

# Lily as the Goddess Diana in The House of Mirth

The screenshot shows the EssayPro website homepage. At the top, the logo 'ESSAYPRO' is on the left, and navigation links 'How To Order', 'Reviews', 'About Us', and 'Write My Essay' are in the center. On the right, there are links for 'DBA: EPRO', 'Log In', and a blue 'Sign Up' button. The main banner features a student sleeping at a desk with a pen holder. Text on the banner includes 'WRITING SERVICE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE', 'You - Send us your homework We - Do it all for you', and 'Grab your original paper for just \$10 per page with a free plagiarism report included'. A 'Write My Essay!' button is present. A 'Calculate the price' widget is overlaid on the right, showing options for 'Writing', 'Rewriting', and 'Editing', a dropdown for 'Essay (any type)', 'College', and '2 weeks', a word count of '1 page / 275 words', and radio buttons for 'Double spaces' (selected) and 'Single spaces'. The price is '\$11.4' with a flame icon, and a 'Write My Paper' button is at the bottom. Below the banner, three review sections are shown: 'EssayPro Reviews' with a 4.9 rating, 'ResellerRatings' with a 4.9 rating, and 'Sitejabber' with a 4.8 rating.

ESSAYPRO How To Order Reviews About Us Write My Essay DBA: EPRO Log In Sign Up

WRITING SERVICE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

You - Send us your homework  
We - Do it all for you

Grab your original paper for just \$10 per page with a free plagiarism report included

Write My Essay!

Calculate the price

Writing Rewriting Editing

Essay (any type)

College 2 weeks

1 page / 275 words

Double spaces Single spaces

\$11.4

Write My Paper

NO MORE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS...  
100% PLAGIARISM-FREE ESSAYS. ANY TOPIC OR DIFFICULTY CAN BE HANDLED!

EssayPro Reviews 4.9

ResellerRatings 4.9

Sitejabber 4.8

ENTER HERE => <https://bit.ly/abcdessay108>

## Lily as the Goddess Diana in The House of Mirth

One of the tragedies in *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton is that Lily Bart is unable to marry Laurence Selden and thereby secure a safe position in society. Their relationship fluctuates from casual intimacy to outright love depending on how and where Selden perceives Lily. Selden sees a beautiful quality in Lily [Bart](#) that is not present in any of the other women in the novel. This mysterious beauty that is so often alluded to, in addition to her attraction for the other men, is best understood when Lily is conceived of as the goddess Diana. As Diana, Lily Bart hunts for the perfect husband but cannot marry, remains separate from the "dinginess" of society, and finally is crushed by a remorseless rejection that can even destroy a goddess.

Diana, the goddess of the hunt and of maidenhood, perfectly combines the traits that Lily Bart exhibits. Although never explicitly connected with the goddess, Wharton's first description of Lily notes her "wild-wood grace" and "sylvan freedom":

"She paused before the mantelpiece, studying herself in the mirror while she adjusted her veil. The attitude revealed the long [slope](#) of her slender sides, which gave a kind of wild-

wood grace to her outline, as though she were a captured dryad subdued to the conventions of the drawing-room; and Selden reflected that it was the same streak of sylvan freedom in her nature that lent such savour to her artificiality" (15).

Not only the description invokes the image of Diana, but also Lily's name. The lily-of-the-valley is Diana's flower. Lily Bart later chooses to [wear](#) a plain white dress for her part in the Reynold's painting, thereby choosing the color of Diana. ...

... middle of paper ...

...Wharton brilliantly interprets through Lily's downfall. Selden's unrealized love for Lily Bart hinges on his realization that it is her Diana-like qualities that set her apart; yet it is this same distinct quality that will bring about her demise. Lily's inability to resurrect her reputation and use the letters against Bertha Dorset is intimately tied to her inability to marry; her pattern of running away from each man that proposes to her plunges her into a downward spiral from which she cannot recover. It is not morals, but rather her qualities as the virgin goddess that ultimately doom her. By making Lily into a form of Diana, Wharton is able to condemn her society even more fiercely. She shows us that the society Lily lives in has the ability to destroy even a goddess.

#### Works Cited

Wharton, Edith. *The House of Mirth*. Signet Classic: New York. 1964.

#### Other Articles:

- [Film Studies Editing Website](#)
- [Cheap Descriptive Essay Proofreading Service Ca](#)
- [Write Me Rhetorical Analysis Essay On Hacking](#)
- [Professional University Essay Editing Websites For School](#)
- [Popular Dissertation Proposal Ghostwriting Site For Mba](#)