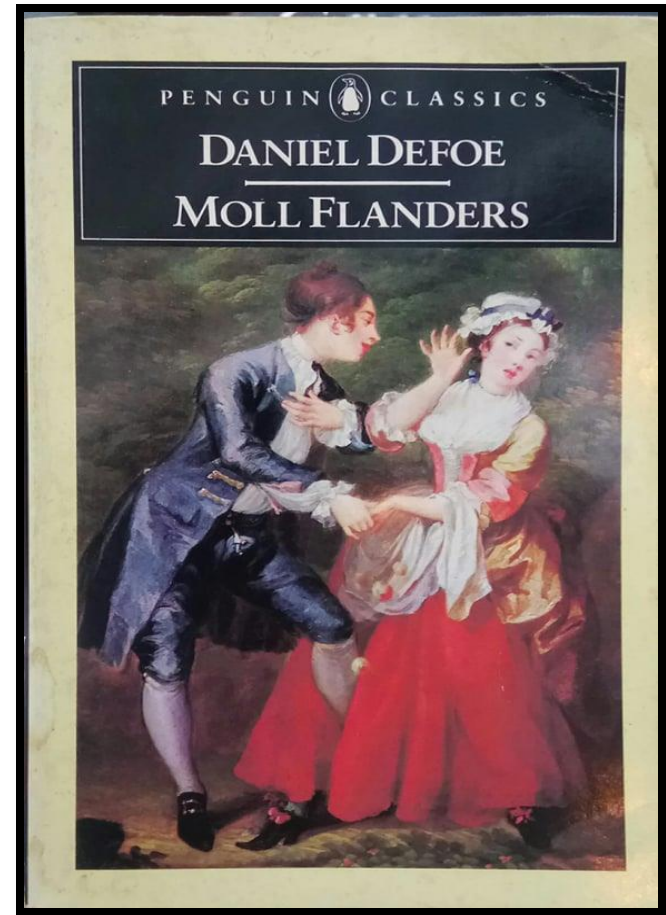


MOLL FLANDERS

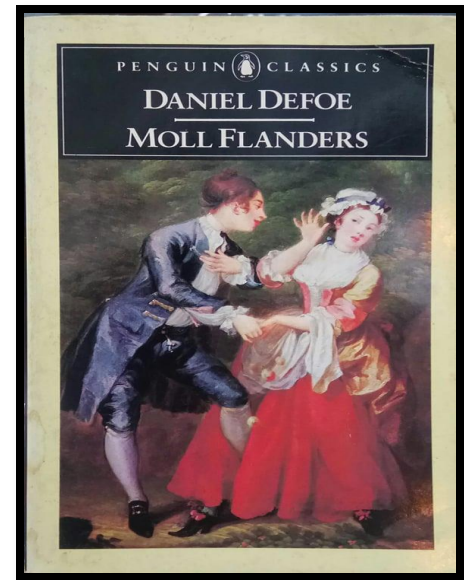


Daniel Defoe



➤ *The Fortunes and Misfortunes of the Famous Moll Flanders* is a romance by Daniel Defoe.

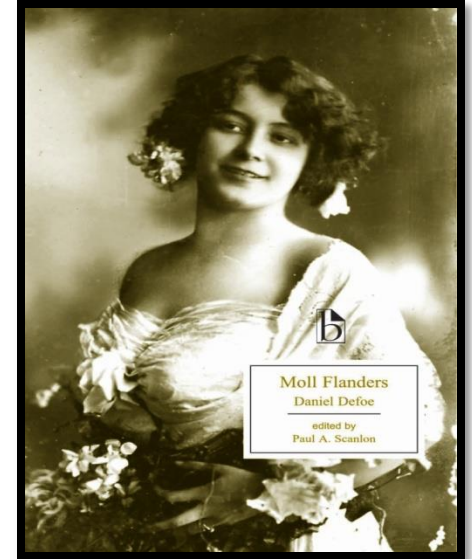
➤ *It was published in 1722.*



Moll Flanders is a fascinatingly vital fictional autobiography of a woman “born in Newgate...twelve years a whore, five times a wife (whereof once to her own brother), twelve years a thief, eight years a transported felon in Virginia, at last grew rich, liv’d honest, and died a penitent...”

Plot of *Moll Flanders*

➤ *Moll Flanders* is a story about the fall and rise of a beautiful woman who was born in Newgate Prison.



➤ Moll's mother is a convict in Newgate Prison in London.



➤ **Her mother is eventually transported to Virginia in the Colonial United States soon after Moll's birth.**



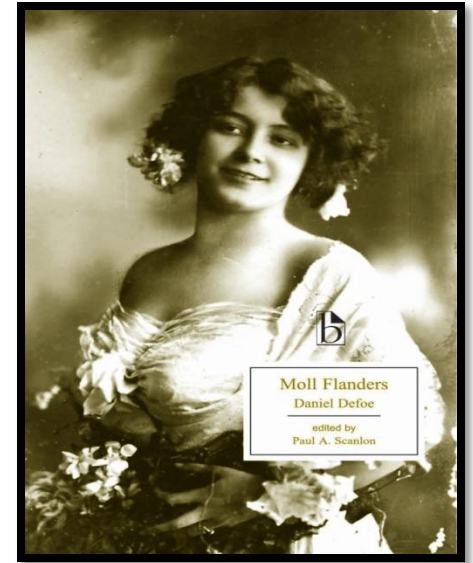
➤ **The child, abandoned in England, is brought up in the house of the compassionate mayor of Colchester.**



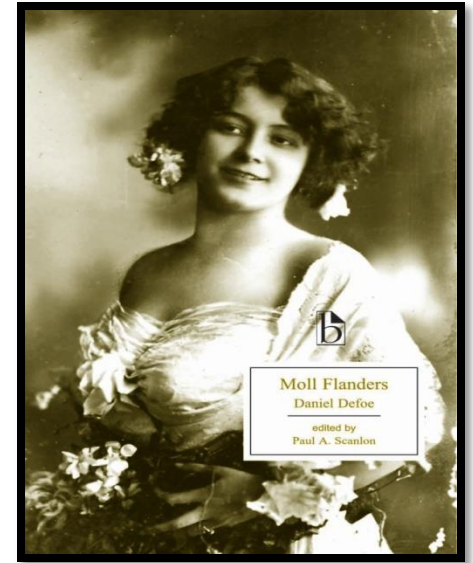
➤ **She is raised there from the age of three until adolescence by a kindly foster mother.**



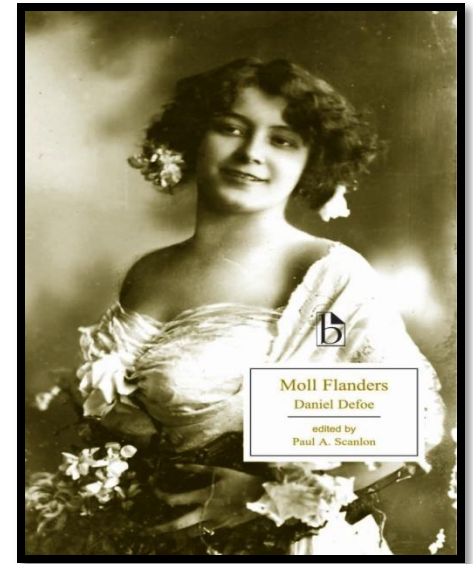
➤ **She grows into a beautiful teenager and is seduced at an early age. Abandoned by her first lover, she is compelled to marry his younger brother who dies after a few years.**



➤ Moll leaves her two children in the care of in-laws, and begins honing the skill of passing herself off as a fortuneed widow to attract a man who will marry her and provide her with security.



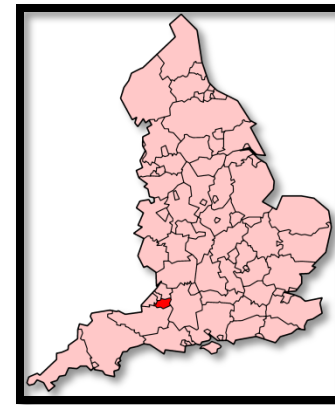
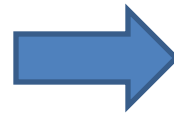
➤ Moll then marries a gentleman-draper, He is agreeable, but her spendthrift husband goes bankrupt and flees to the Continent.



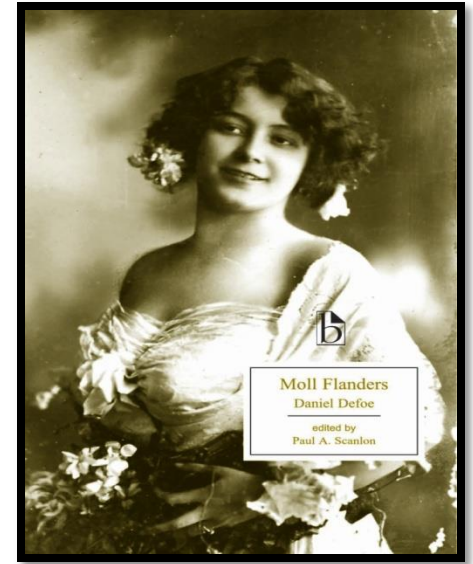
➤ **"I knew well enough my Husband would never see England anymore." She decides, accordingly, to dress as a widow and begin a new life under the assumed name "Mrs. Flanders." She soon finds herself among a miserable, "wicked" company of men and does not feel inclined to return any of their attentions.**

➤ She soon marries a wealthy plantation owner and they move to Virginia where they live with the plantation owner's mother. After three children, Moll learns that her mother-in-law is actually her biological mother, which makes her husband her half-brother.

➤ She dissolves their marriage and after continuing to live with her brother for three years, travels back to England, leaving her two children behind, and goes to live in Bath to seek a new husband.



➤ After her return to England, she becomes the mistress of a man whose wife has gone insane. He renounces his affair with Moll after a serious illness. She has three children with him though only one survives.



➤ Concerned about her future and with no one to advise her, Moll takes her money to a banker and asks him to manage her affairs. The banker is a kind man and agrees to help Moll.

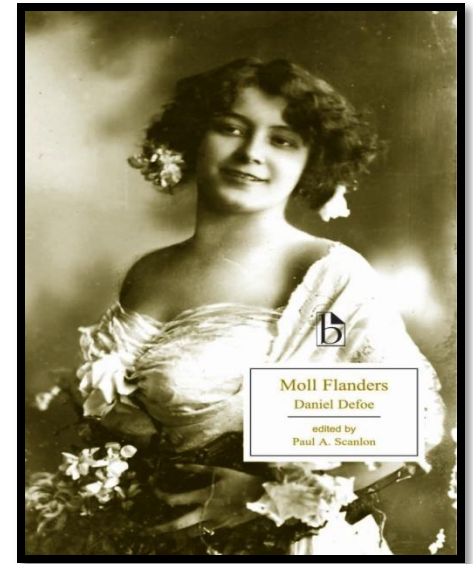


➤ The banker's wife has been cheating on him, and he asks Moll to marry him as soon as his divorce is final. Moll, not completely against the idea of marrying the banker, travels first to Lancashire.

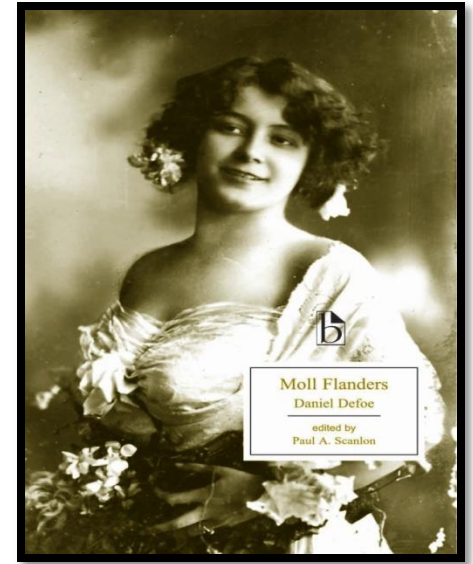


➤ In Lancashire, she meets James, the man who will become her fourth husband. James says he is a rich Irishman, and Moll has convinced him that she is a wealthy widow. However, once they are married, Moll and James discover that they are both penniless.

➤ Moll and James part amicably, and Moll returns to London. She finds out that she's pregnant. Finding no way out, she seeks out support from a midwife in the area, and when her kid is born, she sends it out to be fostered.



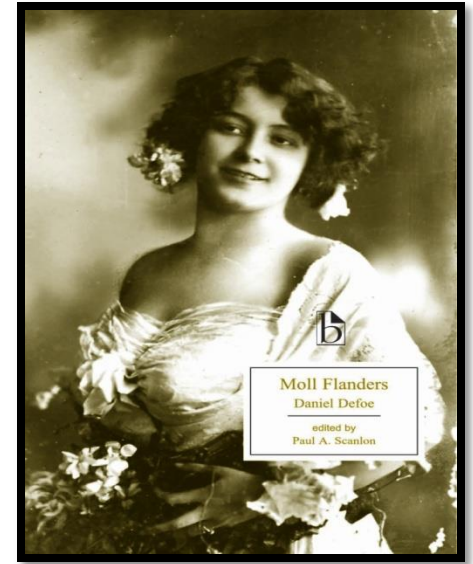
➤ Moll returns to marry the banker, who by this time has succeeded in divorcing his wife. He dies after five years, however, and Moll is thrown back upon her own resources once again.



➤ Left almost destitute, and no longer young enough to attract a new husband, Moll eventually takes to crime, stealing things. She renews acquaintance with the midwife, who is by now a pawnbroker and leader of thieves. Moll becomes an excellent and successful thief, and has many adventures, and uses all sorts of clever techniques to steal silver and cloth.

➤ Eventually she is caught, imprisoned, and sentenced to death. In prison at Newgate, she reunites with her Lancashire husband, who has also been arrested. They both manage to have their sentences reduced, and they are transported to the colonies, where they begin a new life as plantation owners.

➤ In America, Moll rediscovers her brother and her son and claims the inheritance her mother has left her. Prosperous and repentant, she returns with her husband to England at the age of seventy.



The End