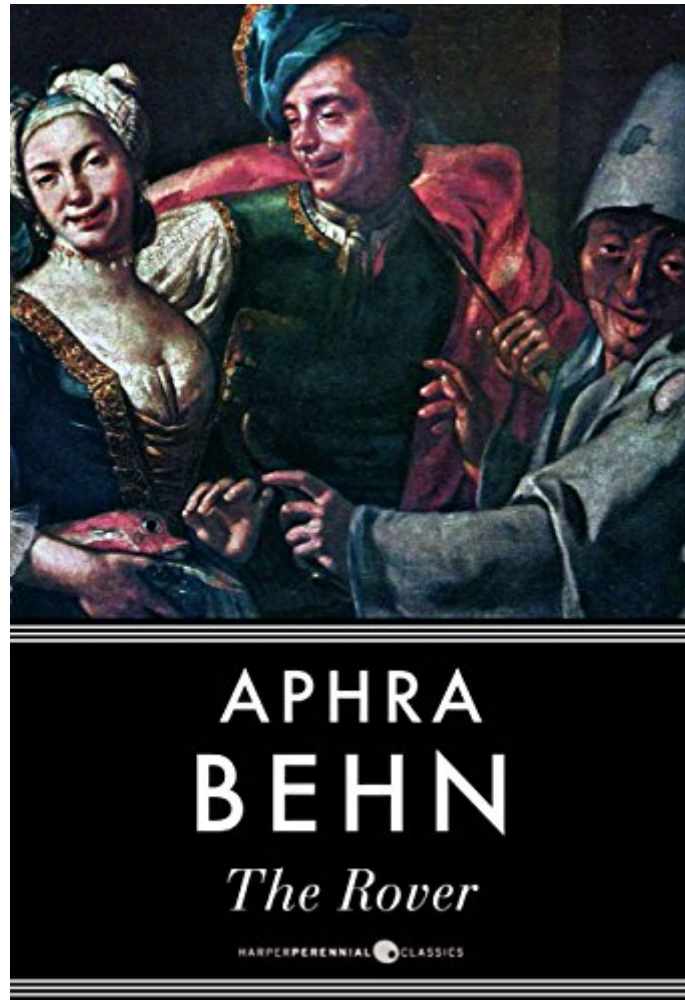


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The Rover



Synopsis

Faithful and handsome, the Englishman Belvile is in love with the Italian lady Florinda, who is betrothed to another. Willmore, the rover, is in love with Hellena, sister of Florinda and destined for the convent. And Angellica Bianca, a courtesan, is in love with Willmore. Against the backdrop of Naples during Carnival time, this varied cast of characters pursue life, honour, and pleasure in this comedic drama. Author and playwright Aphra Behn created a clearly male-centric world in *The Rover*, but does not dismiss the power of her female characters, who are willing to go to extreme measures to fulfill their desires. *The Rover* was written for profit at a time when Behn had lost her source of income, but became one of the most popular plays of the Restoration era, and it is still studied and widely performed in modern times. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

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Customer Reviews

This proto-feminist, part-time spy (I kid you not--for King Charles II) playwright is as good as William

Wycherley and other restoration comedians--she was only recently re-discovered (1980's, I believe) because of sexist publishers and an all-male literary canon. Brilliant and insightful, she points out beautifully the inequality and hypocrisy of patriarchal culture. It's also just a heck of a lot of fun!

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