



# VANITY FAIR

By William Thackeray

*Presentation is made by Kseniya Filio*

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*William Makepeace*

*Thackeray* (18 July 1811 – 24 December 1863) was a British novelist, author and illustrator born in India. He is known for his satirical works, particularly *Vanity Fair*, a panoramic portrait of British society, and *The Luck of Barry Lyndon*, which was adapted for film by Stanley Kubrick.

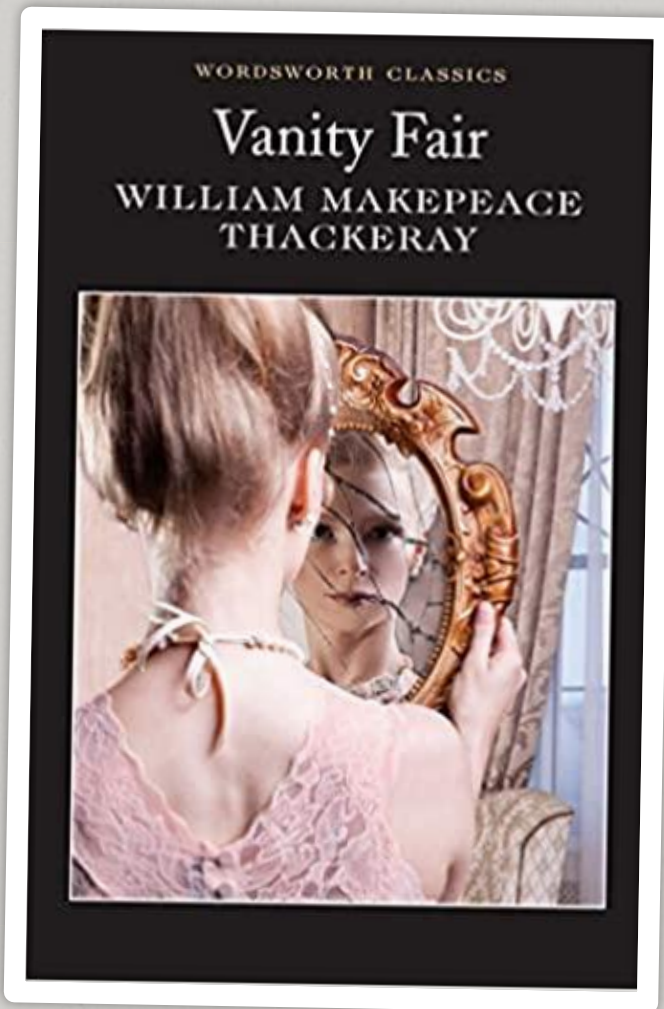




# THE TITLE

As we see the title of this story is obscure, because in the title the author uses of one of the most expressive tropes – a metaphor.

The catchy title was derived from a reference made in John Bunyan's allegorical story, The Pilgrim's Progress.



The protagonist seems to have only one goal: achieving a high rank within society and enjoying wealthy and luxury.

# THE GIST



# THE THEME



The theme of this story is a relation between people in different kinds of society. The novel also engages with themes of deception and manipulation, as characters attempt to get what they want (often in the face of drastic consequences) by using other characters, either through marriage, business deals, or other means.



# THE NARRATION

- There is a third-person narration;
- The narrator is omniscient;
- Self-described in the preface of the book as essentially a stage manager, the narrator takes the role of someone who is trying to direct the actions of the characters at hand and wishes to critique and improve upon their feats.



# THE USE OF STYLISTIC DEVICES IN THE TEXT

- 0 **Epithets:** “He was a fine open-faced boy...”
- 0 **Graphons:** “What *mayn’t* hear her singing?”, “Why *don’t* she ever sing to me...?”
- 0 **Parallelism:** “The cook looked at the housemaid; the housemaid looked knowingly at the footman – the awful kitchen inquisition...”



- He exposes sites of vulnerability in the moral and epistemological premises not only of this particular novel, but of the Victorian realist narrative as a whole.
- Thackeray's verbal irony undoubtedly works as a device that secures the comic parameters of the satire.

## THACKERAY'S IRONY



# CHARACTERS

## Rebecca “Becky” Sharp

She is the most controversial person in Vanity Fair. Throughout the book she seems to have only one goal: achieving a high rank within society and enjoying wealthy and luxury. But in spite of her wickedness and bewitching attacks on rich men she must early experience that life cannot be planned and that setbacks are unpleasant but possible.





## **Amelia “Emmy” Sedley**

She is the complete opposite of Rebecca. Not a high social status she longs to conquer but a man with whom she can outlive her romantic feelings. At first it appears as if she has found this specific fellow but the perils of destiny - and also infidelity - ruin her marriage.





## Jos Sedley

Jos is the Sedley family's established bachelor. His job as collector for the East India Company has made him comfortably wealthy, and he spends money on food and drink until he becomes obese. Despite his financial success, Jos finds his father intimidating, and women in general unnerving. Becky fails to ensnare Jos at first, but finally worms her way into his affections through flattery, his weakness.





## George Osborne

George, a handsome army captain who can rarely resist a mirror, is the son of a banker, but feels inferior to young noblemen. John Sedley is his

godfather, and his betrothal to Amelia has been understood since their childhood. George's loyalty to

Amelia is challenged when her family becomes poor, and when Becky's charms attract him. Worse,

George looks down on William Dobbin, who has been his friend and protector since childhood, simply because Dobbin is not wealthy.





## William Dobbin

His last name brings to mind the strength and reliability of a farm horse.

A capable, even-tempered man, he thinks before he acts, puts others' happiness ahead of his own, waits patiently for Amelia's love, and helps his friends through one painful situation after another. Over the years he becomes more confident about his place in the world, but he remains too deeply moral and pragmatic to be tempted by the shallow pleasures of Vanity Fair. Although a supporting character, Dobbin comes closer than any other character to being a traditional hero.





## **Rawdon Crawley**

He has been his aunt's favorite for years, and for good reason. Although not a particularly intelligent man, Rawdon is charming and easy-going.

Strong and athletic, he has many friends among soldiers — his aunt purchased his commission, and he takes quickly to life in the guard. But the traits that make Rawdon such a

likeable fellow also leave him vulnerable to Becky's schemes. After he marries her, he loses his aunt's favor, and begins a long slide that ends in virtual exile from England and from his little boy. Yet even Becky recognizes his bravery and selfless loyalty.







THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!

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