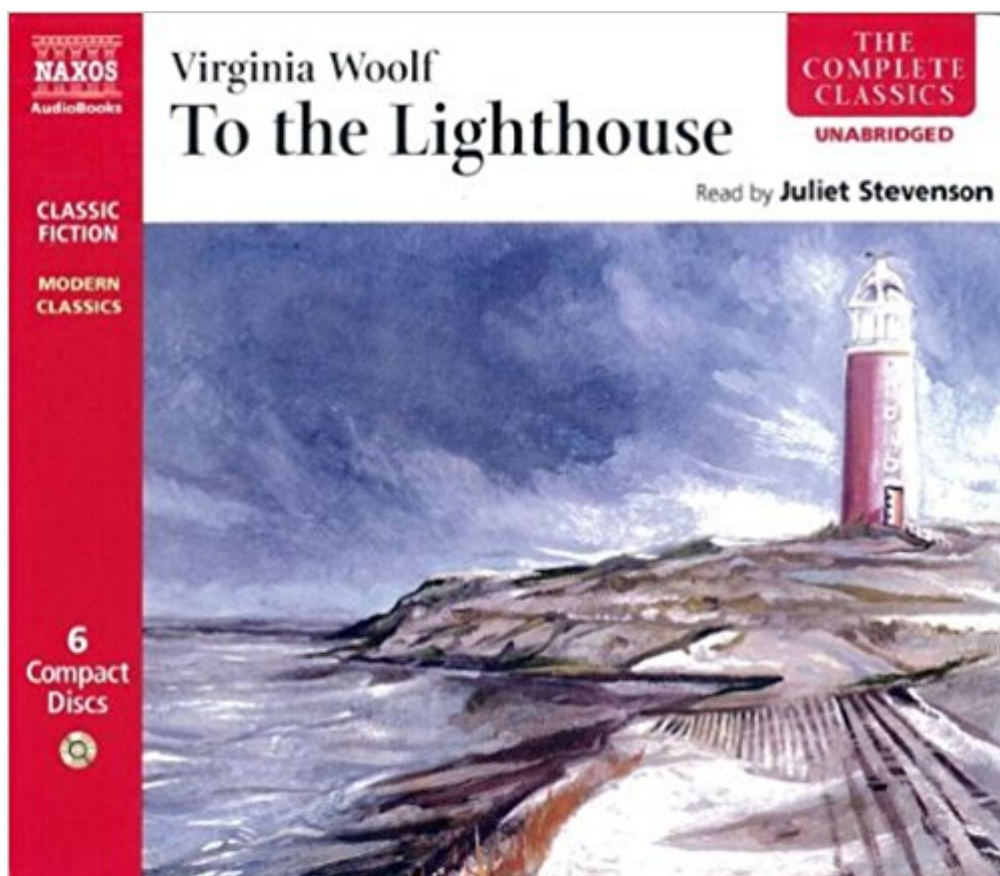


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To The Lighthouse (Complete Classics)



Synopsis

Just before the First World War, the Ramsay family go to their holiday home in the Hebrides, bringing several guests with them. While they are there, one of the children wants to visit a lighthouse. After a ten year gap, during which the war wreaks its havoc on Europe, one of the guests returns to the house and another trip to the lighthouse is proposed. Told from multiple viewpoints, in language that is precise, delicate and allusive, *To the Lighthouse* is a landmark work of English fiction. Virginia Woolf explores perception and meaning in some of the most beautiful prose ever written, minutely detailing the characters' thoughts and impressions.

Book Information

Series: Complete Classics

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (415 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,164,915 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(W \) > Woolf, Virginia](#) #1064 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Classics](#) #9865 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#)

Customer Reviews

Many critics, teachers and readers consider *To the Lighthouse* to be Virginia Woolf's masterpiece. *To the Lighthouse* was published in 1927 and its structure is unique, although it does contain elements of the Victorian. Woolf wrote this novel in only one year and did very little rewriting. Both subtle and sharp, the ease with which the book was written is apparent in the flow of both its narrative and its prose. The novel was written during one of the brief peaceful and happy times in Woolf's life. (In 1895, after her mother's death, Woolf became almost continuously depressed and suffered a series of nervous breakdowns, culminating in her suicide by drowning in 1941.) *To the Lighthouse*, like Woolf's previous novel, *Jacob's Room*, is a somewhat disjointed story, possessing numerous characters, points-of-view and conflicts. The overlapping and separation of the characters and their stories seems to result from both intention and oversight and is a product of

what Woolf referred to as "all characters boiled down," and the "break of unity in my design."The story centers around the summer vacation to the Isle of Skye of the Ramsey family, a family Woolf admitted was very much like her own. In fact, Woolf said that writing *To the Lighthouse* helped her "rub out" the obsessive memory of her own mother. Mrs. Ramsey, like Woolf's own mother, is a woman of decidedly Victorian ideals, choosing to focus on her home, her marriage and her family. Interacting with Mrs. Ramsey is the character most representative of Woolf, herself, Lily Briscoe, a young girl who is staying in the same beachouse as the Ramseys. Unmarried, Lily draws both disapproval and sympathy from Mrs.

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