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Mrs. Dalloway

Virginia Woolf (1882 - 1941)

Read by: Jenn Broda Language: English
 Length: 3 hours 34 minutes Style: Solo
 Genre: Fiction

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-1333	0674012595320	\$9.99
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1333	0674012595313	\$9.99
MP3 CD	Security sleeve	CD-1333	NA	\$4.99
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Mrs Dalloway recounts a day in June 1923 in the life of Clarissa Dalloway, a high society London lady. The book describes her morning running errands to prepare for a party she will host that evening, and then the party itself. It is written in the stream of consciousness style, moving back and forth in time, depicting thoughts, images and memories that construct a picture of her life and those of the other characters in a web of interwoven stories that provide a tableau of post-First World War England. The lovely day reminds her of her youth and makes her wonder about her marriage to the practical Richard Dalloway instead the more dynamic Peter Walsh, who has just returned from India and pays her a visit that morning. She also wonders about her romantic interest in a female friend that could go no further than a single kiss due to social taboos. At the same time, in the park, Peter observes Septimus Smith, a veteran suffering from PTSD who is beset by frequent hallucinations,

mostly featuring a friend who had died in the war. Later that day he jumps out a window to his death after he is involuntarily committed to a psychiatric hospital. Most of the people who appear in the book attend the party that night, which is a success. The book is often compared to James Joyce's *Ulysses* due to its structural and stylistic similarities. *Mrs Dalloway* was included on TIME Magazine's 2005 list of the 100 best English-language novels written since its first issue in 1923.

Virginia Woolf (January 25, 1882 – March 28, 1941) was one of the most important modernist English writers of the twentieth century and a pioneer of stream of consciousness narrative. She was born into an upper-middle-class London family that was well established in the social and cultural world of Victorian England. Her father, Leslie Stephen, was a leading figure in Cambridge literary circles. Her mother, Julia, was from a prominent Anglo-Indian family. She grew up speaking fluent French and German, living for part of the year in Paris, and making many trips to Europe. From 1897 to 1901, she attended the Ladies' Department of King's College London, where she studied classics and history and met the early reformers of women's higher education and the women's rights movement. In her teens she began to read the literary and philosophical works that her parents collected and began to write for herself. After her father's death in 1904 the family moved to Bloomsbury, where Virginia became a part of the Bloomsbury Group of artists, writers, and other intellectuals founded by her brother. She married Leonard Woolf in 1912. In 1917 they established the Hogarth Press, which published many of her novels: *The Voyage Out* (1915), *Night and Day* (1919), *Jacob's Room* (1922), *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927), *Orlando* (1928), and *The Waves* (1931). She also wrote many essays, notably "A Room of One's Own" (1929), which have been collected as *The Essays of Virginia Woolf* in six volumes. Throughout her life she suffered from what would be diagnosed today as bipolar disorder. In 1941, at age 59, Woolf died by drowning herself in the River Ouse at Lewes.