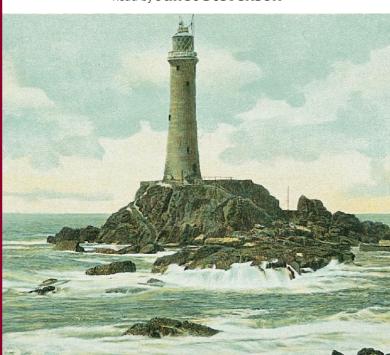


CLASSIC FICTION

MODERN CLASSICS Virginia Woolf

To the Lighthouse

Read by Juliet Stevenson



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

Total time: 2:37:55

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

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

Cover picture: by courtesy of the Mary Evans Picture Library, London.

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

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

(speech): Alan Smyth, Bucks Audio Cassette

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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Total time 2:37:55