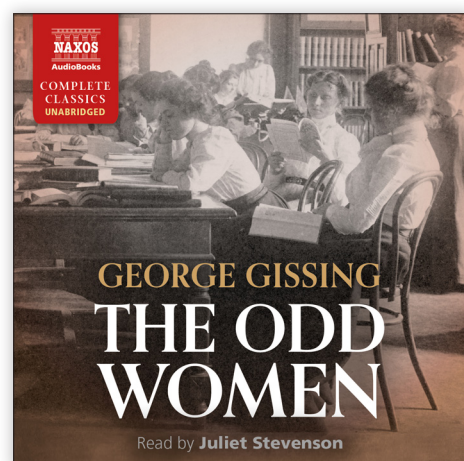


Read by **Juliet Stevenson**

GEORGE GISSING THE ODD WOMEN

'What is more vulgar than the ideal of novelists? In real life, how many men and women fall in love?' So says Rhoda Nunn, George Gissing's formidable heroine. Through a gripping and thought-provoking story, Gissing presents the reality for Victorian women: a society in which marriage is judged to be the only acceptable way forward. His perspective is strikingly sympathetic for its time, and as such the novel has an exhilarating freshness far removed from the contemporary sentimental romantics. The young Monica Madden cries for two days before her marriage to Edmund Widdowson; the ensuing claustrophobia, which opens the door for the more desirable Bevis, contrasts with Rhoda's independence – yet Rhoda's own principles are tested when she falls in love rather by accident... *The Odd Women* is a remarkable book, ultimately optimistic in its hope for a societal shift that will benefit both men and women alike.



Total running time: 16:59:30

View our full range of titles at n-ab.com



Juliet Stevenson, one of the UK's leading actresses, has worked extensively for the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal National Theatre. She received 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*, *Drowning by Numbers* and *Emma*. For Naxos AudioBooks she has recorded *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion*, *Stories from Shakespeare*, *To the Lighthouse*, *Bliss and Other Stories*, *The Road Home*, *Middlemarch* and many more.

1	The Odd Women	7:51	17	At a street corner very near to Messrs Scotcher's...	8:09
2	The guest at table was a young girl named Rhoda Nunn.	8:36	18	Chapter 6	10:01
3	Chapter 2	10:27	19	'But surely you don't limit your humanity...'	9:17
4	It was now sixteen years since the death of Dr Madden...	11:15	20	'My dear Rhoda, don't enrage yourself.'	8:56
5	This afternoon, the sisters were disposed for...	8:42	21	'This is a terrible harangue,' said Miss Barfoot...	9:09
6	For full five minutes they debated the mystery...	9:09	22	Chapter 7	10:24
7	Chapter 3	8:11	23	Monica became silent. When her sisters had talked...	10:27
8	'How energetic you have been!'	6:45	24	The day of release arrived. As it poured with rain...	11:03
9	Chapter 4	8:09	25	Presently Monica assented. If it were fine, she would...	10:16
10	The bus stopped for a passenger, a man who...	9:59	26	Chapter 8	9:16
11	She went forth with the intention of deceiving her...	9:08	27	During the first part of the meal, Miss Barfoot...	8:01
12	'And now to God the Father' – The bustle throughout...	7:12	28	When, not long after, the ladies left him...	8:22
13	Rhoda drew a deep sigh, and moved with impatience.	6:49	29	Just before ten o'clock, when Barfoot was talking...	10:42
14	Chapter 5	8:28	30	Chapter 9	8:16
15	On her lap Monica had the little brown-paper parcel...	10:24	31	But Micklethwaite was not content until he had...	8:36
16	'Since I was a lad,' he replied, 'I have never quarrelled...'	7:36	32	Barfoot was led on to a broad expression of his views.	8:54

33 Chapter 10	8:29	74 The change that had come over him was remarkable.	6:59
34 Again Everard was silent, and seemingly impressed.	8:12	75 Chapter 22	6:27
35 'I see what you mean. – Men have themselves to...'	9:21	76 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – By Friday they might...	7:05
36 Chapter 11	9:11	77 It was Friday. All the morning, Widdowson had...	9:07
37 The next day, on returning from her work and opening...	10:51	78 Yielding herself for the moment in a faintness that...	10:46
38 Two days later, Monica called unexpectedly...	6:01	79 'Be honest with me,' she suddenly exclaimed.	9:47
39 Chapter 12	6:49	80 Chapter 23	7:52
40 When, on the next day, Monica met her betrothed...	10:36	81 Of a sudden, he was checked by the conversion...	8:52
41 In the course of the same conversation, Rhoda...	8:09	82 He could doubt no longer. This poor woman had...	8:21
42 It happened that his return to England was almost...	8:36	83 Chapter 24	8:55
43 Chapter 13	9:46	84 This door was Barfoot's. She knew that; in the first...	8:48
44 She kept silence. 'But, after all, is Mary wrong?'	9:31	85 She had nearly struggled to her feet; he thrust her...	9:17
45 Seeing that Rhoda would not sit down, Miss Barfoot...	8:24	86 Chapter 25	8:08
46 This abusive correspondent, who declared that...	8:55	87 If Barfoot were here, he would now be coming out to...	8:12
47 Chapter 14	7:15	88 That, indeed, proved to be the convenient resting-place.	8:44
48 Everard gazed at his cousin with humorous incredulity.	7:28	89 Before eight, Everard was straying about the beach...	9:40
49 It was another three weeks before he had an...	11:44	90 Suppressing the agitation which he felt, he awaited...	9:27
50 He had made up his mind to outstay the Widdowsons...	8:26	91 Chapter 26	7:27
51 Chapter 15	9:59	92 Next morning, as had been agreed, they met at some...	7:45
52 The girl was docile, and for a time he imagined that...	11:41	93 The story was strange enough. Could he be right in...	11:43
53 Next morning, after breakfast, as Monica stood by...	7:46	94 For a wonder, their privacy was threatened by...	8:46
54 After a week of convalescence, she said one morning...	8:50	95 Chapter 27	7:04
55 Chapter 16	10:13	96 Arramanches, in Normandy –? On Sunday she sought...	12:05
56 That night the weather became stormy; a roaring...	10:21	97 A week or so after this, there arrived for Miss Barfoot...	7:23
57 She kissed his cheek, but did not utter a word.	8:21	98 Rhoda could not play at smooth phrases with this...	8:38
58 Mr Bevis entered the room, and Monica recognised...	8:25	99 Rhoda's voice signified a conflict of feeling.	8:34
59 Chapter 17	9:53	100 Chapter 28	10:16
60 On his way home, Everard thought over what he had...	10:11	101 On the following day, after their early dinner...	7:48
61 Without speaking, she rose and led the way to the...	11:30	102 After this, Monica frequently went out...	10:03
62 Rhoda hesitated, but at length took the chair by...	11:28	103 The page before her was no longer legible...	9:05
63 Chapter 18	8:34	104 Chapter 29	11:53
64 A week passed, and there arrived a letter...	8:47	105 Before going to bed, Alice wrote and dispatched...	9:05
65 In the first class carriage which they entered there was...	8:51	106 'Why have you come? Why do you tell me this?'	8:58
66 Chapter 19	8:07	107 Rapidly she recounted the incidents of that fatal...	9:23
67 Oddly enough, this was the case. On their return...	7:16	108 Chapter 30	10:34
68 Widdowson walked about the room, and a deep...	7:17	109 Barfoot rose from his seat, and Mary was glad to be...	8:20
69 Chapter 20	11:28	110 This was puzzling. Did it signify mere jealousy...	8:08
70 Indifferent to the progress of time, Bevis talked on...	10:07	111 Chapter 31	10:36
71 Chapter 21	8:34	112 Only a few days passed before Widdowson received...	8:28
72 They did not talk of Everard. Whether Rhoda replied...	10:38	113 Re-entering at half-past eight, he was met by Alice...	8:56
73 After this conversation, Rhoda passed a very unquiet...	6:38		

Produced by John Foley

Edited and mastered by Ross Burman

Executive Producer: Genevieve Helsby

© 2021 Naxos AudioBooks UK Ltd. Artwork © 2021 Naxos AudioBooks UK Ltd.

Booklet and cover design: Hannah Whale, Fruition – Creative Concepts, using the image *Group of young women reading in library of normal school, Washington, D.C.*, courtesy of the Library of Congress

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE, BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THIS RECORDING PROHIBITED

Total running time: 16:59:30

Catalogue no.: NA0488

ISBN: 978-1-78198-350-8