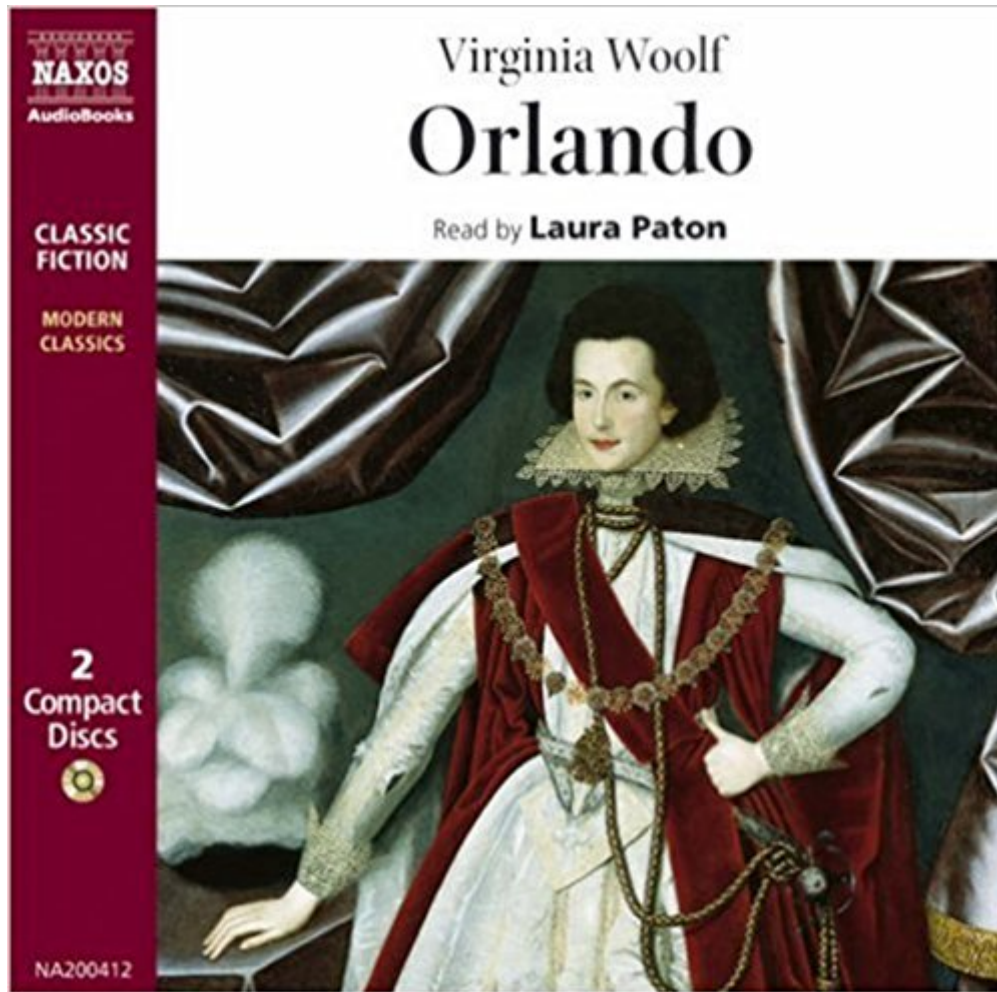




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Orlando (Modern Fiction)



Synopsis

A young man emerges at the court of Queen Elizabeth I and progresses, with breathtaking ease, through three centuries until, by now a woman; arrives in the bustle of the 1920s.

Book Information

Series: Modern Fiction

Audio CD

Publisher: Naxos Audiobooks; Abridged edition (March 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9626340045

ISBN-13: 978-9626340042

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 4.9 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (137 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,537,805 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \(W \) > Woolf, Virginia](#) #1956 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction >](#)

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Customer Reviews

"Orlando" is a fictional biography whose subject in the beginning is a sixteen-year-old boy in the Elizabethan era and in the end -- three hundred years later -- is a thirty-six-year-old woman. This is not a novel about transsexuality, as such a premise would indicate, but it is a statement about sexual identity and gender roles in English society as only an author like Virginia Woolf could make, territory not even the brazen D.H. Lawrence could traverse with much confidence. It is a lyrical tour de force in which Woolf displays her considerable talent for subtly describing moods and scenery, but most surprisingly, it demonstrates her sly sense of humor and satire. Orlando's gender alteration is naturally the central event of his preternaturally long life, but his aging only twenty years over a course of three centuries is certainly no less bizarre. To describe the circumstances under which he becomes a woman or explain the logic by which he ages so slowly would be giving away too much in this review, nor would it really help to recommend the novel to one who is not yet persuaded to read it, so I will be silent on that account, saying only that these outrageous devices fully succeed as vehicles to explore Woolf's theme of femininity with respect to English cultural and historical frames of reference. The novel examines the effect of gender alteration on Orlando's amorous and professional capacities. As a young nobleman in the Elizabethan court whose interests are

swordsmanship and poetry, he is engaged to an aristocratic Irish girl, has a torrid affair with a Russian princess, and meets a silly woman who, resembling nothing so much as a hare, calls herself the Archduchess Harriet.

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