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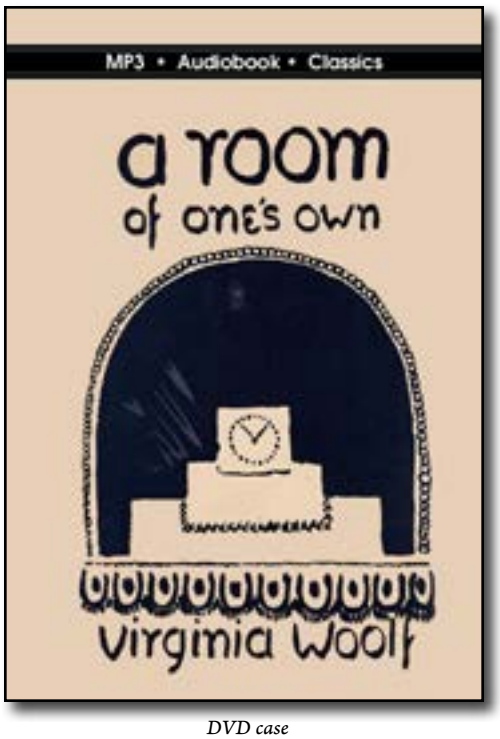

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A Room of One's Own

Virginia Woolf (1882 - 1941)

Read by:	Cori Samuel	Language:	English
Length:	4 hours 2 minutes	Formats:	MP3 CD, download
Genre:	Fiction	Style:	Solo

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
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A Room of One's Own is an influential 1929 extended essay by Virginia Woolf that argues that women need both financial independence and a private space, "a room of her own", to be creative and achieve artistic equality.

The essay originated from lectures Woolf delivered at Newnham College and Girton College she gave at Cambridge in 1928. It is written in a conversational, often humorous, tone that guides the reader through Woolf's observations and arguments about women's place in literature and society. A central and memorable part of the essay is the imagined story of Shakespeare's sister, a woman with the same talent but who is unable to write due to lack of opportunity and dies young.

The essay explores themes of social injustice, sexism, the history of women in literature, and the need for financial and personal autonomy for women artists. It is a foundational text of feminist literary criticism and has inspired generations of women to pursue their creative and intellectual goals.

Virginia Woolf (January 25, 1882 – March 28, 1941) was one of the most important modernist English writers of the twentieth century and a pioneer of stream of consciousness narrative. She was born into an upper-middle-class London family that was well established in the social and cultural world of Victorian England. Her father, Leslie Stephen, was a leading figure in Cambridge literary circles. Her mother, Julia, was from a prominent Anglo-Indian family. She grew up speaking fluent French and German, living for part of the year in Paris, and making many trips to Europe. From 1897 to 1901, she attended the Ladies' Department of King's College London, where she studied classics and history and met the early reformers of women's higher education and the women's rights movement. In her teens she began to read the literary and philosophical works that her parents collected and began to write for herself. After her father's death in 1904 the family moved to Bloomsbury, where Virginia became a part of the Bloomsbury Group of artists, writers, and other intellectuals founded by her brother. She married Leonard Woolf in 1912. In 1917 they established the Hogarth Press, which published many of her novels: *The Voyage Out* (1915), *Night and Day* (1919), *Jacob's Room* (1922), *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927), *Orlando* (1928), and *The Waves* (1931). She also wrote many essays, notably "A Room of One's Own" (1929), which have been collected as *The Essays of Virginia Woolf* in six volumes. Throughout her life she suffered from what would be diagnosed today as bipolar disorder. In 1941, at age 59, Woolf died by drowning herself in the River Ouse at Lewes.

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