

APPENDICES

Synopsis of Vanity Fair

The story opens at Miss Pinkerton's Academy for Young Ladies, where the two major female characters, Amelia Sedley and Rebecca (Becky) Sharp, have just finished their studies. Amelia is portrayed as good natured, kind, sweet, naïve and shallow, and she is a daughter of a successful businessman, while Becky is portrayed as a strong-willed and cunning young woman, determined to make her way in society and she is an orphaned daughter of a poor artist and disreputable opera dancer. Becky stays with Amelia in Amelia's house at Russel Square.

After some time, Becky joins Queen's Crawley as employee and as a governess of Sir Pitt Crawley's daughter (a wealthy nobleman). After a couple of times, Sir Pitt's second wife dies, and he proposes Becky. However, Becky rejects Sir Pitt's proposal because she is already secretly married to Sir Pitt's second son, Captain Rawdon Crawley. Crawley's fortune is huge and Becky wants it so much, which leads to social conflicts in Crawley's family.

While Becky Sharp achieves anything she wants, money and social status, Amelia's family is bankrupt because of the stock market failure, which causes difficulties in the process of Amelia and George's marriage. Despite the differences, they are married in the end. One day, George is sent to Waterloo to

join a battle. Unfortunately, George dies in the battle. After George's death, Amelia marries Dobbin, who really cares about her and has loved her for a very long time.

Biography of William Makepeace Thackeray

William Makepeace Thackeray was born on July 18, 1811, in Calcutta, India. In 1816, after his father's death, William was sent to Chiswick, England. He was educated at Southampton, Chiswick, and then at Charterhouse School. In 1828, Thackeray entered Trinity College, Cambridge, where he left the college without a degree. On August 20, 1836, he married Isabella Gethin Shawe and they had three daughters, but their second daughter, Jane, died at 8 months.

In the early 1840s, Thackeray travelled between London and Paris. He published his first essays, The Paris Sketch Book and The Irish Sketch Book. The publication of Vanity Fair really made him famous, which first appeared in serialized installment beginning in January 1847. His other works were Pendennis, The Newcomers, and The History of Henry Esmod. In 1860s, he became the first editor of *Cornhill Magazine*, but eventually he preferred to contribute to the magazine as a columnist, producing his Roundbouts Papers.

During the 1850s, his health worsened and he died of a cerebral hemorrhage on December 23, 1863. His death was entirely unexpected, and shocked his family, friends, and readers. An estimated 7000 people attended his funeral at Kensington Garden. He was buried on December 29 at Kensal Green Cemetery, and a memorial bust sculpted by Marochetti for Thackeray can be found in Westminster Abbey.

Source:

“Biography of William Makepeace Thackeray”