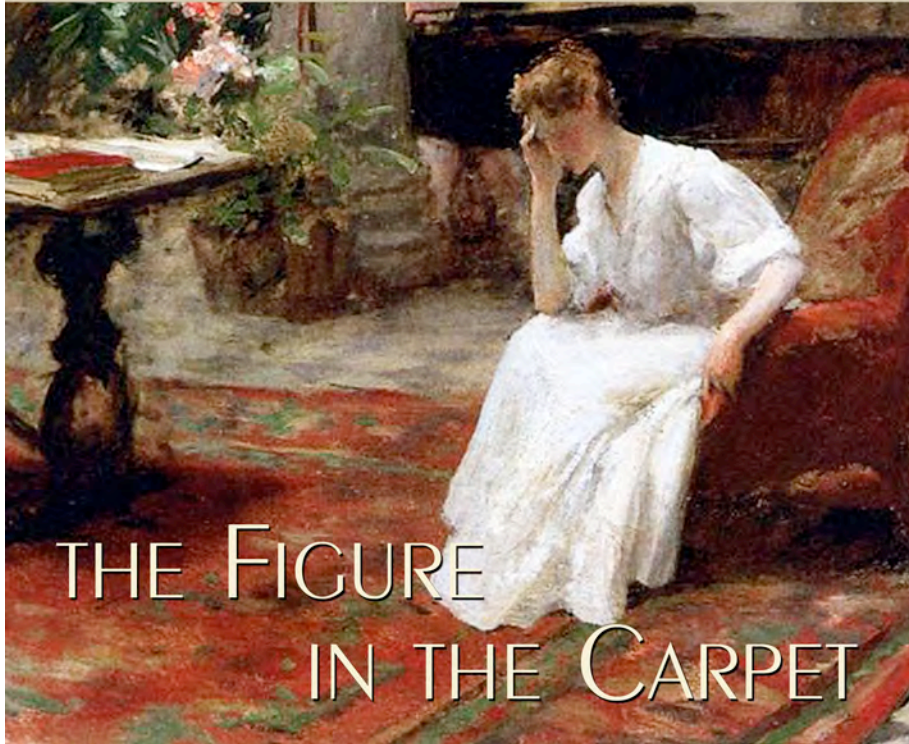


HENRY JAMES

A LIBRIVOX RECORDING



THE FIGURE IN THE CARPET

The Figure in the Carpet

by Henry James (1843-1916)

The narrator, a writer, prides himself on his astute review of Hugh Vereker's latest novel. Vereker dismisses his efforts, explaining that all critics have "missed my little point," "the particular thing I've written my books most for," "the thing for the critic to find," "my secret," "like a complex figure in a Persian carpet." The narrator racks his brains and, in desperation, tells his friend Corvick of the puzzle. Corvick and his novelist fiancée, Gwendolyn, pursue "the trick" without success until Corvick, traveling alone in India, wires Gwendolyn and the narrator "Eureka! Immense." He dies before he is able to reveal his discovery, and the secret remains elusive. (*Wikipedia*)

James's story almost certainly has an autobiographical side to it, perhaps itself criticizing those critics who couldn't see -- or wouldn't see -- the figures lost in the carpet of his own writing.



HENRY JAMES

THE FIGURE IN THE CARPET

HENRY JAMES



Total running time: 1:39:24

Read by Nicholas Clifford

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
Painting by William Merritt Chase, *The Song*, (1907)