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**CLASSIC  
FICTION**

**MODERN  
CLASSICS**

Virginia Woolf

# To the Lighthouse

Read by **Juliet Stevenson**



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<b>1</b>	<b>The Window (Part 1)</b>	14:47
<b>2</b>	Walking with a beautiful woman	5:52
<b>3</b>	The stocking	3:44
<b>4</b>	Someone had blundered	6:27
<b>5</b>	The letter Q	6:37
<b>6</b>	Sympathy	8:22
<b>7</b>	Mr Carmichael	8:25
<b>8</b>	"A bit of a hypocrite?"	11:24
<b>9</b>	"...lovelier now than ever"	7:37
<b>10</b>	Dinner	5:15
<b>11</b>	Dinner continues	8:28
<b>12</b>	Luriana Lurilee	2:17
<b>13</b>	Immortality	10:42
<b>14</b>	<b>Time Passes (Part 2)</b>	1:58
<b>15</b>	Winter	3:37
<b>16</b>	Spring	1:23
<b>17</b>	Summer	3:38
<b>18</b>	Renovation	2:57
<b>19</b>	<b>The Lighthouse (Part 3)</b>	3:41
<b>20</b>	Painting	8:38
<b>21</b>	In the boat	7:39
<b>22</b>	Perspective	3:50
<b>23</b>	Approaching	11:54
<b>24</b>	Arriving	8:35

**Total time: 2:37:55**

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## Virginia Woolf

# To the Lighthouse

**Virginia Woolf** was born in 1882, the daughter of editor and critic Leslie Stephen. The early deaths of her mother, step-sister and brother left her prone to bouts of depression which continued throughout her life. After teaching for a time at a college for working women in south London, she began writing reviews for *The Times Literary Supplement* and was drawn into a group of radical writers and artists later to be known as the Bloomsbury Group. Here she met the socialist intellectual, Leonard Woolf, whom she married in 1912. Together they founded the Hogarth Press, whose list included such influential literary figures as T.S. Eliot and Katherine Mansfield.

Through her early essays and articles and later her novels, Virginia Woolf gained a reputation as a feminist and modernist and was keen to develop new techniques to express her vision of life. Her major novels include **Mrs Dalloway** (1925), **To The Lighthouse** (1927), **A Room of One's Own** (1929) and **The Waves** (1931). In 1941, overcome by fear of another attack of depression, she drowned herself.

In writing **To The Lighthouse**, Virginia Woolf drew largely on memories of her

father and mother and the summers they spent at St. Ives. However, she uses her own experiences only as a resource for her energetic imagination, and the book is concerned primarily with the inner processes of the mind, rather than with the 'objective' material, and it is significant that the painting of Lily's picture, the work of art in which she tries to express the essence of her experiences, is a central part of the book. It is this fusion of the 'subjective' and the 'objective' which concerned the author when writing this book.

There has been much debate about the intrinsic symbolic significance of the lighthouse, but given that Virginia Woolf seems to be saying that there is no ultimate reality, it is unlikely that she intended it to represent one fixed idea; it is simply a lighthouse, and it becomes for each character what they choose to project onto it.

For Mrs Ramsay it is 'something immune which shines out', and for James, as he approaches the lighthouse, he sees it 'as it really is' and yet 'No, the other was also the lighthouse. For nothing was simply one thing.' As we penetrate the minds and

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different perspectives of each character, we are, almost unwittingly, drawn into a world which is at once unreal and an expression and exploration of the fundamental truth and mystery of human perception and reality.

**Notes by Heather Godwin**

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**The music on this recording is taken from the  
NAXOS and MARCO POLO catalogues**

- DELIUS** BRIGG FAIR & IN A SUMMER GARDEN 8.550229  
Czecho-Slovak (Bratislava) / Adrian Leaper
- ALKAN** DOUCEMENT, SUITE NO. 3, PRELUDES OP. 31 8.223284  
Laurent Martin, piano
- PIERNÉ** ROMANCE WITHOUT WORDS, FIFTEEN PIECES OP. 3 8.223115  
Chang Hae-Won, piano
- GRIEG** INTERMEZZO IN A MINOR & CELLO SONATA, OP. 36 8.550878  
Øystein Bikeland, cello; Håvard Gimse, piano

# Virginia Woolf

## To the Lighthouse

Read by **Juliet Stevenson**

*To The Lighthouse* is Virginia Woolf's most accomplished novel, and her most autobiographical. It tells of one summer spent by the Ramsay family and their friends in their holiday home in Scotland. Offshore stands the lighthouse, remote, inaccessible, an eternal presence in a changing world. A projected visit to the lighthouse forms the heart of this extraordinary novel which, through the minds of the various characters, explores the nature of time, memory, transience and eternity. The style has the clarity of a diamond which shimmers in the mind, making *To The Lighthouse* one of the most unforgettable novels of the twentieth century.



**Juliet Stevenson** has worked extensively for the RSC, the Royal National Theatre, and other major theatre companies. She won an Olivier Award for her role in *Death and the Maiden* at the Royal Court, and a number of other awards for her work in the film *Truly, Madly, Deeply*. Other film credits include *The Trial*, *Ladder of Swords*, *Drowning by Numbers* and *A Secret Rapture*.

*"This production by Nicolas Soames is a triumph..."*

*Juliet Stevenson's reading of this peerless text is passionate and incisive."*

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Produced by Nicolas Soames  
Abridged by Heather Godwin  
Post-production: Simon Weir, The Classical Recording Company  
Engineer (speech): Alan Smyth, Bucks Audio Cassettes

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Total time  
2:37:55