

Why you should read Vanity Fair:

1. Joanna Trollope describes Vanity Fair as “sharp, brilliant, touching, clever, and cruel,” and considers it one of the ten best in Victorian literature; Charlotte Bronte considered Thackeray “A Titan.”
2. The character of Becky Sharp is unforgettable.
3. Much of what Thackeray satirizes about Victorian society is still relevant and evident today.
4. His syntax is a masterful product of his time, and his narrative voice is unique and inimitable.

Why you may struggle with Vanity Fair:

1. The vast majority of the characters are reprehensible; the subtitle “A Novel Without a Hero” is very true.
2. Thackeray’s narration may feel didactic and intrusive at times.
3. The novel has been described as “sprawling” and may seem long.
4. The author’s disdain for society and his characters is palpable, and the reader can’t help but agree.

Still interested?

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