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To the Lighthouse

Virginia Woolf (1882 - 1941)

Read by: Cori Samuel Language: English
 Length: 7 hours 50 minutes Style: Solo
 Genre: Fiction

Product Formats and Options

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MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-1349	0674012595825	\$9.99
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“To the Lighthouse” is a novel by Virginia Woolf that was first published in 1927. The novel is set on the Isle of Skye in Scotland and centers around the Ramsay family and their friends, who are visiting the island for a summer holiday. The story is divided into three sections: “The Window,” “Time Passes,” and “The Lighthouse.” In “The Window,” the Ramsay family and their guests spend their time in the house, discussing art and literature, and engaging in everyday activities. One of the guests, Charles Tansley, is particularly disdainful of the others and Mrs. Ramsay becomes increasingly frustrated by his attitude. “Time Passes” is set ten years later, during which time the Ramsay’s youngest son, James, has grown up and the First World War has occurred. The family home is now empty and falling into disrepair. In the final section, “The Lighthouse,” the Ramsay’s eldest son, Andrew, is killed in the war, and Mr. Ramsay, James, and a friend, go on a trip to the lighthouse, a trip which is symbolic of the journey through life, and come to a deeper understanding of themselves and each other.

Throughout the novel, Virginia Woolf explores themes of identity, gender roles, and the passage of time. The novel is known for its stream-of-consciousness style, which allows readers to see into the thoughts and emotions of the characters. The novel is considered a modernist masterpiece and one of Woolf’s most famous works.

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.