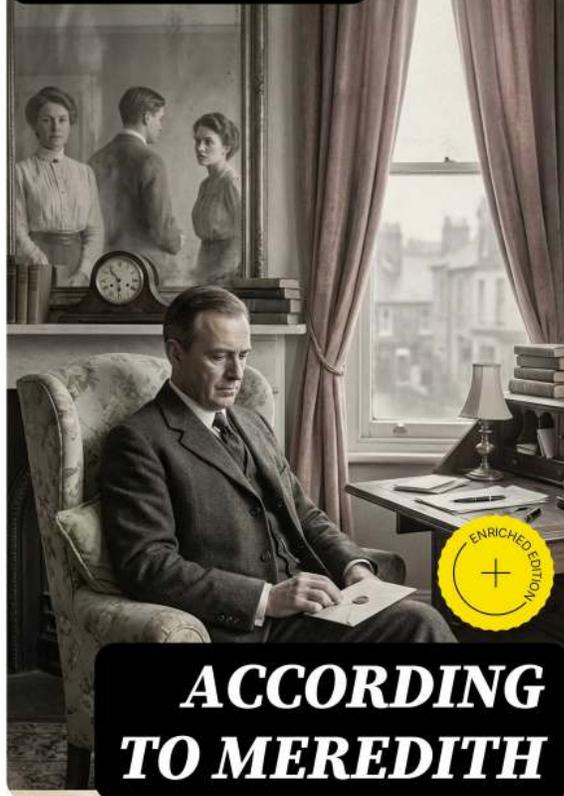


**MARIE BELLOC
LOWNDES**



**ACCORDING
TO MEREDITH**

**MARIE BELLOC
LOWNDES**



**ACCORDING
TO MEREDITH**

Marie Belloc Lowndes

According to Meredith

Enriched edition.

Introduction, Studies and Commentaries by Tristan West

EAN 8596547055853

Edited and published by DigiCat, 2022



Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Synopsis](#)

[Historical Context](#)

[According to Meredith](#)

[Analysis](#)

[Reflection](#)

[Memorable Quotes](#)

[Notes](#)

Introduction

[Table of Contents](#)

At the heart of Marie Belloc Lowndes's *According to Meredith* lies the unnerving recognition that a confident interpretation, offered by one persuasive observer, can become a community's reality, reshaping reputations, guiding choices, and quietly determining fates long before facts are gathered, because what people accept as truth often flows less from evidence than from tone, posture, and social standing, and because the need for moral clarity, especially in moments of uncertainty, invites us to trade complexity for coherence, the novel asks how far we will permit one voice to arbitrate the lives of others—and why that permission is so willingly given.

According to Meredith is a British novel of psychological and social insight by Marie Belloc Lowndes, an early twentieth-century writer best remembered for her mastery of quiet, cumulative suspense. Working within the period's world of manners and moral scrutiny, Lowndes explores how private dilemmas are staged in public rooms, where conversation doubles as judgment and character is tried in the court of opinion. Without relying on sensational devices, the book belongs to the lineage of domestic and societal narratives in which tension arises from what is said, withheld, and inferred, and it participates in the era's fascination with respectability, responsibility, and the uses of influence.

From its opening chapters, the story orients itself around the authority of a figure whose name provides the title, an individual whose evaluations shape the meaning of events

for others. Rather than racing toward a single revelation, the novel accumulates situations in which small choices carry disproportionate consequence, and in which a remark, a gesture, or a carefully timed silence can tip the balance of a household or friendship. Readers are invited to weigh each scene alongside the central arbiter, to feel the seduction of certainty, and to sense the risk that an inherited point of view might eclipse the whole.

The reading experience is one of measured pressure rather than shock. Lowndes's prose, lucid and attentive to the fine gradations of motive, favors dialogue and interior emphasis over overt plot mechanics, building tension through observation and the ethics implied in everyday decisions. The tone balances sympathy with skepticism, allowing the reader to inhabit competing interpretations without being forced into quick verdicts. Scenes unfold in chambers, streets, and social calls typical of her milieu, yet the settings function chiefly as arenas for scrutiny. The novel's pace invites reflection, rewarding patience with the steady revelation of character and the architecture of influence.

Key themes emerge with clarity. The book interrogates the authority of narrative and the fragile status of truth when reputation, class, and custom are at stake. It asks how gender expectations police conduct and how deference to social arbiters can silence inconvenient realities. It studies the psychology of judgment—how we make sense of people we half-know, how bias masquerades as insight, and how moral certainty can absolve itself of curiosity. It is equally alert to the cost of passivity: when no one challenges a prevailing view, harm can proceed politely. Through these concerns, the novel maintains steady, humane attention to consequence.