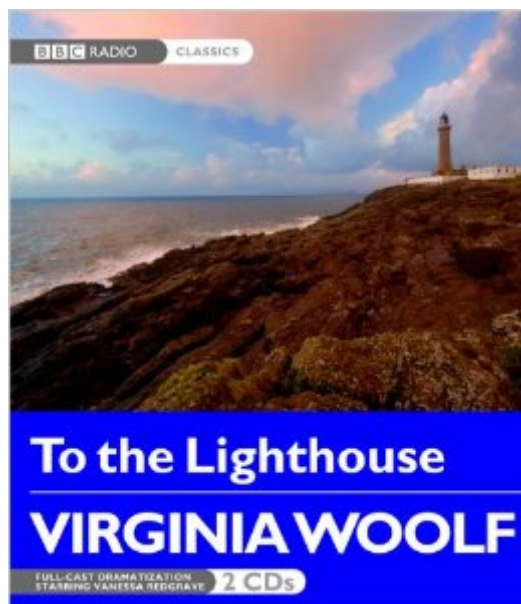


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# To The Lighthouse (BBC Dramatization)



## Synopsis

Dramatized here by Vanessa Redgrave and a full cast, *To the Lighthouse* is a great literary achievement, and Virginia Woolf's most popular novel. This semi-autobiographical novel is based on her recollections of family holidays in Cornwall. From the seemingly trivial postponement of a visit to a nearby lighthouse, Virginia Woolf constructs a moving examination of the complex tensions and allegiances of family life. The novel is split into three sections. In the first, the gracious and imaginative Mrs. Ramsay and her self-centered and absurd husband are preparing for a dinner party, where the guests include a philosopher, a young couple, and painter Lily Briscoe (based on Virginia Woolf's sister Vanessa). In the second section the story moves on to after the war and we discover that Mrs. Ramsay, her son and one of the guests have died. In the last section Lily Briscoe finally achieves what she has been trying to do with her painting and Mr. Ramsay and the children reach the lighthouse -- a trip planned in the first section that only now reaches fruition.

## Book Information

Audio CD: 1 pages

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

Best Sellers Rank: #3,936,528 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \( W \) > Woolf, Virginia](#) #746 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction >](#)

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## 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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