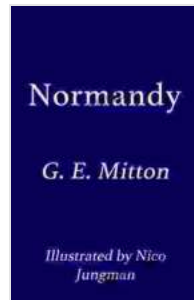


# Gore Vidal: A Literary Giant of the 20th Century



## Normandy by Gore Vidal

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 6096 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 350 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Gore Vidal was an American writer, essayist, playwright, and public intellectual. He was a prominent figure in the literary world for more than half a century, and his work has been translated into more than 20 languages.

Vidal was born in West Point, New York, on October 3, 1925. His father, Eugene Vidal, was a West Point graduate and career Army officer. His mother, Nina Gore Auchincloss, was a socialite and the daughter of a wealthy New York family.

Vidal's childhood was marked by frequent moves, as his father's military career took the family around the world. He attended private schools in Washington, D.C., and New York City, and he graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1943.

After graduating from Exeter, Vidal enrolled at Harvard University. However, he dropped out after two years to join the Army Air Corps during World War II. He served as a bombardier in the Pacific Theater and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, Vidal returned to New York City and began his writing career. His first novel, *Williwaw*, was published in 1946. It was a critical and commercial success, and it established Vidal as a major literary figure.

Over the next few decades, Vidal published a steady stream of novels, essays, and plays. His work was often controversial, and he was known for his sharp wit and his outspoken views on politics and society.

In the 1960s, Vidal became increasingly involved in politics. He campaigned for Democratic presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson in 1952 and 1956, and he was a vocal critic of the Vietnam War.

In 1968, Vidal ran for Congress as a Democrat in New York's 29th Congressional District. He lost the election, but he continued to be active in politics.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Vidal continued to publish novels, essays, and plays. He also wrote several screenplays, including the adaptation of his novel *Myra Breckinridge* for the 1970 film.

In the 1990s, Vidal published his memoirs, *Palimpsest*, and a series of historical novels, including *Burr*, *Lincoln*, and *The Golden Age*.

Gore Vidal died in Los Angeles, California, on July 31, 2012, at the age of 86. He was a prolific and influential writer, and his work continues to be

read and enjoyed by people around the world.

## **Vidal's Work**

Gore Vidal was a versatile writer who produced a wide range of work, including novels, essays, plays, and screenplays.

His novels are often historical in nature, and they explore themes such as power, corruption, and the human condition. Some of his most famous novels include *Williwaw*, *Burr*, *Lincoln*, and *The Golden Age*.

Vidal's essays are often political in nature, and they cover a wide range of topics, from the Vietnam War to the Watergate scandal. He was known for his sharp wit and his outspoken views, and his essays were often controversial.

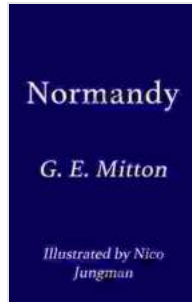
Vidal's plays are often satirical in nature, and they explore themes such as American politics and society. Some of his most famous plays include *The Best Man*, *Visit to a Small Planet*, and *Romulus*.

Vidal also wrote several screenplays, including the adaptation of his novel *Myra Breckinridge* for the 1970 film.

## **Vidal's Legacy**

Gore Vidal was a major literary figure of the 20th century. His work was often controversial, but it was also highly praised for its wit, intelligence, and insight.

Vidal's legacy is complex and multifaceted. He was a brilliant writer, a sharp critic of American society, and a tireless advocate for peace and justice.



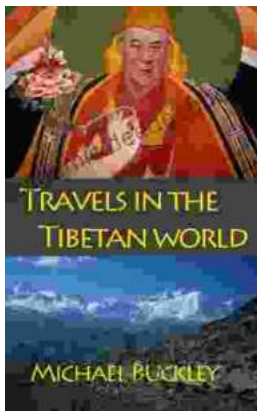
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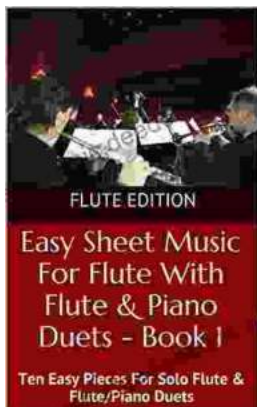
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