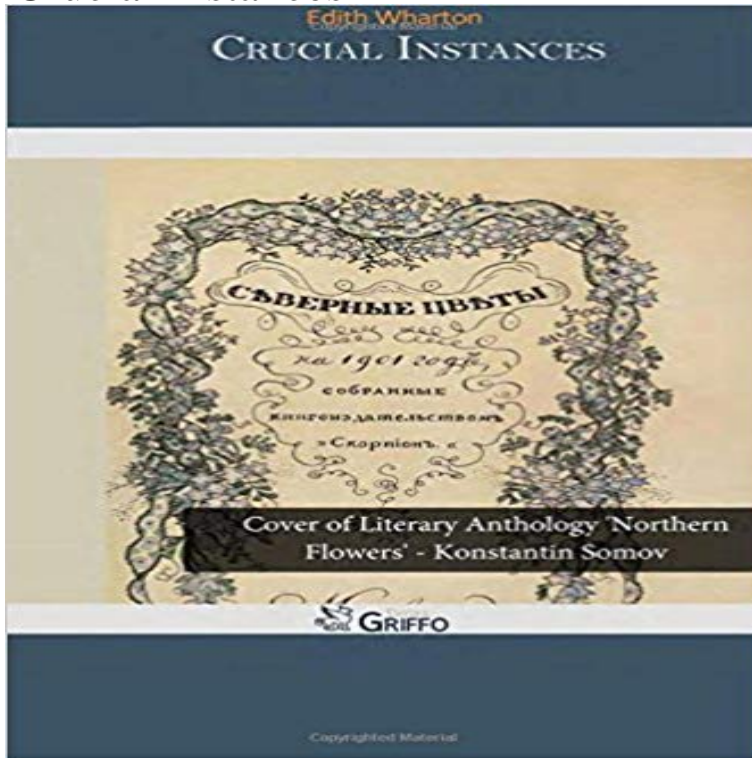


# Crucial Instances



[...]had married the lady from Venice, you must know; it was a gay city, then, Im told, with laughter and music on the water, and the days slipped by like boats running with the tide. Well, to humor her he took her back the first autumn to the Brenta. Her father, it appears, had a grand palace there, with such gardens, bowling-alleys, grottoes and casinos as never were; gondolas bobbing at the water-gates, a stable full of gilt coaches, a theatre full of players, and kitchens and offices full of cooks and lackeys to serve up chocolate all day long to the fine ladies in masks and furbelows, with their pet dogs and their blackamoors and their abates. Eh! I know it all as if Id been there, for Nencia, you see, my grandmothers aunt, travelled with the Duchess, and came back with her eyes round as platters, and not a word to say for the rest of the year to any of the lads whod courted her here in Vicenza. What happened there I dont knowmy grandmother could never get at the rights of it, for Nencia was mute as a fish where her lady was concernedbut[...].

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seen so sucked back into the past that he seemed more like  
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