



Liberty: Vintage Minis

Virginia Woolf

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Why should one half be free to live, while the other is doomed to watch silently from the sidelines? In this visionary collection, Virginia Woolf leads us on a transformative journey through the liberating powers of the mind. From an exploration of why women were barred from writing and under what conditions they might break free, to the solace derived from haunting London's streets, these essays, and stories present Woolf at her most impassioned, rendering the pursuit of liberty one of life's most poetic adventures. Selected from the books *A Room of One's Own*, *The Waves*, and *Street Haunting and Other Essays* by Virginia Woolf.

Liberty: Vintage Minis Details

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Author : Virginia Woolf

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shannon says

It is times like this that I *really* wish I was able to give books half stars, as this was definitely a 3.5/5 read.

Each extract/essay in this book was written so well, and I feel as though I have taken something out of each one - but some were just more enjoyable to read than others. I feel as though this is a case where I *know* how good, and important, a book was but it just wasn't entirely for me.

My favourites were 'Street Haunting: A London Adventure' and the extract from the novel 'The Waves'. They managed to hold my attention, and intrigue me, the most.

Dane Cobain says

Considering that I didn't much enjoy my first introduction to Virginia Woolf, when I had to read Mrs Dalloway in a week for university, I was quite impressed here. I also thought it was fascinating purely because of the subject matter.

This is basically Woolf writing about the place that women have held in literature throughout history. That's why it's so interesting. She also examines her own place in that history, and that takes on a new sense of irony when you read it today as a modern reader. It's also a good introduction to her range and it made me want to read more.

Anne says

I have read *A Room of One's Own* before, but I liked going back to it again in this abbreviated version, since it captured some of my favourite passages from that essay. I felt that the middle two excerpts lacked context (although I read this on the train so I wasn't very focused) but 'How Should One Read a Book', the last essay, was a treat. It's brief but it triggers thoughts on what reading means and that's something I always love to think about.

Steph (thebookfox) says

Woolf herself always merits five stars, but this loses a couple for a lack of context or explanation of the excerpts presented. Perhaps that frankness, and leaving the reader to their own devices to ponder the subject of *Liberty*, is intentional, but I think perhaps a short description of why Woolf, and why these passages, were chosen would have been nice.

Sarah says

Nice to revisit some of the best parts of A Room of One's Own ?

Annie says

Virginia Woolf is a genius.

Andre Pawney says

Easy 5/5! An exquisite collection which features an extract from 'A Room of One's Own'; an extract from Woolf's highly experimental novel 'The Waves' and two of Virginia Woolf's essays entitled 'Street Haunting: A London Adventure' and 'How Should One Read a Book?'. The name for the collection is apt since it deals with different approaches to the theme of Liberty - especially in 'A Room of One's Own', Woolf's feminist tract and 'Street Haunting', which starts from the mere mentioning of a pencil - a pencil which takes the reader on a mystifying journey across the streets of London. The extracts also deal with the reader's freedom to multiple interpretations - not being solely limited to one perspective. Woolf emphasises the fact that the reader should find his own method of reading and his own critical voice. Simply amazing!

Alice Lippart says

Always love a bit of Virginia Woolf.

Matt says

A hodgepodge of writings by Woolf, including an excerpt from A Room of One's Own. Great book. Loved the story of the lead pencil.

Larissa says

This was a very nice introduction to some of the works by Virginia Woolf, and it has definitely encouraged me to pick up the other books I own by her! This selection of parts of her essays and novels was interesting. Some parts I liked better than others. I especially liked the fragment of A room of One's Own, so I'll definitely pick that up soonish! I was also quite impressed by the essay Street Haunting: A London Adventure; at first I didn't quite get where she was going, but in the end I really loved it, and the writing style was so poetic, really beautiful!

Laura says

"for chastity may be a fetish invented by certain societies for unknown reasons"

"Second-hand books are wild books, homeless books; they have come together in vast flocks of variegated feather, and have a charm which the domesticated volumes of the library lack"

Emma Dargue says

Really liked the structure of this book. Revisiting a room of one's own was really good. Although it's quite slow paced in places there are particular sections that really fly and are informative. You sort of have to be in the mood to read this all in one go and this is why it took me so long to read but the content shines.

Abdullah Hussaini says

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S Prakash says

This is my first book by Virginia Woolf.. Angst of how being a woman has denied them opportunities in the world of art and creativity couldn't have been expressed with such deep hurt and so succinctly with facts and rationale carefully wound around words. This short version would surely make one yearn to read more of her works..

Clare says

Some great highlights from Virginia Woolf's books and essays, although I would recommend reading A Room of One's Own in full
