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## A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Penguin Classics)

Mary Wollstonecraft

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MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT  
*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

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#660374 in Books Mary Wollstonecraft Miriam Brody 2004-09-28 2004-09-28Original  
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**Mary Wollstonecraft : A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Penguin Classics)** before purchasing it in order to  
gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Penguin  
Classics):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Learn about pre-Regent women's rights (or lack thereof)By

MSmurfIt's dreadful to read at times because it kind of makes you want to travel back in time and slap some sense into men and how dreadful the patriarchal system was. BUT... It's a great book. I bought it for my thesis on the patriarchal system in Regency England and this book, while showing Mary Wollstonecraft's very clear point of view on her society, provides a lot of information and detail that shows what life was like at that time (or a few years before, but it's basically the same era). A must if you're into history, women's rights or the likes. If you're thinking about getting it for a paper or thesis or something, go for it. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great read - one of the first feminists  
By Threepence Worth  
This book is simply amazing for the author's thinking on women's rights (and responsibilities). I can't believe that such a forward thinking woman was writing in the 1700s. Her clear view of women's rightful position in society, as opposed to their actual position, is made evident at every turn. Her ideas on education - for girls and boys - must have seemed bizarre for her time, but her arguments in favour of her theories are sound and endorsed by modern education philosophies. My only criticism is that she is verbose and repetitious and some of her sentences are over a page long! Well punctuated and quite correct as to grammar, they seem to go on and on. I loved this book and have written down many quotes to keep. One in particular, where she describes foolish women foregoing the joys and duties of motherhood and marriage as chasing the ephemeral "pleasures that sit lightly on the wing of time". What a delightful turn of phrase!  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Educating  
By Ann Cooper  
This book was mentioned in *Founding Mothers*, by Cokie Roberts, as an essential piece of writing from the mid 1700s. So I tried to read it. It is a long and rambling diatribe against the fact that women of the time, or at least the upper class ones, were valued not for themselves, their ideas or their common sense, but as decorative and submissive male appendages, for ever prevented from attaining their true potential (and values more for youth and beauty than more lasting assets). Oddly, the impression from reading "Founding Mothers" mothers, about the women behind the men who broke from England to form the United States, was of an intrepid and capable bunch of women, quite unlike the most of the 'ladies/women' portrayed in this famous early-feminist lecture.

Writing in an age when the call for the rights of man had brought revolution to America and France, Mary Wollstonecraft produced her own declaration of female independence in 1792. Passionate and forthright, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* attacked the prevailing view of docile, decorative femininity, and instead laid out the principles of emancipation: an equal education for girls and boys, an end to prejudice, and for women to become defined by their profession, not their partner. Mary Wollstonecraft's work was received with a mixture of admiration and outrage - Walpole called her 'a hyena in petticoats' - yet it established her as the mother of modern feminism. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

"We hear [Mary Wollstonecraft's] voice and trace her influence even now among the living." From the  
Publisher  
Founded in 1906 by J.M. Dent, the Everyman Library has always tried to make the best books ever written available to the greatest number of people at the lowest possible price. Unique editorial features that help Everyman Paperback Classics stand out from the crowd include: a leading scholar or literary critic's introduction to the text, a biography of the author, a chronology of her or his life and times, a historical selection of criticism, and a concise plot summary. All books published since 1993 have also been completely restyled: all type has been reset, to offer a clarity and ease of reading unique among editions of the classics; a vibrant, full-color cover design now complements these great texts with beautiful contemporary works of art. But the best feature must be Everyman's uniquely low price. Each Everyman title offers these extensive materials at a price that competes with the most inexpensive editions on the market-but Everyman Paperbacks have durable binding, quality paper, and the highest editorial and scholarly standards.  
From the Inside Flap  
The first novel of Samuel Beckett's mordant and exhilarating midcentury trilogy introduces us to Molloy, who has been mysteriously incarcerated, and who subsequently escapes to go discover the whereabouts of his mother. In the latter part of this curious masterwork, a certain Jacques Moran is deputized by anonymous authorities to search for the aforementioned Molloy. In the trilogy's second novel, *Malone*, who might or might not be Molloy himself, addresses us with his ruminations while in the act of dying. The third novel consists of the fragmented monologue -- delivered, like the monologues of the previous novels, in a mournful rhetoric that possesses the utmost splendor and beauty -- of what might or might not be an armless and legless creature living in an urn outside an eating house. Taken together, these three novels represent the high-water mark of the literary movement we call Modernism. Within their linguistic terrain, where stories are taken up, broken off, and taken up again. where voices rise and crumble and are resurrected, we can discern the essential lineaments of our modern condition, and encounter an awesome vision, tragic yet always compelling and always mysteriously invigorating, of consciousness trapped and struggling inside the boundaries of nature.