



Fanny Hill: Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure (English Edition)

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John Cleland

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Kurzbeschreibung

John Cleland (baptised September 24, 1709 – January 23, 1789) was an English novelist most famous and infamous as the author of *Fanny Hill: or, the Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*. John Cleland was the oldest son of William Cleland (1673/4 – 1741) and Lucy Cleland. He was born in Kingston upon Thames in Surrey but grew up in London, where his father was first an officer in the British Army and then a civil servant. William Cleland was a friend to Alexander Pope, and Lucy Cleland was a friend or acquaintance of both Pope, Viscount Bolingbroke, Chesterfield, and Horace Walpole. The family possessed good finances and moved among the finest literary and artistic circles of London. John Cleland entered Westminster School in 1721, but he left or was expelled in 1723. His departure was not for financial reasons, but whatever misbehavior or allegation had led to his departure is unknown. Historian J. H. Plumb speculates that Cleland's puckish and quarrelsome nature was to blame, but, whatever caused Cleland to leave, he entered the British East India Company after leaving school. He began as a soldier and worked his way up into the civil service of the company and lived in Bombay from 1728 to 1740. He returned to London when recalled by his father, who was dying. Upon William's death, the estate went to Lucy for administration. She, in turn, did not choose to support John. Kurzbeschreibung

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John Cleland was an English writer who is best known for his erotic novel *Fanny Hill: or, the Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*. An employee of the British East India Company, Cleland spent extended periods in Bombay, India, until recalled to England because of his father's illness. With no financial support from his family, Cleland amassed enough debt to land in Fleet Prison, where he is believed to have composed *Fanny Hill*. His subsequent arrest following the publication of *Fanny Hill* prompted Cleland to withdraw the novel, and while it was not legally published for over a hundred years, it continued to sell well as a pirated work. Cleland never achieved professional or financial success with his writing. He died in 1789.

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