



NAXOS

AudioBooks

COMPLETE
CLASSICS
UNABRIDGED

William Makepeace
THACKERAY

Vanity Fair

Read by **Georgina Sutton**



CD 1

1	Vanity Fair	4:29
2	Chapter 1	5:32
3	Being commanded by her elder sister...	5:51
4	So that when the day of departure came...	6:31
5	Chapter 2	6:52
6	The humble calling of her female parent...	6:48
7	The happiness, the superior advantages of the young women...	5:46
8	By the time the young ladies reached Kensington turnpike...	5:38
9	Chapter 3	6:40
10	She had a vivid imagination...	6:44
11	Downstairs, then, they went...	6:03
12	Chapter 4	5:24
13	It was an advance, and as such, perhaps...	4:41

Total time on CD 1: 77:04

CD 2

1	'Amelia had better write a note,' said her father...	6:17
2	'I delight in Hessian boots,' said Rebecca.	6:30
3	Sedley was going to make one of the most eloquent speeches possible...	6:09
4	'Bravo, Jos!' said Mr Sedley...	6:29
5	Chapter 5	6:03
6	'Don't call names,' Dobbin said...	5:12
7	Whatever may have been his incentive, however...	5:49
8	Young Osborne wrote home to his parents...	6:10
9	'The Alderman's very rich, isn't he?' Osborne said archly.	5:51
10	Chapter 6	6:39
11	The party was landed at the Royal Gardens in due time.	5:23
12	Captain Dobbin had some thoughts of joining the party at supper...	6:01
13	'He must propose to-morrow,' thought Rebecca.	6:33

Total time on CD 2: 79:12

CD 3

1	As George walked down Southampton Row, from Holborn...	4:36
2	The next day, however, as the two young ladies sate on the sofa...	5:10
3	Chapter 7	5:18
4	Having passed through Gaunt Square into Great Gaunt Street...	4:42
5	The lady addressed as Mrs Tinker...	6:18
6	At four o'clock, on such a roseate summer's morning...	4:54
7	Chapter 8	6:39
8	Mr Hodson laughed again.	6:21
9	'This is the new governess, Mr Crawley,' said Lady Crawley...	6:38
10	After Mr Crawley had done haranguing and expounding...	6:20
11	Chapter 9	6:12
12	It was he who taught the butler to say...	6:33
13	As he would not pay honest agents...	6:32

Total time on CD 3: 76:17

CD 4

1	Chapter 10	5:17
2	Miss Violet's tastes were, on the contrary...	5:36
3	Whether it was the heart which dictated this new system...	5:58
4	Chapter 11	5:31
5	Very soon then after her arrival...	5:58
6	Miss Letitia Hawky, on the other hand, is not personally well-favoured.	6:33
7	Another admirable effect of Miss Crawley...	6:28
8	When Mrs Bute Crawley (whose artifices...)	5:41
9	Miss Crawley had not long been established at the Hall...	5:44
10	'That was the most beautiful part of dear Lord Nelson's character...'	6:26
11	Chapter 12	4:31
12	Their house was comfortable...	5:50
13	Once, after three days of absence...	5:34
14	We have talked of shift, self, and poverty...	4:13

Total time on CD 4: 79:26

CD 5

1	While under this overpowering impression...	3:10
2	Chapter 13	5:49
3	'Are you engaged?' Captain Dobbin interposed.	5:36
4	Sambo, whose face as he announced Captain Osbin...	5:38
5	When Amelia stepped forward to salute him...	5:17
6	The gloom on the paternal countenance...	5:49
7	'But to return to the other business about Amelia...'	4:51
8	Chapter 14	6:03
9	'But why, why won't she see me again?' Miss Briggs bleated out.	6:23
10	The causes which had led to the deplorable illness of Miss Crawley...	5:37
11	The Captain thought so, and raved about her in uncouth convulsions.	5:58
12	If the Baronet of Queen's Crawley...	5:57
13	'What a complexion, my dear! What a sweet voice!'	5:55
14	Rawdon Crawley received George Osborne...	5:57

Total time on CD 5: 78:07

CD 6

1	'What an honour to have had you for a brother-in-law...'	5:29
2	When the demise took place...	5:44
3	Chapter 15	6:49
4	'My attitude,' Rebecca said...	5:46
5	Rebecca might, perhaps, have told more...	6:46
6	If the mere chance of becoming a baronet's daughter...	6:02
7	Chapter 16	5:45
8	The occurrences of the previous day...	6:09
9	'La, Miss Briggs,' the girl exclaimed...	6:19
10	It was not until the old lady was fairly ensconced...	6:28
11	Chapter 17	5:25
12	'No. 369,' roared Mr. Hammerdown.	5:19
13	In a word, it arrived that evening...	6:40

Total time on CD 6: 78:45

CD 7

1	By these attentions, that veteran rake, Rawdon Crawley...	5:37
2	Chapter 18	5:37
3	Only once in the course of the long night...	6:04
4	And as a general rule...	5:45
5	Young Amelia felt that she would die or lose her senses outright...	6:05
6	'It is a mercy, Mamma, that the regiment is ordered abroad,'...	5:25
7	There was a little letter of a few lines, to which he pointed...	6:44
8	Chapter 19	5:18
9	'My girls' singing, after that little odious governess's...'	6:27
10	She described with the most vivid minuteness...	6:14
11	But if a fault may be found with her arrangements...	4:48
12	'The sight of her horrid nephew casually in the Park...'	6:23
13	Chapter 20	7:07

Total time on CD 7: 77:41

CD 8

1	It is certain that Mr Dobbin, having taken the matter in hand...	5:54
2	'You're a military man,' he went on...	6:33
3	George, in conversation with Amelia...	6:19
4	Chapter 21	6:02
5	This imperative hint disturbed George a good deal.	6:24
6	The girls, after vain attempts to engage him in conversation...	6:12
7	After giving a great heave...	5:45
8	Chapter 22	5:50
9	'Here you are,' said our old friend, Jos Sedley, coming forward.	5:12
10	Some ten days after the above ceremony...	6:36
11	Our young bride and bridegroom had chosen Brighton...	6:13
12	Chapter 23	6:02
13	'One of our young men is just married,' Dobbin said...	6:00

Total time on CD 8: 79:08

CD 9

1	This adroit question touched the heart of Miss Jane Osborne not a little.	5:09
2	Chapter 24	5:40
3	'You are a good fellow, William,' said Mr Osborne in a softened voice...	6:40
4	Miss Wirt, by consequence, was alone on her side of the board...	5:45
5	In the large shining mahogany escritoire...	6:06
6	The invitation and the rough draft of the answer...	6:38
7	This news made Dobbin grave...	6:13
8	Chapter 25	5:45
9	'A pretty way you have managed the affair,' said George...	6:16
10	Oh! thought she, I have been very wicked...	5:59
11	Amelia, with a look of tender alarm in her eyes...	5:45
12	Putting her arm round her friend's waist...	5:46
13	Mrs Bute measured out the glasses of wine...	6:27

Total time on CD 9: 78:14

CD 10

1	'Rawdon, who was all heart,' Rebecca continued...	5:50
2	'I thought that you were aware...'	4:42
3	Miss Crawley must have had some emotion upon seeing him...	5:32
4	Chapter 26	6:25
5	There were but nine days past since Amelia had left...	7:24
6	So he sent off Amelia once more in a carriage to her mamma...	6:39
7	Chapter 27	5:22
8	Major O'Dowd, who had served his sovereign...	5:11
9	'Mrs Heavytop, the Colonel's wife...'	6:06
10	Chapter 28	6:19
11	Everybody had such a perfect feeling of confidence in the leader...	5:42
12	'Except Ireland, where all your best mate comes from'...	6:13
13	'I hope there will be no women besides our own party,'...	6:32

Total time on CD 10: 78:04

CD 11

1	Chapter 29	5:51
2	'Don't you see that creature with a yellow thing in her turban...'	6:15
3	Amelia's gentle eyes, too, had been fixed anxiously on the pair...	5:29
4	George accepted the invitation, although his wife was a little ailing.	6:18
5	She spoke French so perfectly...	6:11
6	Osborne meanwhile, wild with elation, went off to a play-table...	5:36
7	Chapter 30	6:52
8	Rebecca always knew how to conjure away these moods of melancholy.	6:18
9	'What a fright I seem,' she said, examining herself in the glass...	6:25
10	'Sir,' said Jos, majestically...	6:07
11	Chapter 31	5:11
12	'How those sleeve-buttons will suit me!' thought he...	5:03
13	'The King of France is at Ghent, fellow,' replied Jos...	5:45

Total time on CD 11: 77:27

CD 12

1	Oh! dear Mr Sedley, I have come to you for comfort...	5:26
2	How long had that poor girl been on her knees!	5:38
3	Rebecca walked, too, silently away.	5:33
4	Chapter 32	6:15
5	As far as his regiment was concerned...	6:07
6	Isidor swept off the mustachios in no time with the razor...	6:22
7	It was while enjoying the humiliation of her enemy...	6:41
8	No man writhing in pain on the hard-fought field...	6:15
9	The Duke of Wellington had but twenty thousand British troops...	5:58
10	When Jos heard that dreadful sound...	5:28
11	Chapter 33	6:37
12	To the rector's lady...	6:20
13	The Lady Emily was her brother's senior by many years...	6:19

Total time on CD 12: 79:07

CD 13

1	During these exercises old Southdown...	3:23
2	'Stop, my dear ladies,' said Pitt, the diplomatist.	3:45
3	Chapter 34	6:21
4	In the autumn evenings (when Rebecca was flaunting at Paris...).	6:18
5	Mrs Bute did not augur much good to the cause...	6:15
6	'Haw, haw,' laughed James...	6:03
7	'Come, come,' said James...	6:27
8	Once up in the bedroom, one would have thought...	6:35
9	It is to be feared that this letter of the Parisian great lady...	5:27
10	Chapter 35	5:19
11	The letter was in George's well-known bold handwriting.	6:12
12	On the day after his arrival at Brussels...	6:05
13	They stared blank in the face of Osborne...	5:04
14	Suppose some twelve months after the above conversation...	6:20

Total time on CD 13: 79:40

CD 14

1	Chapter 36	5:43
2	The truth is, when we say of a gentleman...	5:22
3	But, in spite of Rawdon's undoubted skill and constant successes...	5:32
4	Rebecca did not care much to go and see the son and heir.	6:04
5	Chapter 37	5:44
6	This was the way, then, Crawley got his house for nothing...	5:11
7	With regard to the world of female fashion and its customs...	5:29
8	When your father dies...	5:58
9	'Rawdon,' said Becky, very late one night...	5:43
10	About the little Rawdon, if nothing has been said all this while...	5:55
11	Now Rawdon Crawley, rascal as the Colonel was...	5:40
12	Chapter 38	5:15
13	Well, well – a carriage and three thousand a year...	4:52
14	Amelia, the gentlest and sweetest of everyday mortals...	4:54

Total time on CD 14: 77:28

CD 15

1	In this room was all Amelia's heart and treasure.	6:03
2	He vowed and protested...	5:36
3	A second prospectus came out...	5:33
4	'Mrs Mango's own set at the Pineries was not so fine,'...	5:39
5	Chapter 39	6:12
6	He led the way into Sir Pitt's 'Library'...	5:55
7	Sir Pitt lived in private...	6:03
8	Half an hour afterwards there was a great hurry and bustle in the house.	6:13
9	Chapter 40	6:06
10	At last a day came when the nurse's occupation was over.	4:48
11	In a word, Pitt having come to his kingdom...	5:50
12	Briggs was the house-dog whom Rebecca had provided as guardian...	5:44
13	Chapter 41	4:22
14	Sir Pitt had judged correctly, that she would not quit the premises.	5:23

Total time on CD 15: 79:31

CD 16

1	'What I should like best,' said Rebecca...	5:04
2	Sir Pitt remembered the testimonies of respect and veneration...	5:32
3	Bute's curate, a smart young fellow from Oxford...	4:47
4	'It isn't difficult to be a country gentleman's wife,' Rebecca thought.	6:16
5	Chapter 42	6:16
6	That she should utterly break with the old man...	6:34
7	I can't say that nothing had occurred to disturb the monotony...	7:12
8	Chapter 43	6:30
9	There are women, and handsome women too...	6:20
10	We have said how the two Misses Dobbin and Amelia...	6:48
11	So these two were each exemplifying the Vanity of this life...	5:47
12	Chapter 44	5:20
13	Well, Rebecca listened to Pitt, she talked to him...	5:56

Total time on CD 16: 78:27

CD 17

1	And with regard to Becky...	5:02
2	Lord Steyne also heartily disliked the boy.	5:30
3	It was dark again when little Rawdon was wakened up...	5:20
4	Chapter 45	5:53
5	Pitt Crawley was amazed and enraptured with her speech.	6:35
6	Next comes boy Jack, Tom Moody's son...	6:00
7	Her presence, too, rendered Lady Jane uneasy.	5:39
8	Chapter 46	5:18
9	In these quiet labours and harmless cares...	5:28
10	He brought back money and toys...	5:20
11	Then it came out that Jos's remittances were not paid...	5:31
12	Chapter 47	5:35
13	Lady Mary Caerlyon was brought up at a Parisian convent...	5:36
14	'Then again, as to the feeling of elder towards younger sons.'	6:31

Total time on CD 17: 79:24

CD 18

1	It was the mysterious taint of the blood...	4:30
2	Chapter 48	5:52
3	Becky felt as if she could bless the people...	6:10
4	And the diamonds...	6:21
5	'If you had been sandy-haired, green-eyed...'	6:05
6	Briggs looked up from the work-table...	5:30
7	Chapter 49	6:29
8	The ladies of Gaunt House called Lady Bareacres in to their aid...	6:39
9	On her first appearance Lord Steyne stepped forward...	6:36
10	Chapter 50	6:07
11	One truth after another was marshalling itself...	6:06
12	Her mind being made up...	5:50
13	The widow broke the matter to Georgy with great caution...	6:28

Total time on CD 18: 78:48

CD 19

1	Chapter 51	6:20
2	I doubt, I say, that Becky would have selected either...	6:14
3	'Rawdon would make a very good Ecuyer...'	6:29
4	The little woman, attacked on a sudden...	6:35
5	At the time whereof we are writing...	5:56
6	The second part of the charade takes place.	6:37
7	'I think it must be "Hotel",' says Captain Grigg of the Life Guards...	5:24
8	There was a ball after the dramatic entertainments...	6:04
9	Chapter 52	6:27
10	It was honest Briggs who made up the little kit for the boy...	6:50
11	He laughed within himself at this artless story.	7:05
12	What words can paint the ecstatic gratitude of Briggs!	6:26

Total time on CD 19: 76:31

CD 20

1	Chapter 53	5:36
2	Now on the score of his application...	6:11
3	When Rawdon read over this letter...	5:45
4	He, too, attempted a laugh...	6:04
5	Chapter 54	5:38
6	Damn it. Look here, Pitt...	5:09
7	Rawdon Crawley meanwhile hurried on from Great Gaunt Street...	5:55
8	'You don't know how fond I was of that one,' Rawdon said...	5:30
9	Chapter 55	5:15
10	'Are you all here to insult me?' cried Becky in a fury...	5:52
11	'I looked for a peerage for you, Pitt,' she said...	5:26
12	Young Tandyman, a hero of seventeen...	5:30
13	The Colonel and his aide-de-camp went out to meet the gentleman...	5:34
14	'She asked you to sup with her?' Captain Macmurdo said.	5:46

Total time on CD 20: 79:18

CD 21

1	But Rawdon would not hear of it.	4:16
2	Chapter 56	5:37
3	Though he was scarcely eleven years of age...	5:50
4	In the company of this gentleman...	5:55
5	'Then those friends who had the honour...'	5:39
6	Miss Osborne, George's aunt, was a faded old spinster...	6:37
7	Chapter 57	5:30
8	The hidden and awful Wisdom...	5:12
9	He desired to be buried with a little brown hair-chain...	5:08
10	Many and many a night...	5:13
11	Chapter 58	6:05
12	There, however, stood the old waiter at the door...	5:48
13	The landlord and landlady of the house...	6:08
14	'Who is come?' said Emmy, still thinking of her son.	6:30

Total time on CD 21: 79:35

CD 22

1	She did not talk at all about her own sufferings...	4:38
2	Chapter 59	5:35
3	To make these waistcoats for a man of his size and dignity...	5:32
4	But Amelia, looking up at her bed...	5:30
5	Shortly after Jos's first appearance at Brompton...	5:19
6	When the men appeared then bearing this old music-box...	6:07
7	Chapter 60	4:35
8	Emmy, you may be sure, was very glad to see her...	4:38
9	Joseph Sedley then led a life of dignified otiosity...	5:45
10	Chapter 61	6:13
11	He loved his daughter with more fondness now...	6:39
12	When old Osborne first heard from his friend Colonel Buckler...	6:12
13	'It is some of Sedley's wine,' whispered the butler to his master.	6:39
14	Jos's friends, male and female, suddenly became interested...	6:04

Total time on CD 22: 79:30

CD 23

1	Our old friend, Miss Swartz, and her husband...	4:07
2	Chapter 62	6:29
3	'Those people seem to interest you a good deal,' said Dobbin...	6:14
4	And in reply to some faint objections of Mrs Amelia's...	6:30
5	During the astonishing Chorus of the Prisoners...	6:47
6	Chapter 63	5:40
7	Pumpnickel stands in the midst of a happy valley...	5:56
8	Besides the regular sentries...	5:43
9	Some of the German ladies, who are very sentimental...	6:03
10	When she saw the boy, at whose face she looked hard...	6:27
11	Chapter 64	6:48
12	She was probably so much occupied in arranging these affairs...	6:17
13	It was after this visit that Becky, who had paid her weekly bills...	5:57

Total time on CD 23: 79:03

CD 24

1	The Eagles then patronized Mrs Rawdon...	5:50
2	So our little wanderer went about setting up her tent...	5:15
3	So Becky, who had arrived in the diligence from Florence...	6:34
4	Becky laughed, though in rage and fury.	5:46
5	Chapter 65	5:26
6	The frank honest face, to tell the truth...	5:29
7	Jos walked over to Dobbin's lodgings with great solemnity...	5:05
8	'Her!' said Amelia, 'who is it?'	4:59
9	Chapter 66	4:56
10	Emmy received this story, which was told at some length...	5:04
11	William was too much hurt or ashamed...	5:05
12	'Take lessons, my dear Mrs George,' cried the Major...	5:05
13	He being gone, Emmy was particularly lively and affectionate...	5:02
14	A hundred times on the point of yielding...	4:59
15	'He wishes to speak to you away from me,' said Becky...	4:34

Total time on CD 24: 79:15

CD 25

1	Whilst they had been talking...	5:53
2	Chapter 67	6:09
3	Emmy was not very happy after her heroic sacrifice.	5:10
4	At last the much-bragged-about boxes arrived from Leipzig...	6:17
5	The more he thought of this long passage of his life...	5:25
6	Rebecca, to do her justice...	6:05
7	Two mornings after this little scene...	5:53
8	Perhaps it was compunction towards the kind and simple creature...	5:41
9	The Colonel's brow darkened at this.	6:03

Total time on CD 25: 52:40

Total time on CDs 1–25: 32:17:42

William Makepeace
THACKERAY

(1811–1863)

Vanity Fair

In its clear-eyed detachment, *Vanity Fair* seems to belong more to Henry Fielding's eighteenth century, than to the era of Dickens. Yet William Makepeace Thackeray (1811–1863) had more in common with his great contemporary than the differences in their work might suggest. Born within a year of each other – Thackeray in Calcutta, Dickens in Portsmouth – they both had cause to feel rejected by their mothers. Thackeray's father – a rich 'collector' – died before he was six: the widow promptly sent her boy to England to be educated and she soon remarried. Dickens's mother saw no injustice in sending her talented boy to work in a factory when her husband was jailed for bankruptcy.

After Charterhouse and Trinity College, Cambridge, Thackeray studied

art in Paris, where he gambled away his inheritance. He then toyed with law, but was driven to journalism to support his family. Under a series of pseudonyms he wrote verse, burlesques and parodies for a variety of periodicals.

He married at 25, but after four years his adored wife became incurably insane; she spent the rest of her life in a mental home, leaving him with three little daughters to maintain. After his unhappy married life, Dickens separated from the wife he had found dull company. Both he and Thackeray had mistresses, both lectured in America, and both died suddenly, leaving unfinished novels.

But here the similarities end: whereas Dickens was a true Victorian, Thackeray felt he had been born too late. All his novels, apart from *Vanity Fair*, are set

in his beloved eighteenth century and are underpinned by uncannily accurate historical realism.

Vanity Fair – the first novel he published under his own name – appeared in monthly installments in 1847–8. It is set in the Regency period, during and after the battle of Waterloo. As a child, when his ship called at St Helena en route for England, Thackeray had seen Napoleon walking in the gardens of Longwood: this memory surfaces in the novel.

Thackeray claimed he simply woke up one day with the title *Vanity Fair* in his head. In the preface – The Curtain Rises – he invites his audience to ‘step in for half an hour and look at the performances’. He ends his novel with the words ‘Come children, let us shut up the box and the puppets, for our play is played out’. He may have been detached from mankind but never his marionettes. There is little sentimentality in his approach; any inconsistencies and awkward time shifts must be partly due to his having written the novel in serial form.

If the central character in Thackeray’s *Barry Lyndon* is a Fieldingesque anti-hero, Becky Sharp is no less an anti-heroine. Full of guile and treachery, outwitting her opponents as she climbs the social ladder, she clearly fascinated her creator as much as she delights and amuses the reader. This Circe breaks necks in her ruthless ascent, but she captivates in the process.

Thackeray’s *Book of Snobs* was a hilarious exposé of the hypocrisy of early Victorian society: a similar satirical view permeates *Vanity Fair*. Amelia Sedley is introduced as ‘a dear little creature’ but the author’s attitude to her is deeply ambivalent: he first praises her tenderness and devotion, then adds that ‘Vanity fair is yawning over it’. Incapable of appreciating the altruistic love of Captain Dobbin, she finally becomes ‘our little simpleton’.

Before his death, Thackeray instructed his executors not to publish any biography. Most of his novels – he wrote six – are little read, and details about his life remain scanty. But in recent decades his reputation has begun to rise, thanks in part to Stanley Kubrick’s superb film of

Barry Lyndon. In life, Thackeray never achieved either the fame or the fortune of Dickens. Perhaps, in these disillusioned times, his hour has finally come.

Notes by Betty Tadman



Georgina Sutton trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. She has toured extensively to repertory theatres around the UK and her audio work includes voice commercials for Classic FM. She has read *The Great Poets – Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Christina Rossetti* and *The Virgin and the Gypsy* for Naxos AudioBooks.

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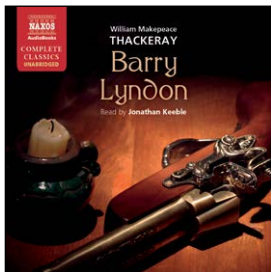
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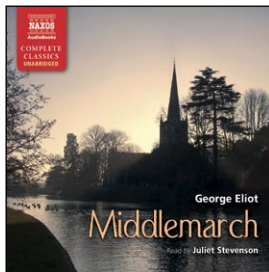
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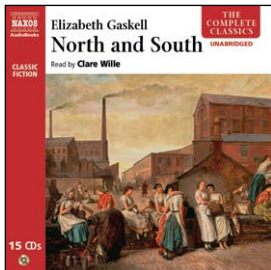
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