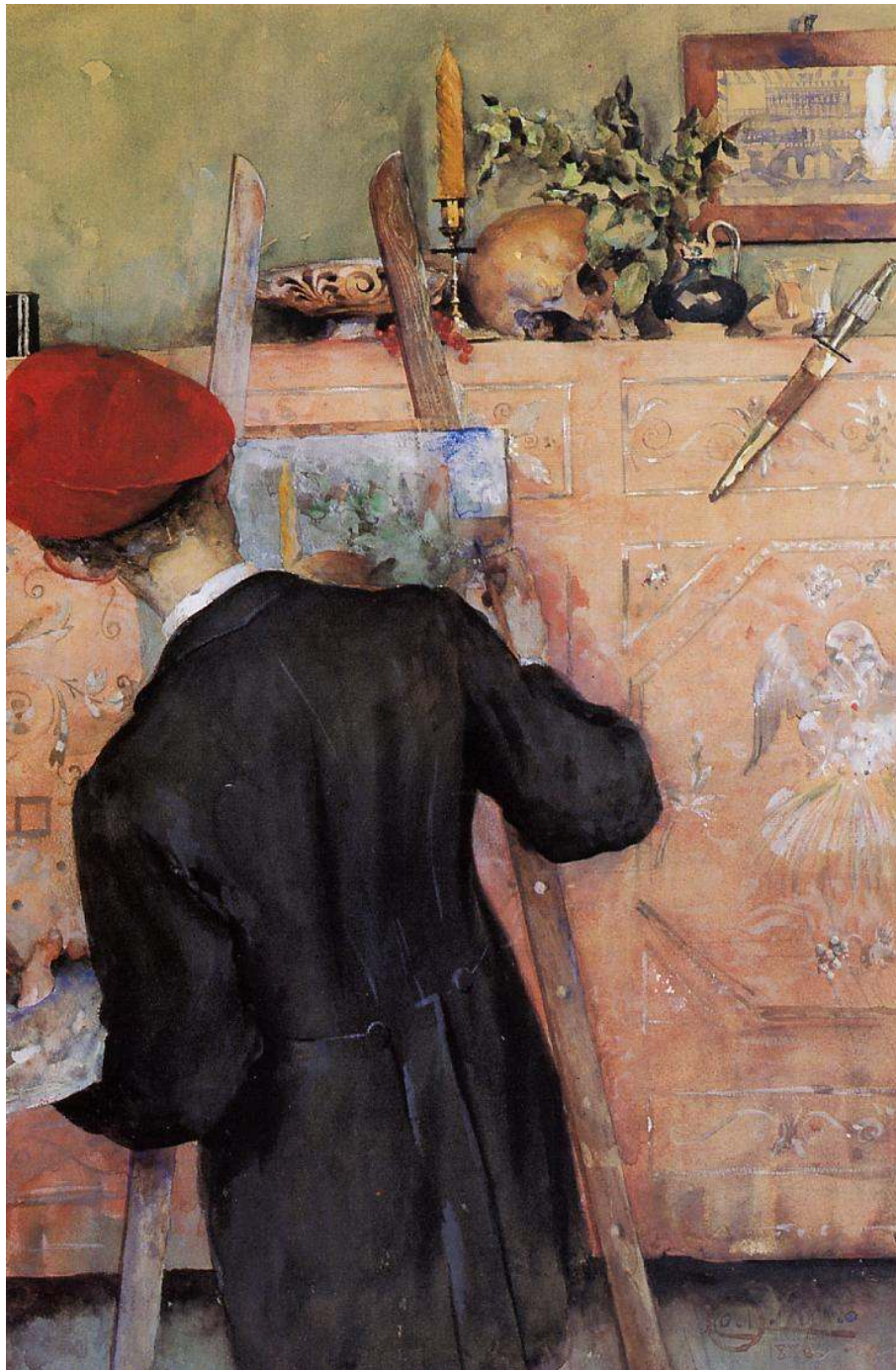


Cascading Style Sheets



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Introduction

Why does HTML need CSS?

HTML uses “tags” that have some form of meaning. A headline tag says that this is a headline for what follows. A paragraph tag says that this text forms a unified thought. A table header tag says that this cell is a header for a row or column.

Cascading style sheets provide no meaning. They allow you to change how an HTML tag displays, but not what an HTML tag means. In general, when you create web pages using HTML and CSS, the HTML should describe your web page, and your CSS should describe its presentation. The page should remain readable in a wide variety of browsers and browser types without any of the CSS.

The web site

You can find the latest version of this tutorial, as well as the resources archive, at <http://www.hoboes.com/NetLife/CSS/>.

What is that cover?

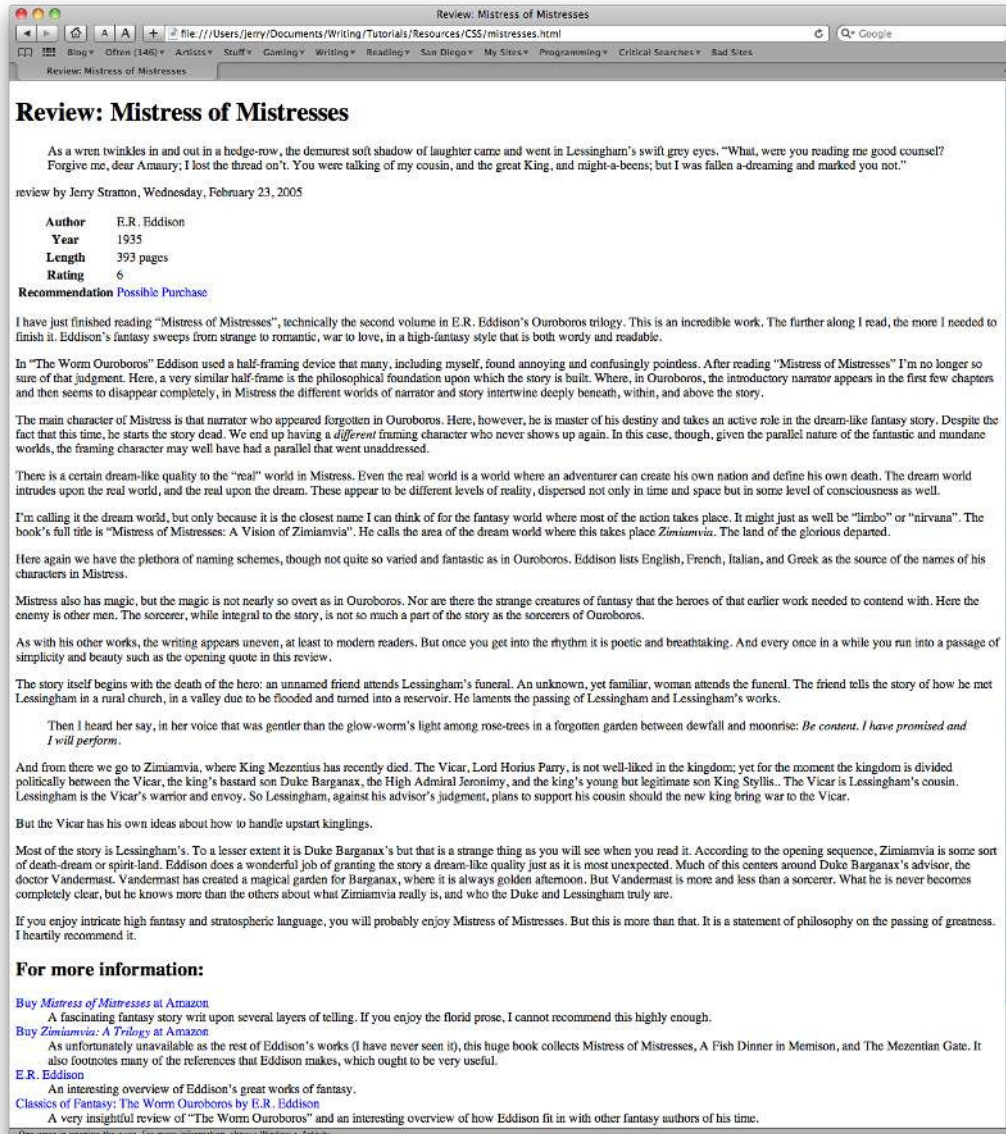
The Still Life Painter, by Swedish painter Carl Larsson. He was also an interior designer and worked within the turn-of-the-century Arts and Crafts movement.

The back cover is Emilie Preyer’s *Still Life of Fruit*, modified by me to transition from old photo to dynamic color. What’s the fly doing? It’s waiting for the spider.

I found both of them on Wikimedia Commons.

A simple web page

We are going to use a CSS-free review of E.R. Eddison's *Mistress of Mistresses* as an example. Open the file "mistress.html" in your browser. As it stands, it is a perfectly readable page, but it does not draw the reader's attention as it should. The headlines do not stand out from the body, and the recommendations lie lifeless on the left of the page along with everything else.



Over the course of this tutorial we're going to provide a layout to this page. We'll make it more readable on the screen, and when we're done we'll also make it more readable on paper.

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