

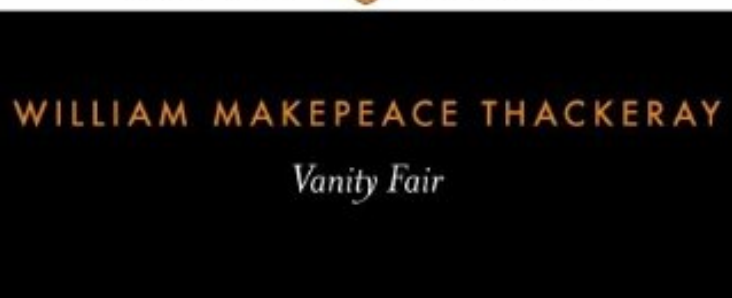
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Vanity Fair (Penguin Classics)

William Makepeace Thackeray
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#591251 in Books William Makepeace Thackeray 2003-04-29 2003-04-29 Original language: English PDF #1 7.79 x 1.64 x 5.12l, 1.30 #File Name: 0141439831912 pages Vanity Fair | File size: 51.Mb

William Makepeace Thackeray : Vanity Fair (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vanity Fair (Penguin Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Smart satire By capegirlnoshoes Probably the best thing about this novel is the scope. It doesn't just end happily ever after when the protagonists get married, it goes on and on until everything is totally resolved. The satire is cutting and very smart, and is all about how the European society of the time is full of vanity. Various characters are more or less caught up in it. It gets only 3 stars because there isn't all that

much zing and excitement but it's still well worth reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Thackeray's *Vanity Fair: The Victorian Society* By Anthony Reyes
When I read the book I got the impression that I was given a unique opportunity to look at the Victorian society and recognise the things that were both good and bad about it. The novel is "without a hero", as Thackeray proclaims, but it is about the life and development of two women Becky Sharp and Amelia Sedley. By comparing and contrasting the two of them, Thackeray manages to show his readers that society in the Victorian Era influenced the development of the character of his heroes, but not to the point of actually making them what they turn out to be. It is a wonderful book, full of insight and ever so true for our own time as well. If you want to know many truths about the Victorians and their lives, that's the book to read... You will, undoubtedly, enjoy the experience
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Magnificent novel, frustrating edition
By Wanda B. Red
This review concerns the Penguin edition. I'd like to agree with the previous reviewer and add to what she says. Not only are the notes at the back of the book, so you have to leaf back and forth to read them -- and not only are they referenced by chapter number rather than page number -- they also not infrequently simply send you to another note (as in, "see chapter 2, note 10" or some such). Reading the notes thus becomes a time-consuming scavenger hunt. That is so frustrating because there are a lot of time-specific artifacts and historical events that require footnoting in "*Vanity Fair*," but after a while I just gave up on the notes. On the other hand, the introduction to this Penguin is great. It provides a philosophical and biographical context, and reveals the editor's intelligent appreciation of Thackeray. He is warmly appreciative of Thackeray's cynical virtues and hard on his author where he devolves into stereotypes. Once again, however, like the notes, the introduction, are misplaced. As the editor tells you, it is to be read after the book is completed, as it reveals details of the plot that ruin the novel's suspense. Why not then make it an "Afterword"? In short, Penguin goes a long way toward ruining a classic novel with its awkward apparatus in this book. Read "*Vanity Fair*," but don't read it in the Penguin.

No one is better equipped in the struggle for wealth and worldly success than the alluring and ruthless Becky Sharp, who defies her impoverished background to clamber up the class ladder. Her sentimental companion Amelia, however, longs only for caddish soldier George. As the two heroines make their way through the tawdry glamour of Regency society, battles—military and domestic—are fought, fortunes made and lost. The one steadfast and honourable figure in this corrupt world is Dobbin with his devotion to Amelia, bringing pathos and depth to Thackeray's gloriously satirical epic of love and social adventure.

"I do not say there is no character as well drawn in Shakespeare [as D'Artagnan]. I do say there is none that I love so wholly."--Robert Louis Stevenson
"The lasting and universal popularity of *The Three Musketeers* shows that Dumas, by artlessly expressing his own nature in the persons of his heroes, was responding to that craving for action, strength and generosity which is a fact in all periods and all places."--André Maurois
Language Notes
Text: Spanish, English
From the Publisher
Vanity Fair is a story of two heroines--one hummer, the other scheming and social climbing--who meet in boarding school and embark on markedly different lives. Amid the swirl of London's posh ballrooms and affairs of love and war, their fortunes rise and fall. Through it all, Thackeray lampoons the shallow values of his society, reserving the most pointed barbs for the upper crust. What results is a prescient look at the dogged pursuit of wealth and status--and the need for humility.