife perceives only too clearly the latterday perversions of the Puritan spirit. A compassionate, searching and wholly arresting view of a moral strain that, for better or worse, has marked our national character, *The Winthrop Covenant* is one of Louis Auchincloss' highest fictional achievements.

## **Louis Auchincloss**

The fascinating life of Louis Auchincloss, Wall Street lawyer and master novelist. Based on interviews with Auchincloss and access to his private papers, *Becoming a Writer* takes readers inside some of America's least publicized yet most influential institutions and traces the development of a unique artist. 16-page photo insert.

## **Louis Auchincloss**

In the United States, social class ranks with gender, race, and ethnicity in determining the values, activities, political behavior, and life chances of individuals. Most scholars agree on the importance of class, although they often disagree on what it is and how it impacts Americans. This A-Z encyclopedia, the first to focus on class in the United States, surveys the breadth of class strata throughout our history, for high school students to the general public. Class is illuminated in 525 essay entries on significant people, terms, theories, programs, institutions, eras, ethnic groups, places, and much more. This useful set is an authoritative, fascinating source for in-demand information on key aspects of our culture and society and helps researchers to narrow down a broad topic. Class is revealed from angles that often intersect: through history, with entries such as Founding Fathers, the Industrial Revolution, Westward Expansion; through economics, with entries such as Dot.com Bubble, Robber Barons, Chicago School of Economics, Lottery, Wage Slaves, Economic Equal Opportunity Act, Stock Market, Inheritance Taxes, Wal-Mart, Welfare; through social indicators such as Conspicuous Consumption, the Hamptons, WASP, Homelessness, Social Climbing; through politics with entries such as Anarchism, Braceros, Heritage Foundation, Communist Party, Kennedy Family; and through culture through entries such as Country Music, *The Great Gatsby*, Television, and Studs Terkel. Class is also approached from ethnic, sexual, religious, educational, and regional angles. Special features include an introduction, timeline, suggested reading per entry, cross-references, reader's guide to topics, and thorough index. Sample entries: Immigration, Education, Labor Movement, Pink-Collar Workers, AFL-CIO, Strikes, Great Depression, Jacob Riis, Literature, the Rockefellers, Slavery, Music, Academia, Family, Suburbia, McMansions, Taxation, Segregation, Racism, Ivy League, Robber Barons, Philanthropists, Socialites, Religion, Welfare, the American Dream, Dot.com Millionaires, Equal Opportunity, Founding Fathers, Wage Slaves,

Industrial Revolution, Capitalism, Economics, Appalachia, Horse Racing, Gender, Communist Party, Country Clubs, Religion, American Indians, Conspicuous Consumption, Studs Terkel, Film, Class-Consciousness, Work Ethic, Media, Television, Puritans, Homelessness, Status Symbols, Assimilation/Melting Pot, Art, Westward Expansion, Poverty, The Great Gatsby, Stock Market, Working Poor, Gated Communities, the Hamptons, Social Climbing, Crime, Lottery, Elitism, WASP, American Dream, Noam Chomsky, Fortune Magazine

## **The Atonement and Other Stories**

From one of America's greatest men of letters, our sublime master of manners, comes his novel, *Her Infinite Variety*. Louis Auchincloss has been called "our most astute observer of moral paradox among the affluent" (Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.), and his fiction described as that which "has always examined what makes life worth living" (Washington Post Book World). Now he brings us the rollicking tale of an unforgettable woman of mid-twentieth century America: the devilish, forever plotting, yet wholly beguiling Clara Hoyt. A romantic early in life, Clara gets engaged—much to her mother's horror—to the lackluster Bobbie Lester. Soon after her Vassar graduation, however, Clara sees the error of her ways, spurns Bobbie, and slyly enthralls the well-bred and fabulously wealthy Trevor Hoyt, the first of her husbands. Soon she lands a job at a tony magazine, and so begins her wildly entertaining course to the inner sanctum of New York's aristocracy and into the boardrooms of the publishing world. In a world where women still had to wield the weapons of allure and charm, above all else, to secure positions of power, Clara, one of the last of her kind, succeeds marvelously. Auchincloss gives us, in Clara, an irresistible Cleopatra, lovely, wily, and mercurial. As Shakespeare wrote of that feminine creation, "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale / Her infinite variety."

## **East Side Story**

### **Her Infinite Variety**

An "entertaining and occasionally even moving" personal recollection by the lawyer, historian, and renowned chronicler of old-money WASP society (The Boston Globe). At the time of his death, Louis Auchincloss—enemy of bores, self-pity, and stale gossip—had just finished taking on a subject he had long avoided: himself. His memoir confirms that, despite the spark of his fiction, Auchincloss himself was the most entertaining character he ever created. No traitor to his class, but occasionally its critic, Auchincloss returns to his insular society, which he maintains was less interesting than its members admitted—and unfurls his life with dignity, summoning family (particularly his father, who suffered from depression and forgave him for hating sports) and intimates. Brooke Astor and her circle are here, along with glimpses of Jacqueline Onassis. Most memorable, though, is Auchincloss's way with those outside the salon: the cranky maid; the maiden aunt, perpetually out of place; the less-than-well-born boy who threw himself from a window over a woman and a man. Above all, here is what it was like to be Auchincloss, an American master, a New York Times–bestselling novelist, and a rare, generous, lively spirit to the end. "[Auchincloss] concentrates on bringing

back to life—literary alchemy, after all—the people who loved him: his mother, father, aunts, uncles, school friends and colleagues. He understands how lucky he was to have them, and ‘A Voice From Old New York’ is his thank-you note.” —The New York Times

## **The House of the Prophet**

God and the American Writer does more to illuminate the fundamental purposes and motivations of our greatest writers from Hawthorne to Faulkner than any study I have read in the past fifty-five years--that is, since the same author's On Native Grounds. --Louis S. Auchincloss This is the culminating work of the finest living critic of American literature. Alfred Kazin brings a lifetime of thought and reading to the triumphant elucidation of his fascinating and slippery subjects: what the meaning of God has been for American writers, and how those writers, from the New England Calvinists to William Faulkner, have expressed it. In a series of trenchant critical studies of writers as divergent as Hawthorne, Melville, Emerson, Lincoln, Whitman, Dickinson, Twain, William James, Eliot, Frost, and Faulkner, Kazin gives a profound sense of each, and his quotations from their works are artfully chosen to pursue the main theme. The centerpiece of the book is the reflection in American writing of the great American tragedy, the Civil War--so deeply involved in the whole complex issue of religion in America. An enthralling book by a major writer. "This is a book about the place of God in the imaginative life of a country that for two centuries countenanced slavery and then engaged in a fratricidal war to end it. For Americans no subject is more compelling or, in its entanglement with the deepest roots of the national soul, more terrible. And no one has ever written as incisively, as movingly, or as unforgivingly about it as Alfred Kazin has here." --Louis Menand "In the era of willful obfuscation, Alfred Kazin is the good, clear word, a brilliant scholar and an original reader. His latest book, God and the American Writer, which comes fifty-five years after On Native Grounds, proves he has lost nothing and gives us everything he has." --David Remnick "American writers have been born into all sorts of religious sects, but have had to struggle in solitude to make sense of God. Alfred Kazin, a cosmos unto himself, has written brilliantly and affectingly of how a dozen or so of our finest authors--poets, novelists, philosophers, and one president--endured and illuminated that struggle. Kazin is sometimes passionate, even fierce, especially in his discussions of slavery and of his hero (and mine), Abraham Lincoln. But, as ever, Kazin's writing is tempered by an enormous American empathy and by his sense of irony about our country and its spiritual predicaments. Spare, sharp, and immensely learned, God and the American Writer is the most moving volume of criticism yet by our greatest living critic." --Sean Wilentz

## **The Lady of Situations**

"JR won the annual U.S. National Book Award for Fiction"--

## **Last of the Old Guard**

A portrait of Woodrow Wilson explores the life, academic career, and presidency of this flawed apostle of world peace

## **Louis Auchincloss**

The New York Times–bestselling author “picks up where Wharton and James left off, with [a] stylish, tasteful novel of manners” (Publishers Weekly). Natica Chauncey, the daughter of a financier ruined by the Great Depression, is determined to regain the social status she has lost. She relies on a kindly matron for her glancing acquaintance with the aristocracy of Long Island—but she is haunted by a yearning for more. Coming of age at a time when anything more than a modest show of ambition does not become a lady, she must seek her own fortune in the fortunes of others. And so, with little more than her wits and determination, she makes her way through the social shoals of New England prep schools, Hudson Valley estates, and New York drawing rooms. Natica has a gift for finding opportunity in improbable situations, even at the risk of scandal—and almost in spite of herself, she will emerge as an unlikely, and unforgettable, femme fatale.

## **Tales of Yesteryear**

Tells the story of the CIA from the end of World War II to Vietnam through the careers of four extraordinary men whose fall from favor had enormous consequences for Cold War policy

## **God and the American Writer**

Set in the New York Stock Exchange world of love, adultery, high finance, and betrayal, presents a character study of a Wall Street man who embezzles money during the Depression.

## **Portrait in Brownstone**

A prominent lawyer in 1940s New York investigates the mystery of his partner’s life and death in this novel by a New York Times–bestselling author. Nearing the end of his days, Adrian Suydam, half the partnership of the law firm of Suydam & Saunders, reflects on his lifelong friendship and business relationship with Ernest Saunders—a tragic and complicated man incapable of properly loving anyone. In this perceptive novel, set against the backdrop of old New York, Louis Auchincloss exposes the temptations and vicissitudes that thrust his characters toward unforeseen fates. Drawing on his own career as an attorney, Auchincloss “effortlessly conjures a bygone world of privilege” and elegantly brings to life a lost era (Publishers Weekly). Through interwoven tales of family members, clients, and such notables as Teddy Roosevelt and the Astors, readers get an insider’s look at a secretive world. Touching, comical, and erudite, *Last of the Old Guard* is a revealing portrait of both a high-profile law firm and a poignant friendship between two men—from an author whose works “have rightfully earned him a literary place alongside Edith Wharton and Henry James. His old-fashioned sensibility remains charming, even refreshing in an era of literati hipsters” (Los Angeles Times).

## **The Cat and the King**

An intimate portrait of the first president of the 20th century The American century opened with the election of that quintessentially American adventurer, Theodore Roosevelt. Louis Auchincloss's warm and knowing biography introduces us to the man behind the many myths of Theodore Roosevelt. From his early involvement in the politics of New York City and then New York State, we trace his celebrated military career and finally his ascent to the national political stage. Caricatured through history as the "bull moose," Roosevelt was in fact a man of extraordinary discipline whose refined and literate tastes actually helped spawn his fascination with the rough-and-ready worlds of war and wilderness. Bringing all his novelist's skills to the task, Auchincloss briskly recounts the significant contributions of Roosevelt's career and administration. This biography is as thorough as it is readable, as clear-eyed as it is touching and personal.

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