

Daniel Defoe

MOLL FLANDERS

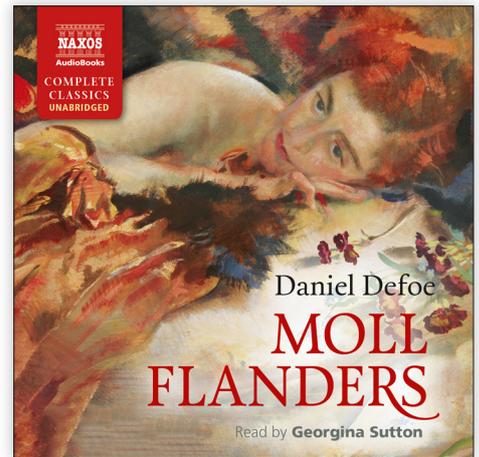
Read by **Georgina Sutton**



COMPLETE CLASSICS UNABRIDGED

'The Fortunes and Misfortunes of the Famous Moll Flanders, who was Born in Newgate, and during a Life of continue'd Variety for Three-score Years, besides her Childhood, was Twelve Year a Whore, five times a Wife (whereof once to her own Brother), Twelve Year a Thief, Eight Year a Transported Felon in Virginia at last grew Rich, liv'd Honest, and died a Penitent.'

So begins *Moll Flanders*, Daniel Defoe's honest portrayal of one woman's struggle for economic survival in an unsympathetic world. Told with uncompromising directness and an extraordinary empathy, it is, as Virginia Woolf once claimed, 'one of the few English novels we can call indisputably great'.



Total running time: 12:25:24 • 11 CDs

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Georgina Sutton trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. She has worked extensively in repertory theatres around the UK and her audio work includes voice commercials for Classic FM. Among her recordings for Naxos AudioBooks are Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, Brontë's *Shirley* and Lawrence's *The Virgin and the Gypsy*.

= Downloads (M4B chapters or MP3 files) = CDs (disc-track)

		The Fortunes and Misfortunes...			
1	1-1	11:20	25	4-4	Under these reflections I continued very pensive... 10:17
2	1-2	10:45	26	4-5	At length a new scene opened. 9:29
3	1-3	10:23	27	4-6	When I came he made several proposals... 10:48
4	1-4	9:38	28	4-7	I came the next evening, accordingly... 11:03
5	1-5	12:05	29	5-1	He never so much as asked me... 10:41
6	1-6	8:55	30	5-2	I was confounded now as much as he... 10:22
7	1-7	10:00	31	5-3	He rose before me in the morning... 10:51
8	2-1	8:50	32	5-4	Here one evening, taking a walk into the fields... 9:24
9	2-2	11:00	33	5-5	It seems the mistress of the house... 10:19
10	2-3	9:59	34	5-6	This was the most reasonable thing... 11:17
11	2-4	10:47	35	5-7	I think I had been brought to bed... 11:10
12	2-5	10:08	36	6-1	However, let me be what I would... 12:13
13	2-6	10:32	37	6-2	There was a bed in the room... 10:11
14	2-7	12:36	38	6-3	I remained in this fright nearly two hours... 10:48
15	3-1	10:27	39	6-4	I lived two years in this dismal condition... 10:43
16	3-2	9:50	40	6-5	I had a great many adventures after this... 10:32
17	3-3	9:33	41	6-6	I came home to my governess... 10:27
18	3-4	9:54	42	6-7	This terrible example of my comrade frightened me... 8:33
19	3-5	9:49	43	7-1	However, as I have said, it made me the more... 10:31
20	3-6	12:28	44	7-2	I had another adventure... 11:19
21	3-7	11:49	45	7-3	My poor partner in this mischief... 10:38
22	4-1	12:06	46	7-4	The disaster of this woman... 11:39
23	4-2	10:13	47	7-5	I came home with this last booty to my governess... 9:54
24	4-3	9:54	48	7-6	He was astonished at her discourse... 8:20



49	7-7	At the hour appointed he came...	10:00	61	9-5	But I go on with my relation.	10:22
50	8-1	Another time I placed myself at a warehouse...	9:15	62	9-6	I took this opportunity to satisfy my curiosity...	11:12
51	8-2	Then he began to parley with me...	10:20	63	9-7	I then enquired into the circumstances...	11:02
52	8-3	I met this attorney, and gave him...	9:35	64	10-1	I must now return to my own case.	10:34
53	8-4	It was not long after the affair...	10:15	65	10-2	Then I read a long lecture to her...	10:42
54	8-5	I was very well dressed, and had my gold watch...	10:20	66	10-3	After some little pause to recover himself...	9:39
55	8-6	It was not a rumbling time of the year...	10:42	67	10-4	When we drew near to the shore...	11:24
56	8-7	We lay all that night there...	12:07	68	10-5	In this perplexity I continued a great while...	10:59
57	9-1	The sight of the constable, indeed, struck me...	9:53	69	10-6	In order to this we began to make enquiry...	13:57
58	9-2	I lived many days here under the utmost horror...	10:57	70	11-1	The next morning my son came to visit me again...	9:01
59	9-3	I sunk down when they brought me news of it...	10:00	71	11-2	As for myself, as this is to be my own story...	7:48
60	9-4	In the meantime my poor distressed governess...	9:57				

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Daniel Defoe

MOLL FLANDERS

Daniel Defoe, born in London in 1660, lived an extraordinarily varied and interesting life. In 1688 he joined Monmouth's rebellion; he was imprisoned at different times for debt and for libel; he worked as a secret agent for the government between 1703 and 1714; he started several businesses and wrote prolifically throughout his career. Apart from being a formidable pamphleteer, he also pioneered modern journalism and may be said to be the first true English novelist. Best known for *Robinson Crusoe*, his other novels include *Colonel Jack* and *Roxana*. Defoe's novels are characterised by directness, simplicity of narrative and a superb command of realistic detail – features which also distinguish the powerful *Journal of the Plague Year* and the pioneering *Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain*.

Moll Flanders, published in 1722, was described by Virginia Woolf as 'one of the few English novels we can call indisputably great'. Moll, abandoned as a child, tells her own story – brought up as an orphan, she enters upon a succession of marriages (not all of them legal), bent upon economic survival in a world unsympathetic to the single woman of no fortune. Reduced to abject poverty after six years as a rich man's whore, she turns to crime, but is

eventually caught and transported to Virginia.

The brilliance of *Moll Flanders* lies in its absolute honesty and realism: Defoe tells his tale with uncompromising directness and an extraordinary empathy with his heroine's plight. Moll's life is seen as much in terms of economics as emotions: we are constantly reminded of the precise worth of objects, of the exact state of her finances in pounds, shillings and pence; yet we cannot help rejoicing with her in her brief periods of calm prosperity, or pitying her when she is at last caught and carried to the horrors of Newgate and probable execution. We are compelled to see that Moll can only be judged in the context of her society – a harsh world of expanding economic activity and social aspiration. Moll regrets her immorality, yet confesses that a tale of repentance 'would not be equally diverting as the wicked part'; she repeats the wise man's prayer, 'Give me not poverty, lest I steal', and we are forced to acknowledge that society may be as much to blame as the individual who struggles to survive within it.

Notes by Perry Keenlyside