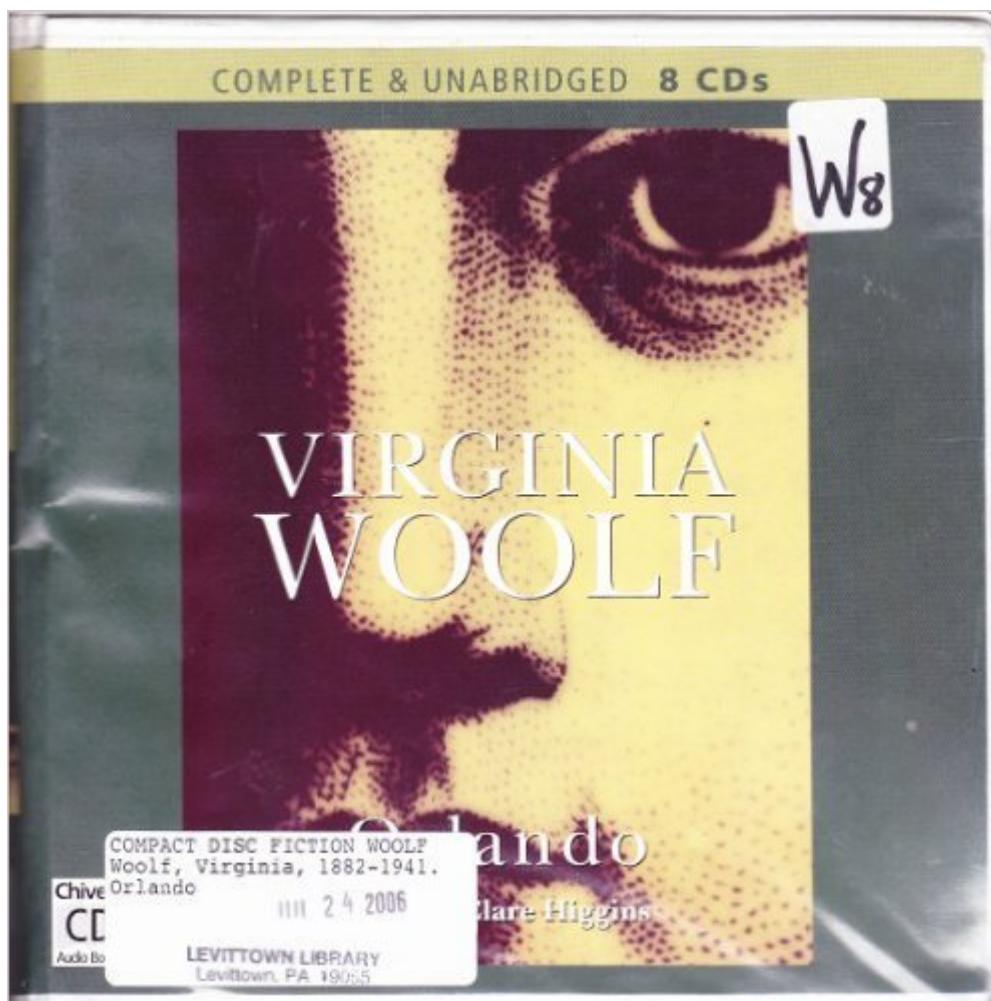


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# Orlando



## Synopsis

This exuberant "biography" is seen as Woolf's most light-hearted novel. It tells the story of the cross-dressing, sex-changing Orlando who begins life as a young noble in the 16th century and moves through numerous historical and geographical worlds to finish as a modern woman writer in the 1920s. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Chivers Audio Books; Unabridged edition (June 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 7.2 x 1.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (137 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,069,009 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 inÂ  Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( W ) > Woolf, Virginia #3045 inÂ  Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Classics #6781 inÂ  Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

## 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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