

# The Story of My Life

Read by  
**Peter Wickham**



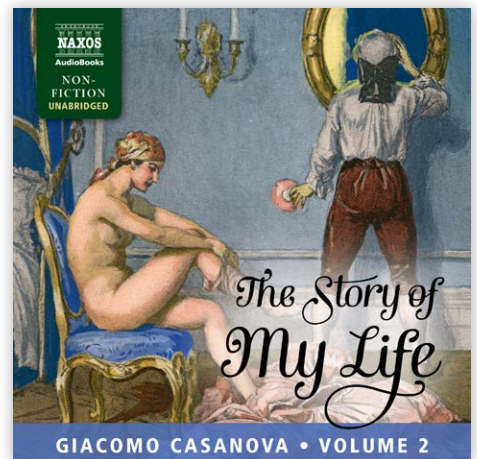
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**GIACOMO CASANOVA • VOLUME 2**

*The Story of My Life* is the explosive and exhilarating autobiography by the infamous libertine Giacomo Casanova. Intense and scandalous, Casanova's extraordinary adventures take the listener on an incredible voyage across 18th-century Europe – from France to Russia, Poland to Spain and Turkey to Germany, with Venice at their heart. He falls madly in love, has wild flings and delirious orgies, and encounters some of the most brilliant figures of his time, including Catherine the Great, Louis XV and Benjamin Franklin. He holds a verbal duel with Voltaire, a pistol duel with a Polish noble, and finds himself hauled before the court multiple times, including in London, where the judge in question turns out to be none other than Henry Fielding. His appetite for life is voracious; for him, a life lived close to the precipice is the only life worth living.

The book is divided into six sections. Volume 2 contains the third and fourth sections: '3: The Eternal Quest' and '4: Adventures in the South'.



**Total running time: 40:42:47 • 34 CDs**

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**Peter Wickham** was born in New Zealand and studied for the theatre at the Rose Bruford College in England. He has worked as an actor in the West End, and in theatres all over the UK and abroad, from Venezuela to Laos. He has performed in television and film, and has written a successful series of introductions to Shakespeare for the BBC World Service. He was a member of the BBC Radio Drama Company, where reading short stories and serials started his audiobook career. For Naxos AudioBooks, he has read Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, Hobbes's *Leviathan* and Swift's *A Tale of a Tub*.

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		<b>1</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>The Story of My Life: The Eternal Quest</b>	9:58
		<b>2</b>	<b>1-2</b>	Calsabigi did all in his power to quiet me down...	10:12
		<b>3</b>	<b>1-3</b>	At this she began to perspire violently...	10:60
		<b>4</b>	<b>1-4</b>	This letter affected me.	7:01
		<b>5</b>	<b>1-5</b>	My business over, I hastened to rejoin...	11:43
		<b>6</b>	<b>1-6</b>	At the end of this long session I saw Madame...	10:48
		<b>7</b>	<b>1-7</b>	The afflicted lady soon dried her tears...	8:43
		<b>8</b>	<b>2-1</b>	As soon as we were seated in front of the fire...	9:56
		<b>9</b>	<b>2-2</b>	'What a delightful plan! You have arranged...'	10:13
		<b>10</b>	<b>2-3</b>	She then told me of her aunt's folly about Tiretta.	8:57
		<b>11</b>	<b>2-4</b>	If she had not answered thus, the merchant...	11:45
		<b>12</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b>Chapter 2</b>	9:16
		<b>13</b>	<b>2-6</b>	An hour after my arrival I gave the charming...	9:54
		<b>14</b>	<b>2-7</b>	We walked silently enough along two or three...	11:56
		<b>15</b>	<b>3-1</b>	A man picked it up and read it, and I knew him...	8:55
		<b>16</b>	<b>3-2</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>	9:30
		<b>17</b>	<b>3-3</b>	I ran to my office, took out the money...	9:09
		<b>18</b>	<b>3-4</b>	I did not know this lady, but the name of d'Urfé...	9:02
		<b>19</b>	<b>3-5</b>	She then pointed out a china basin...	9:19
		<b>20</b>	<b>3-6</b>	The Chevalier d'Arzigny had an amiability...	9:59
		<b>21</b>	<b>3-7</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>	7:45
		<b>22</b>	<b>3-8</b>	My brother had been made a member...	8:33
		<b>23</b>	<b>4-1</b>	Leaving the ambassador I went to see Boaz...	9:57
		<b>24</b>	<b>4-2</b>	After dinner M. d'O---- shewed me...	10:02
		<b>25</b>	<b>4-3</b>	When Thérèse was going along the seats...	10:14
		<b>26</b>	<b>4-4</b>	Next day snow fell in large flakes...	8:41
		<b>27</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>Episode 12: Chapter 5</b>	11:44
		<b>28</b>	<b>4-6</b>	This reply made me go off into a roar...	11:30
		<b>29</b>	<b>4-7</b>	She asked what her destiny would be...	10:20
		<b>30</b>	<b>5-1</b>	As I was going home I passed a tea-garden...	10:36
		<b>31</b>	<b>5-2</b>	Ah! what happy days they seem...	9:25
		<b>32</b>	<b>5-3</b>	In all probability I should have immediately left...	10:18
		<b>33</b>	<b>5-4</b>	<b>Chapter 6</b>	9:33
		<b>34</b>	<b>5-5</b>	M. de la Popelinière, the fermier-general...	10:43
		<b>35</b>	<b>5-6</b>	I found my supposed son with Madame d'Urfé...	10:25
		<b>36</b>	<b>5-7</b>	'I heard at Versailles, my dear mademoiselle...'	11:12
		<b>37</b>	<b>6-1</b>	The Comte d'Eigreville had introduced me...	8:54
		<b>38</b>	<b>6-2</b>	I must here relate a grievous mistake...	9:35
		<b>39</b>	<b>6-3</b>	<b>Chapter 7</b>	11:10
		<b>40</b>	<b>6-4</b>	At that moment her mother and the Chevalier...	10:37
		<b>41</b>	<b>6-5</b>	She raised herself in the bed and begged me...	9:48
		<b>42</b>	<b>6-6</b>	I didn't take so short a time over my second...	10:04
		<b>43</b>	<b>6-7</b>	I saw Mdlle. Wynne the following day...	11:27
		<b>44</b>	<b>7-1</b>	The poor woman, whose grief touched me...	9:42



45	7-2	<b>Chapter 8</b>	10:57
46	7-3	On our journey home I told Madame d'Urfé...	10:19
47	7-4	One day after leaving Madame d'Urfé's...	12:31
48	7-5	<b>Chapter 9</b>	8:33
49	7-6	Mdlle. Wynne could not stay any longer in Paris...	9:57
50	7-7	Next Tuesday at day-break I began to dance...	10:40
51	8-1	'My dowry of six thousand francs has served...'	10:55
52	8-2	The following day I was up betimes...	11:03
53	8-3	At eleven o'clock my room was full of people.	10:38
54	8-4	I sold my horses, my carriages, my furniture...	11:35
55	8-5	<b>Episode 13: Chapter 10</b>	9:29
56	8-6	Everybody pretended not to hear anything...	9:11
57	8-7	M. d'O---- asked if he should try to get rid...	9:33
58	9-1	At this his wife came in and began to take...	8:55
59	9-2	While I was working at my calculations...	10:10
60	9-3	I was not in the humour for wantonness...	10:01
61	9-4	I knew that I had spent but a few minutes...	11:37
62	9-5	'And now, my children, you see what I owe...'	9:56
63	9-6	At these words her face fell, and she began...	6:45
64	9-7	Any other woman besides Esther...	9:42
65	9-8	<b>Chapter 11</b>	5:19
66	10-1	I then explained to her the theory...	10:05
67	10-2	I went out of the box in love, and almost happy...	10:04
68	10-3	The Elector's little ball was very pleasant.	8:45
69	10-4	I arrived at Cologne in time for the French play...	10:49
70	10-5	The general, whose face had cleared...	11:19
71	10-6	Exhausted, but not satiated with pleasure...	8:21
72	10-7	<b>Chapter 12</b>	13:23
73	11-1	The Austrian ambassador was a good-natured...	10:36
74	11-2	I saw at once that I should get no justice at all...	10:11
75	11-3	I began by writing to my chief creditor...	9:40
76	11-4	All my plans were successful, as I heard...	12:30
77	11-5	<b>Episode 14: Chapter 13</b>	8:51
78	11-6	All that was needed to secure my happiness...	9:16
79	11-7	I ran and took up my position at the window...	11:06
80	12-1	At noon the worthy prelate was shewn up...	6:57
81	12-2	<b>Chapter 14</b>	10:47
82	12-3	After dinner he talked a good deal...	10:07
83	12-4	The ambassador begged me to open the ball...	10:20
84	12-5	Next day our rehearsal went off admirably...	11:41
85	12-6	<b>Chapter 15</b>	10:22
86	12-7	After supper I sent out Le Duc...	12:39
87	13-1	With this final impertinence she rose...	11:06
88	13-2	After dinner the ambassador invited us...	11:15
89	13-3	I took my guests to the suite of rooms...	10:48
90	13-4	We continued our walk, and when we were far...	11:23
91	13-5	<b>Chapter 16</b>	5:44
92	13-6	My housekeeper came in to dress me...	10:43
93	13-7	I did not allow myself to reflect.	11:10
94	14-1	'Whether I am being told the truth...'	9:46
95	14-2	One day the fancy took me to ask to read...	10:44
96	14-3	We rejoined the ambassador and M.----...	10:60
97	14-4	<b>Chapter 17</b>	8:29
98	14-5	I could not have imagined that anything...	10:21
99	14-6	Her appearance was as follows...	10:27
100	14-7	After we had been a fortnight at Berne...	10:35
101	15-1	Lebel did not reply to his sweetheart...	12:23
102	15-2	<b>Chapter 18</b>	9:37
103	15-3	When I reached Lausanne I found myself...	11:39
104	15-4	We will conclude, then, that it is the beauty...	11:07



105	15-5	The gay and even happy air of the newly...	11:52
106	15-6	<b>Episode 15: Chapter 19</b>	7:43
107	15-7	Greedy of the praise which he deserved so well...	8:29
108	16-1	I had not been back for a quarter of an hour...	9:34
109	16-2	My epicurean syndic was exact...	8:34
110	16-3	We spent a pleasant day, and he thanked me...	10:08
111	16-4	I began to recite the same scene...	7:32
112	16-5	I spent part of the night...	9:17
113	16-6	<b>Chapter 20</b>	9:00
114	16-7	I left the doctor, and instead of going towards...	11:31
115	16-8	Not knowing what else to say, I took her hand...	7:08
116	17-1	Everyone was curious to know the value...	10:01
117	17-2	When we appeared in the dining-room...	10:19
118	17-3	'How did you become amorous of a fellow...'	9:45
119	17-4	'I will satisfy your curiosity.'	10:07
120	17-5	As soon as we were relieved...	9:51
121	17-6	<b>Chapter 21</b>	11:07
122	17-7	This lady was the widow of a gentleman...	11:27
123	18-1	After all this talking, of which my ardour began...	10:11
124	18-2	<b>Adventures in the South: Episode 16</b>	11:06
125	18-3	She then kissed me with an air of submission...	8:36
126	18-4	When I had taken Valenglard home...	10:23
127	18-5	I was troubled by this succession of disasters...	10:26
128	18-6	At eight o'clock all my guests arrived...	9:59
129	18-7	The fair Mdlle. Roman seemed all amazed.	11:46
130	19-1	I left them, feeling amorous and sorry...	5:07
131	19-2	<b>Chapter 2</b>	9:59
132	19-3	While Le Duc was doing my hair...	9:52
133	19-4	Dolci came, looking as handsome as an angel...	9:56
134	19-5	'There are some very pretty women in Genoa...'	11:02
135	19-6	Stuard was long enough gone.	9:59
136	19-7	I ask my listener's leave to draw a veil...	10:50
137	19-8	<b>Chapter 3</b>	5:28
138	20-1	Next morning he took me to the end...	10:50
139	20-2	'The day after, my lover – as he had to journey...'	11:02
140	20-3	She fell into my arms, and she relieved...	11:13
141	20-4	At Antibes I hired a felucca to take me...	10:14
142	20-5	<b>Episode 17: Chapter 4</b>	10:25
143	20-6	On the day fixed for the rehearsal they came...	9:00
144	20-7	Five or six days later I went to see the marquis...	10:06
145	21-1	When he was left alone with me M. Grimaldi...	6:53
146	21-2	The night was a sad one for both of us.	6:54
147	21-3	<b>Chapter 5</b>	10:04
148	21-4	When we rose from the table I amused myself...	10:23
149	21-5	I supped with Annette, and was glad to see that...	9:43
150	21-6	I took my chocolate, put on my dressing-gown...	10:44
151	21-7	When the washing and the laughter it gave...	8:39
152	21-8	<b>Chapter 6</b>	9:36
153	22-1	I went out with a beating heart...	9:15
154	22-2	After we had satiated in part our amorous...	9:07
155	22-3	I greeted him as warmly as I could...	9:05
156	22-4	<b>Chapter 7</b>	8:42
157	22-5	The Abbé Gama, who had some exceedingly...	8:39
158	22-6	With these words she went on, and I proceeded...	9:09
159	22-7	The catamite escaped from the bed...	9:34
160	22-8	Thérèse had asked me to dine with the Abbé...	9:15
161	23-1	It was midnight when I passed under the Porta...	11:56
162	23-2	<b>Episode 18: Chapter 8</b>	12:06
163	23-3	I wrote a note to Costa, telling him to bring...	10:11
164	23-4	I got to Momolo's in the dusk of the evening...	10:15

									
165	23-5	From there I went to the confessor.	11:00	206	29-2	The banker gave us an excellent dinner.	10:07		
166	23-6	<b>Chapter 9</b>	7:53	207	29-3	In the morning I paid the mother a visit...	9:14		
167	23-7	I have often laughed on hearing philosophers...	9:20	208	29-4	The altar was purified of the blood...	9:23		
168	24-1	When I got to the theatre the opera had begun.	10:03	209	29-5	<b>Chapter 17</b>	10:26		
169	24-2	Leonilda looked away, and I felt shocked...	10:35	210	29-6	'M. de Raiberti mentioned your name to me...'	11:37		
170	24-3	I begged the duke to get the contract ready...	10:43	211	29-7	He had been in the service of Spain...	11:34		
171	24-4	We went to call on my daughter...	10:24	212	30-1	On reflection I decided that I had never seen...	9:46		
172	24-5	<b>Chapter 10</b>	8:51	213	30-2	We then fell to speaking of the affair...	10:04		
173	24-6	When we got to Piperno...	10:58	214	30-3	<b>Episode 20: Chapter 18</b>	11:06		
174	24-7	We passed into a large room, where we found...	11:09	215	30-4	There was nothing interesting in the opera...	8:48		
175	25-1	'Everything is for the best, and I am sure...'	9:06	216	30-5	The count came early in the morning...	12:16		
176	25-2	At night-time I took off my costume...	9:46	217	30-6	When the door was opened the pretty maid...	8:29		
177	25-3	<b>Chapter 11</b>	11:00	218	30-7	Barbaro told me the chief incidents in a life...	9:34		
178	25-4	Next morning, just as I was going...	7:48	219	31-1	The old man to whom Barbaro presented me...	4:59		
179	25-5	I was so absorbed in the contemplation of her...	9:37	220	31-2	<b>Chapter 19</b>	10:42		
180	25-6	I wrote a cheque on Zapata for three hundred...	8:36	221	31-3	Doubtless the Spaniard felt that my nullity...	11:15		
181	25-7	The next day the two pretty milliners...	9:23	222	31-4	We then started for the 'Apple Garden'...	11:14		
182	25-8	<b>Chapter 12</b>	7:43	223	31-5	As I had agreed with Barbaro to visit the fair...	10:35		
183	26-1	I continued thus till the middle of May...	10:47	224	31-6	We went back to the room, he in tears...	12:13		
184	26-2	I was thunderstruck at the impudence...	11:30	225	31-7	Irene told me that her father had taught her...	11:18		
185	26-3	At Magnan's I had a dinner worthy of Lucullus...	11:60	226	32-1	It was then I drew the ten sequins from my purse.	4:54		
186	26-4	The little boarder came back, and I stood up...	9:20	227	32-2	<b>Chapter 20</b>	12:05		
187	26-5	<b>Episode 19: Chapter 13</b>	8:50	228	32-3	All these arrangements being made...	11:04		
188	26-6	The small Conte d'Aranda after caressing me...	9:08	229	32-4	We took off our masks and congratulated...	10:44		
189	26-7	'That supposition would have been tenable...'	10:42	230	32-5	'What amuses me in all this is that you are...'	11:08		
190	27-1	We walked towards the Pont-Royal...	10:53	231	32-6	With these words she gave me her hand to kiss...	10:59		
191	27-2	The third day after my arrival I had to call...	11:51	232	32-7	I kissed the mouth which told me so plainly...	11:15		
192	27-3	<b>Chapter 14</b>	9:14	233	33-1	The poor girl then told me briefly...	4:13		
193	27-4	I ordered Bassi to give notice that the pit...	9:39	234	33-2	<b>Chapter 21</b>	10:16		
194	27-5	I continued to enjoy the society...	11:43	235	33-3	This story touched me and brought tears...	9:30		
195	27-6	<b>Chapter 15</b>	10:08	236	33-4	The window is a great blessing to an impatient...	9:10		
196	27-7	I suffered a martyrdom, for these compliments...	8:55	237	33-5	The count made no reply, but left us alone.	11:10		
197	28-1	My grief, when I heard what had happened...	9:08	238	33-6	I spoke to her in a manner that affected her...	8:53		
198	28-2	The day after de Pyenne's departure...	9:22	239	33-7	When I went to bed, still thinking...	11:01		
199	28-3	As I have said, Madame d'Aché had a good...	8:28	240	34-1	<b>Chapter 22</b>	10:49		
200	28-4	<b>Chapter 16</b>	9:02	241	34-2	This quiet reception gave me back my...	11:09		
201	28-5	We should have stayed at Basel some time...	9:48	242	34-3	I wished them good night, and retired...	10:60		
202	28-6	As she was going I escorted her to the carriage...	8:34	243	34-4	We got to Milan exactly at noon...	11:40		
203	28-7	I thought the way in which she...	9:43	244	34-5	What reply could I make?	10:52		
204	28-8	The syndic came back in due course...	8:50	245	34-6	I spent all my afternoons with the fair...	11:31		
205	29-1	I took this favourable opportunity to ask the two...	8:50						

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