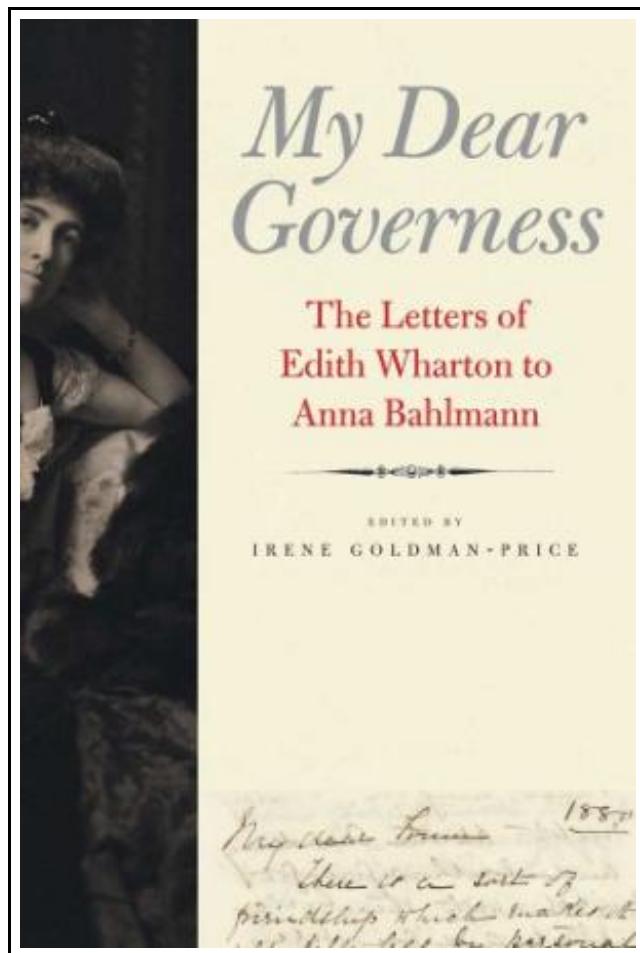


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MY DEAR GOVERNESS: THE LETTERS OF EDITH WHARTON TO ANNA BAHLMANN (HARDBACK)

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Yale University Press, United States, 2012. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 158 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. An exciting archive came to auction in 2009: the papers and personal effects of Anna Catherine Bahlmann (1849-1916), a governess and companion to several prominent American families. Among the collection were one hundred thirty-five letters from her most famous pupil, Edith Newbold Jones, later the great American novelist Edith Wharton. Remarkably, until now, just three letters from Wharton s childhood and early adulthood were thought to survive. Bahlmann, who would become Wharton s literary secretary and confidante, emerges in the letters as a seminal influence, closely guiding her precocious young student s readings, translations, and personal writing. Taken together, these letters, written over the course of forty-two years, provide a deeply affecting portrait of mutual loyalty and influence between two women from different social classes. This correspondence reveals Wharton s maturing sensibility and vocation, and includes details of her life that will challenge long-held assumptions about her formative years. Wharton scholar Irene Goldman-Price provides a rich introduction to *My Dear Governess* that restores Bahlmann to her central place in Wharton s life.

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