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1749 John Cleland
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#6052515 in Books 2017-01-18Original language:English 9.00 x .47 x 6.00l, #File Name: 1542620562206 pages | File size: 49.Mb

1749 John Cleland : Fanny Hill: Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fanny Hill: Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The most effective employment of metaphors and similes I have ever readBy William SumrallClearly, the forward use of metaphors and similes in such a skillful and unabashed manner distinguishes the book as a literary Great.The eloquent skill aside, Cleland paints a torrid imagery on the canvas of 1740s London.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. funny and educationalBy Noelle Jeannine HalterThis book is the very first pornographic novel ever written (not the first sexual literature, but the first NOVEL to be deemed pornographic). So, if you are as obsessed with novels (classic novels) as I am, then this will make a great addition to your collection. Plus, if you have a kindle, you can just get this book from for FREE! You can't beat free. The story itself is comical, graphic, and kind of a snooze fest. The sexual descriptions are very drawn out and wordy with lots of flowery language and interesting euphemisms and metaphors. I did not feel at all "hot and bothered" while reading it, but I'm old and jaded, so I'm guessing my 13 year old self would have found this novel pretty steamy.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. beautiful, unflinching, imaginative, non-sexist snapshotBy alastair7This is by no means to be taken as a factual or documentary account of an actual country girl's exploits in 18th century London. In addition, this is not one man's perverted erotic tale meant to amuse himself in prison. If you should read this book, word for word, you will understand a few things, aside from the exploitation of young women into sexual slavery, of course, that is the main tragedy of the book, but I think Cleland wants us to somehow look past that and into this bizarre world, whether his vision is accurate or not, and to see the persistence and optimism of a young woman who has lost every shred of control a human could hope for over her life. Not only that, but through this scenario, Cleland permits himself to explore the delights of the body, the mind, and the heart. It is believed that, since one of his early dear friends wrote a document about homosexual male sex, that perhaps he and Cleland had been lovers. The chain of conclusions then leads to the proposition that Cleland himself was homosexual and that he adopted the voice of a young woman to explore the delights of the male gender. However, I propose that aside from heterosexuality or homosexuality, Cleland constructs a world in which the reader, if willing, is prompted to open up to ideas of the beautiful variations of the shape of the human body, its secret rewards, surprises, and pleasures. Cleland, if anything, is pansexual, as is Fanny Hill. Notably, the book's single homosexual scene, witnessed by Fanny, via the ever-present spy hole in the wall at the brothel, leaves her incensed! She runs away in revulsion, which, given her history, seems an unduly harsh reaction; her exclamation regarding the incident? "They had sex without a woman!

There was no woman involved!" At the end of the day, Fanny Hill is a story of humanity, sexuality, gender roles, gender rights, exploration and liberation.

Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure, popularly known as Fanny Hill, is a novel by John Cleland. Written in 1749 while Cleland was in debtor's prison in London, it is considered the first modern "erotic novel" in English, and has become a byword for the battle of censorship of erotica.

About the Author John Cleland (baptised 24 September 1709 ndash; 23 January 1789) was an English novelist best known as the author of Fanny Hill: or, the Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure. John Cleland was the oldest son of William Cleland (1673/4 ndash; 1741) and Lucy Cleland (nee DuPass). He was born in Kingston upon Thames in Surrey but grew up in London, where his father was first an officer in the British Army and then a civil servant. William Cleland was a friend to Alexander Pope, and Lucy Cleland was a friend or acquaintance of Pope, Viscount Bolingbroke, Chesterfield, and Horace Walpole. The family possessed wealth and moved among the finest literary and artistic circles of London. John Cleland entered Westminster School in 1721, but he left or was expelled in 1723. His departure was not for financial reasons, but whatever misbehaviour or allegation had led to his departure is unknown. Historian J. H. Plumb speculates that Cleland's puckish and quarrelsome nature was to blame, but, whatever caused Cleland to leave, he entered the British East India Company after leaving school. He began as a soldier and worked his way up into the civil service of the company and lived in Bombay from 1728 to 1740. He returned to London when recalled by his father, who was dying. Upon William's death, the estate went to Lucy for administration. She, in turn, did not choose to support John. Meanwhile, Cleland's two brothers had finished their education at Westminster and gone on to support themselves.

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