

Penguin Modern Classics

Virginia Woolf
Mrs Dalloway





Virginia Woolf

Mrs Dalloway

'Mrs Woolf,' wrote one reviewer on the publication of *Mrs Dalloway* in 1925, 'makes great the little matter and leaves us with that sense of the inexhaustible richness of the fabric of life which marks the work of this truly creative artist.'

With this book Virginia Woolf broke finally with the traditional form of the English novel. Although she had not yet pushed the process as far as she later did in *To the Lighthouse* and *The Waves*, the life of the mind was already ousting in importance the tangible reality of the external world. The reader is shown Clarissa Dalloway, the fashionable wife of a Member of Parliament – like a nun, withdrawing – largely through the impressions and memories within her mind and the minds of other characters. Moreover the action is contained within the limits of a single day – the day on which she is to hold an important party.

Mrs Dalloway may be called the first novel of Virginia Woolf's maturity.

The cover shows a detail from a portrait of Virginia Woolf by Vanessa Bell.

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