



FANNY HILL

Fanny Hill
Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure

by John Cleland (1709-1789)

Fanny Hill: Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure was the first widely-read English novel in the erotica genre. It was written in 1749 by John Cleland as he was serving time in a London debtor's prison. Over the centuries, the novel has been repeatedly banned by authorities, assuring its preeminent role in the history of the ongoing struggle against censorship of free expression.

Until *Fanny Hill*, previous heroines had conducted their amorous liaisons "off-stage." Any erotic misadventures were described euphemistically. As women who had gone astray, they always repented, which made even their most outrageous dalliances somehow suitable for a moralistic readership. The protagonist of *Fanny Hill*, however, never repented a single moment of her sexual exploits ... quite the contrary! And with Fanny, the devil is in the details, realistically described.

JOHN CLELAND

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
Painting by Francois Boucher, *Reclining Girl*
(detail), 1751



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