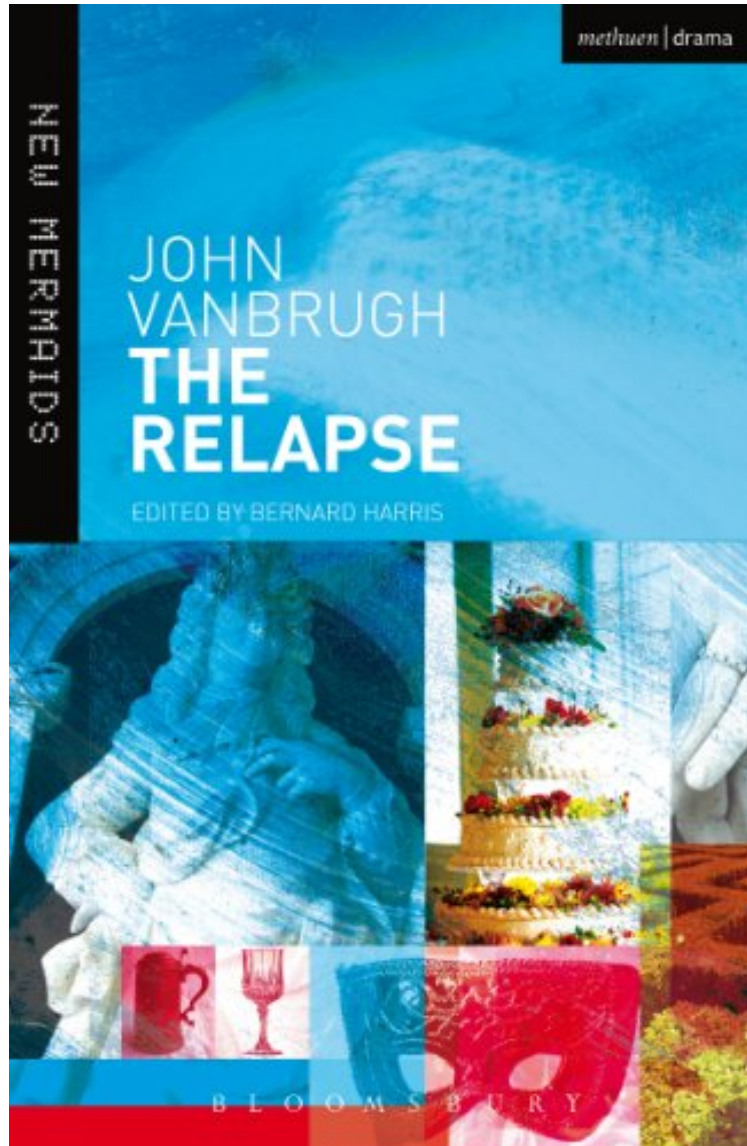


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## The Relapse (New Mermaids)

*John Vanbrugh*

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**John Vanbrugh : The Relapse (New Mermaids)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Relapse (New Mermaids):

Written in defiance of Jeremy Collier and the budding fashion forsentimental drama, this late Restoration comedy exposes the reformedrake Loveless to the temptations of London and the charms of a merrywidow, neither of which he is able to withstand. More memorable thanthe straying husband, however, is Restoration comedy's ultimatefollower of

fashion, Lord Foppington, who defends himself in the Epilogue by observing that no highwayman or Jacobite was ever well-dressed. As the introduction to this edition argues, Sir John Vanbrugh- dramatist, architect and member of the influential Kit Cat Club -presents courtship and marriage not only with cynicism, but also with moral bravery and social impudence; qualities not much in evidence in his sentimental rivals.

About the Author New Mermaids are modern-spelling, fully-annotated editions of important English plays. Each volume includes a critical introduction, biography of the author, discussions of dates and sources, textual details, a bibliography and information about the staging of the play.