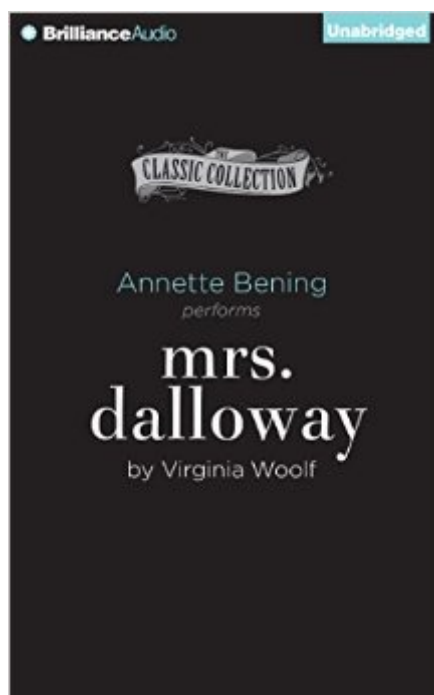


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# Mrs. Dalloway (Classic Collection (Brilliance Audio))



## Synopsis

Mrs. Dalloway, perhaps Virginia Woolf's greatest novel, follows English socialite Clarissa Dalloway as she prepares for a party in post-World War I London. Four-time Oscar nominee Annette Bening (American Beauty, The Kids Are All Right) performs Woolf's stream-of-consciousness style of storytelling brilliantly, exploring the hidden springs of thought and action in one day of a woman's life. When we first meet Clarissa Dalloway, she is preoccupied with the last-minute minutiae of party-planning while being flooded with memories of long ago. Clarissa then examines the realities of the present as the story travels forwards and back in time and in and out of different characters' minds. Mrs. Dalloway is daring not only in its stream-of-consciousness form, but also in its content. Woolf's depiction of Septimus Warren Smith brings to light the ugly and often ignored truth of how the brutality of war can drive men mad. We also get to see in depth how our main protagonist, Clarissa Dalloway, suffers from her own form of psychological damage: the more subtle, everyday oppression of English society. Mrs. Dalloway is part of Audible's A-List Collection, featuring the world's most celebrated actors narrating distinguished works of literature that each star helped select.

## Book Information

Series: Classic Collection (Brilliance Audio)

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (July 22, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1480559857

ISBN-13: 978-1480559851

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.6 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (407 customer reviews)

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[Authors, A-Z > \( W \) > Woolf, Virginia](#) #1171 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction >](#)

[Classics](#) #10911 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#)

## Customer Reviews

Although the time covered in this complex novel is only one day, Virginia Woolf, through her genius, manages to cover a lifetime unraveling and exposing the mysteries of the human personality. The central character of the novel is the delicate Clarissa Dalloway, a disciplined English gentlewoman

who provides the perfect contrast to another of the book's characters, Septimus Warren Smith, an ex-soldier whose world is disintegrating into chaos. Although Clarissa and Septimus never meet, it is through the interweaving of each one's story into a gossamer whole that Woolf works her genius. The book is set on a June day in 1923, as Clarissa prepares for a party that evening. Unfolding events trigger memories and recollections of her past, and Woolf offers these bits and pieces to the reader who must then construct the psychological and emotional makeup of Clarissa Dalloway in his own mind. We also learn much about Clarissa through the thoughts of other characters, such as her one-time lover, Peter Walsh, her friend, Sally Seton, her husband, Richard and her daughter Elizabeth. It is Septimus Warren Smith, however, driven to the brink of insanity by the war, an insanity that even his wife's tender ministrations cannot cure, who acts as Clarissa's societal antithesis and serves to divide her world into the "then" and the "now." In this extremely complex and character-driven novel, Woolf offers her readers a challenge. The novel is not separated into chapters; almost all of the action occurs in the thoughts and reminiscences of the characters and the reader must piece together the story from the random bits and pieces of information each character provides.

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