

0. VIRGINIA WOOLF'S SUICIDE - Story Preface

1. VIRGINIA WOOLF

2. LEONARD WOOLF

**3. VIRGINIA WOOLF'S SUICIDE**

4. LAURA BROWN

5. CLARISSA VAUGHAN

Leonard and Virginia purchased a country house, in 1919, in the village of Rodmell, England. It was named Monk's House, although no monks ever lived there. Virginia wrote Jacob's Room (in memory of her brother Thoby) at Monk's House. A map, annotated by Leonard, depicts its location.

By the time Virginia was fifty-nine years old, bouts of mental illness had damaged her outward beauty and her inner well-being. Having suffered mental breakdowns during World War I, she was once again living in the nightmare of war. She could no longer travel and her home in London was destroyed by Germany's bombs.

In March of 1941, Leonard became increasingly concerned about his wife's mental health. He summoned a friend, Octavia Wilberforce, to examine her. The doctor did not find the situation particularly serious. Later, Wilberforce thought she had failed her friend by not recognizing the extent of Virginia's illness.

With Hitler's Blitzkrieg hammering her beloved London, and with headaches and "voices" returning to disrupt her writing (this is her desk in her writing lodge) and her life, Virginia wrote two suicide notes. One was for her husband, Leonard. The other, nearly identical, was for Vanessa.

Following the footpath to the nearby River Ouse (from the Celtic word for "water" and pictured here at Lewes), Virginia walked away from the home she shared with Leonard at Monk's House. It was the 28th of March, 1941. She put a heavy stone in her coat pocket and let the river's current swallow her. Children found her body three weeks later, on the 18th of April.

Following an inquest into her death, which was ruled a suicide, Virginia's body was cremated. Her ashes were scattered under the elm tree just beyond her garden. Her last novel, Between the Acts, was published posthumously. Leonard lived at Monk's House until his death in 1969.

Virginia's nephew, Quentin Bell, wrote what most Woolf scholars agree is the definitive biography of his famous aunt. Quentin died in 1996.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/VIRGINIA-WOOLF-S-SUICIDE-The-Hours>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/VIRGINIA-WOOLF-S-SUICIDE-The-Hours>

## Media Stream



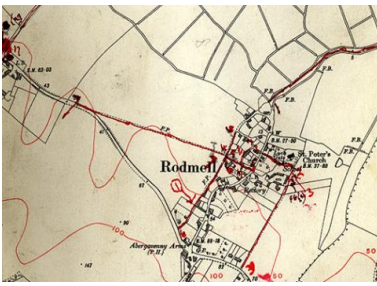
### Monk's House - Leonard and Virginia Woolf

Photo by Oliver Mallinson Lewis; online, via Wikimedia Commons.

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### Rodmell - Location of Virginia Woolf's Home

Image online, courtesy [Washington State University Libraries](#) website.

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### Virginia Woolf - Foreign Office Photo

Image online, courtesy the [Vintage Everyday](#) website.

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### Octavia Wilberforce

Image online, courtesy [The Virginia Woolf](#) blog.

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### Desk Used by Virginia Woolf

Image online, courtesy the [Smith College](#) website.

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### Writing Lodge Used by Virginia Woolf

Image online, courtesy the [Smith College](#) website.

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### River Ouse and Virginia Woolf

Image online, courtesy the [University of Sussex](#) website.

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### Home of Virginia and Leonard Woolf

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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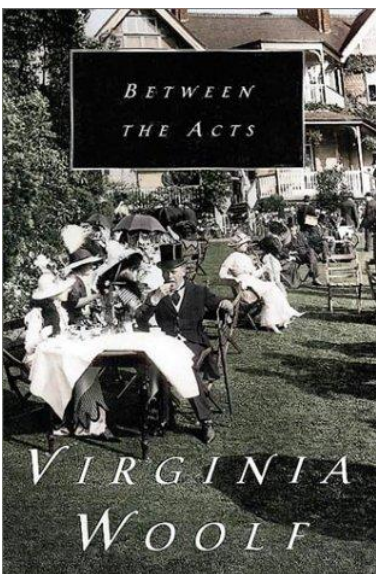
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Home-of-Virginia-and-Leonard-Woolf>



### Leonard Woolf Photo

Image online, courtesy the Smith College website.

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### Between the Acts - by Virginia Woolf

Image online, courtesy [amazon.com](#) website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Between-the-Acts-by-Virginia-Woolf>



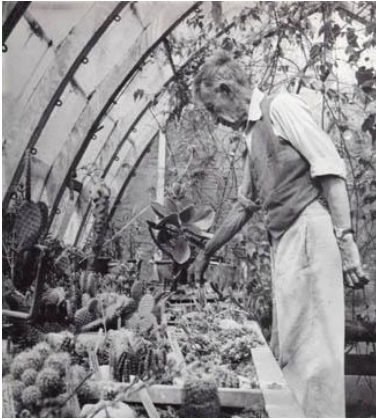


### Garden at the Home of Virginia Woolf

Image online, courtesy the [Smith College](#) website.

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### Leonard Woolf - Tending the Garden at Home

Image online, courtesy the [Smith College](#) website.

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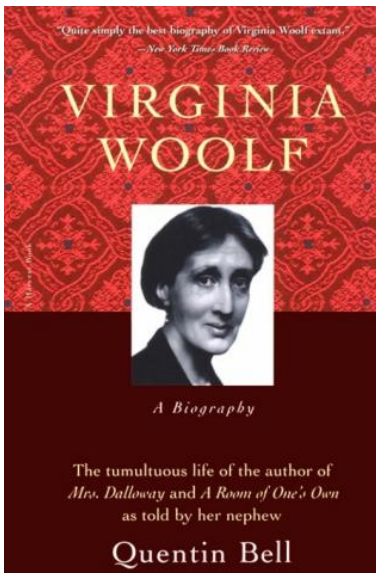
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### Monk's House - Gate

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### Virginia Woolf - Quentin Bell

Image online, courtesy [amazon.com](#) website.

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### Virginia Woolf in 1934

Image online, via the [National Portrait Gallery, London website](#).

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