

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF DANIEL DEFOE'S MOLL FLANDERS

Moll Flanders was born in Newgate Prison. Her mother was transported to Virginia for theft shortly after her birth, leaving her helpless. Around the age of three, she ran away from some gypsies with whom she had been living. A parish took her in and she was given to the care of a nurse, who brought her up to the age of eight. Her nurse died when she was 14 or so, and then she became a maid-servant in the household of a Mayor, and learned the same lessons as what the daughters of the house were learning. Because of her beautiful face, the elder son of the house seduced her, and they committed adultery. Then the younger son fell in love with her too, and wanted to marry her. The older son convinced the unwilling girl to marry the younger one, and so she lived as a wife until her husband's death a few years later. His parents took charge of their two children.

Soon she remarried but became broke because her new husband spent everything she had. She left him and changed her name, and then lived with another widow. Moll married a gentleman who had a plantation in Virginia and they both moved there since Moll had no real fortune in England. After listening to the stories from her new mother-in-law, Moll realized that her mother-in-law was really her true mother, thus her new husband was also her brother.

Things didn't work out and she moved back to England. She married a man from Lancashire, but they got financial problems when they both lied about their personal wealth. They got separated even though they both loved each other. She realized that she had to marry a wealthy man if she wanted to live well. Feeling confident, she got married again to a successful businessman. But after a clerk stole from him and the business got bankrupt, he lost all hopes, got ill and died. Left almost destitute and no longer young enough to attract a new husband, Moll eventually took to crime, stealing things. Moll became an excellent and successful thief until at last she was caught stealing some silk and sent to Newgate. In Newgate, she saw her Lancashire husband being brought in for highway robbery. She was cast into despair when she received a death sentence, and with the aid of a minister she became a good Christian. The minister helped her to be transported to Virginia, where she met her Lancashire husband and they reasserted their love. In the end they got free and began a tobacco plantation. After being wealthy, they returned to England.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Daniel Defoe was born in London in 1660, probably in September, He was the third child and first son of James and Mary Defoe. His mother died when he was ten, and his father sent him to a boarding school.

By 1683, Daniel was a successful young merchant. On New Year's Day, 1684, he married Mary Tuffley. Daniel went bankrupt in 1692. Though he still considered himself a merchant, first and foremost, writing suddenly became a more prominent part of his life. In 1701, he wrote a poem called *The True-Born Englishman*, which became the best-selling poem ever at that time. It was so well-known that he signed several of his later works as The True-Born Englishman, and everyone knew exactly what that meant. Still, it was only a pamphlet, which made Daniel the lowest form of writer as far as his contemporaries were concerned. He also started taking on a few "unofficial" government jobs, most notably an assignment to Scotland.

The next real event in his life was when he was pilloried in July 1703. His crime, posted on a sign above his head, was that he wrote a pamphlet called *The Shortest Way with the Dissenters*, which satirized the high church. He was the only person ever pilloried who later went on to become a national hero. He had also gotten another prison term, though, and that was a problem. His business failed while he was in Newgate. Desperate to get back on his feet to support his wife and six children, he contacted Robert Harley, Speaker of Parliament. Robert appreciated Daniel's usefulness as a writer and manipulator of popular opinion. From then on,

Daniel had a steady job as a pamphleteer for all kinds of ministries, Tory and Whig alike.

The first volume of *Robinson Crusoe* was published on 25 April 1719. Since that one worked so well, Daniel published *Moll Flanders* in 1722, drawing heavily on his experiences in Newgate prison to add realism. This novel got him the label of a social historian, much, much later, of course. He also worked for a publisher named Mr. Applebee between 1720 and 1726, who liked to publish lives of condemned criminals. Daniel used to go to prison cells and even to help the criminals and obtain some of their life experiences. He died in Cripplegate on 24 April 1731.

Adapted from : Moore, John Robert. Daniel Defoe: Citizen of the Modern World. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1958. Accessed on March 21, 2007 from <<http://www.incompetech.com/authors/defoe/> >.