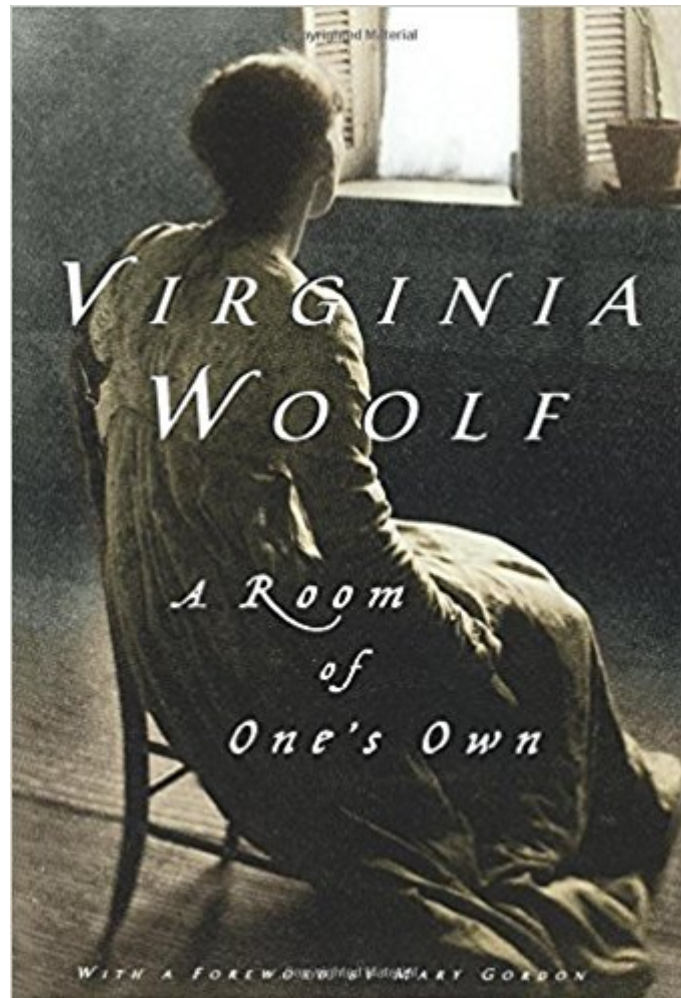




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A Room Of One's Own



Synopsis

Virginia Woolf's landmark inquiry into women's role in society— In *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf imagines that Shakespeare had a sister— a sister equal to Shakespeare in talent, and equal in genius, but whose legacy is radically different. This imaginary woman never writes a word and dies by her own hand, her genius unexpressed. If only she had found the means to create, argues Woolf, she would have reached the same heights as her immortal sibling. In this classic essay, she takes on the establishment, using her gift of language to dissect the world around her and give voice to those who are without. Her message is a simple one: women must have a fixed income and a room of their own in order to have the freedom to create.

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Customer Reviews

Surprisingly, this long essay about society and art and sexism is one of Woolf's most accessible works. Woolf, a major modernist writer and critic, takes us on an erudite yet conversational--and completely entertaining--walk around the history of women in writing, smoothly comparing the architecture of sentences by the likes of William Shakespeare and Jane Austen, all the while lampooning the chauvinistic state of university education in the England of her day. When she concluded that to achieve their full greatness as writers women will need a solid income and a privacy, Woolf pretty much invented modern feminist criticism.

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This book is not only an enjoyable and fairly quick read, but it is also an important milestone in not only feminist literature, but literature as a whole. Woolf's amusing and sharp assessments of the way men view women to be inferior, particularly in skill and intelligence, is (at least somewhat) relevant even today. She rightfully stresses the importance of every woman having both a room and money of her own. Without those two things, she can not be truly independent. A must for any lover of feminism or for anyone with a taste for short, smart books.

An essay written in the late 1920s about women's writing. Why wasn't Shakespeare a woman? Why did Jane Austen hide her manuscripts from guests? What makes good writing? What makes women's writing? Are a woman's sentences different from a man's sentences? This book is witty, from the first moment when the author tries to cross the lawn of an Oxbridge college and is stopped by a beadle because only the fellows and scholars (all male) are allowed here. Later she notes wryly that the few women's colleges have no such beadle, and none of the endowments of the men's colleges. What a woman needs in order to write is a room of one's own and five hundred pounds a year. When she wrote, women had only had the vote in Britain for less than a decade, and married women had only been allowed to own their own property for a bare forty years. Women's

education is no longer the issue it was when the book was written and it is much easier today for a woman to be independent. Still, *A Room of One's Own* remains an entertaining read and the issues it raises are by no means resolved.

Extremely well written. Reflections of a woman writer about the limitations of women to write: too many elements against which she has to fight, maybe without being conscious in the first place that she lives in a world of male dominance and her role is very limited. Certainly Simone de Beauvoir read this book.

I lost my original copy of this and wanted a replacement. The print of this one, though, is so tiny it makes it VERY difficult to read. I love this essay, though, so that alone earned 4 stars out of what should have been 5.

One of the best books I read in 2016. She should be one of the most humorous women in Britain at her time. It was supposed to be a speech. Putting a lot of discursive aside, her speech started with *Women and Fiction* and what she had experienced and what had inspired her about the topic she supposedly gave speech to Newham Girls College. Her main theme, "numerous generations of unsung unnoticed unjust women paved the way for what women at her era could attain was remarkable, and the girls should fight and stand on their corpses' and souls' behalf", was so strong and so well versed.

Every woman should read this book, a lot of change from the time she wrote it, but still we live in a world dominated by men...sometimes it is difficult to read all the opinions and writing of men at her time and on history but it helps to realize that at least here in America and other countries women are helping each other to reach equality.

A stunning book - Woolf's logic is so solid and so consistent - she puts forward one excellent argument after another to explain the lopsided representation of female authors (and, by extension, all artists) in history. Crystal clear.

A classic...the mind of Virginia Woolf sees her world and its attitude toward women for the farce that it was. Her observations and reactions written in clever, often tongue in cheek, and deeply pensive ways give us thought for any time.

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