

Vanity Fair

author: William Makepeace Thackeray

2026-07

Synopsis

author	William Makepeace
readBy	Al Murray, full
inLanguage	english

Al Murray stars in this anarchic BBC radio reboot of Thackeray's groundbreaking satirical novel.

Comedian Al Murray plays his great-great-great grandfather William Makepeace Thackeray as the unreliable narrator in this radical makeover of his ancestor's celebrated satire on class, sex, money, hypocrisy and snobbery in nineteenth-century England.

As the curtain rises on our story without a hero, moneyless Becky Sharp leaves school with her upper-class best friend Amelia Sedley. Clever, cunning and ambitious, Becky is determined to make her way in Regency society and she'll trample on anyone who gets in her way.

When her plan to marry Amelia's brother Jos falls through, she snares the aristocratic Rawdon Crawley but her hopes of riches are dashed when the couple are disinherited by his wealthy aunt. Meanwhile, Amelia marries the dashing George Osborne, breaking the heart of her devoted admirer, William Dobbin.

But war is fast approaching, and as Napoleon advances towards Waterloo, where will the winds of destiny blow our players? And will the ever-resourceful Becky succeed in achieving her desires?

Pacey, contemporary, fresh and funny, this sparkling dramatisation features **Ellie White** as Becky, **Helen O'Hara** as Amelia, **Blake Ritson** as Rawdon, **Rupert Hill** as George, **Thom Tuck** as Jos and **Graeme Hawley** as Dobbin.

Cast and credits

Thackeray (narrator)	Al Murray	Becky Sharp	Ellie White	Amelia Sedley	Helen O'Hara	Rawdon Crawley	Blake Ritson	Jos Sedley	Thom Tuck	George Osborne	Rupert Hill
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Dobbinâ€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™**Graeme Hawley
**Mrs Sedley/Mrs Bute/Aunt
Crawley/Jane/Rawdon Juniorâ€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™**Emma Gregory
**Mr
Sedley/Sir Pitt/Lord Steyneâ€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™**Jonathan Keeble
**Mr
Osborne/Bute/General Tuftoâ€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™**Malcolm Raeburn
**
Pittâ€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™Lloyd Peters
**Lady Bareacres/Miss Briggs/George
Juniorâ€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™â€™**Fiona Clarke
**
 Written by William
Makepeace Thackeray
 Dramatised by Jim Poyser, with additional material by Al
Murray
 A BBC Radio Drama North production
 Produced and directed by Gary
Brown

 First broadcast BBC Radio 4, 26 May-9 June 2019</p>**

Reader's comments

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