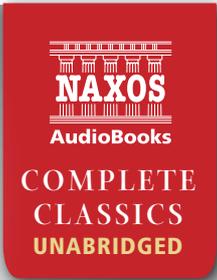


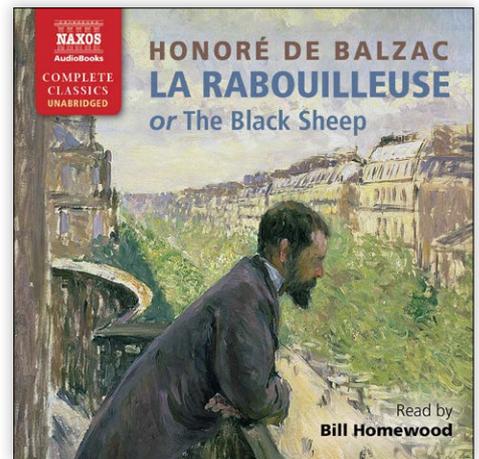


# HONORÉ DE BALZAC LA RABOUILLEUSE or The Black Sheep

Read by **Bill Homewood**



Brothers Philippe and Joseph Bridau are completely unlike: Philippe, braggart and soldier, formerly aide-de-camp to Napoleon, is their mother Agathe's favourite; Joseph, a poor and aspiring artist, is raised in his brother's shadow. When Agathe is reduced to poverty and Philippe accrues gambling debts, the family join forces to focus their attentions on Agathe's brother, Jean-Jacques Rouget, heir to the family fortune. The struggle for his inheritance pits the family against Rouget's beautiful maid Flore ('La Rabouilleuse'), the apple of her master's eye, and her lover, the crafty and manipulative Maxence. Will the greedy Philippe's efforts save the family, or prove to be their undoing? Will the talented Joseph achieve the acclaim he deserves in the salons of Paris? All is revealed in the thrilling and compassionate denouement of this wonderful book. Also known as *The Black Sheep* and *The Two Brothers*, *La Rabouilleuse* is one of the *Scènes de la vie de province* in Balzac's *La Comédie humaine*.



**Total running time: 12:08:21**

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**Bill Homewood** is well known for his innumerable television performances and leading credits in the West End and for the RSC. His other recordings for Naxos AudioBooks include *She*, *Tom Jones*, *The Red & the Black*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, the *Four Just Men* series and *Les Misérables*.

<b>1</b>	<b>La Rabouilleuse</b>	12:21	<b>24</b>	While ignorance and custom are invincible...	11:13
<b>2</b>	During the visits which Roland's secretary paid...	12:09	<b>25</b>	The young men amused themselves very much...	12:22
<b>3</b>	After Bridau's death the Emperor inquired...	10:25	<b>26</b>	By this time Gilet had become grand master...	9:57
<b>4</b>	<b>Chapter 2</b>	12:03	<b>27</b>	The Knights of Idleness, who were all young...	13:42
<b>5</b>	Thus the two widows passed from hollow opulence...	9:14	<b>28</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b>	10:16
<b>6</b>	At the end of ten minutes the sweat stood...	13:29	<b>29</b>	A deep silence followed. The pause became...	6:49
<b>7</b>	A few days after this, the disasters of the retreat...	8:25	<b>30</b>	It is now necessary to relate where the sultana...	13:58
<b>8</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>	10:18	<b>31</b>	That evening, all Issoudun could talk of nothing else...	8:29
<b>9</b>	Madame Bridau rushed to meet her beloved son...	12:14	<b>32</b>	<b>Chapter 9</b>	9:42
<b>10</b>	Joseph, who got up at dawn and went to bed early...	9:45	<b>33</b>	The next day Flore looked at her master...	10:29
<b>11</b>	The brother and sister were living at this time...	10:54	<b>34</b>	Flore, a born fryer and roaster...	9:50
<b>12</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>	10:20	<b>35</b>	'Good heavens!' she cried; 'you have neither heart...'	9:19
<b>13</b>	Joseph left his studio and went down to breakfast...	10:04	<b>36</b>	<b>Chapter 10</b>	10:14
<b>14</b>	Old Desroches, the last remaining friend...	11:03	<b>37</b>	When they reached the bottom and met the first...	10:23
<b>15</b>	For the last ten years Madame Descoings had taken...	7:39	<b>38</b>	Max, who had overheard old Rouget's words...	10:02
<b>16</b>	<b>Chapter 5</b>	11:42	<b>39</b>	From year to year old Hochon grew more petty...	9:06
<b>17</b>	Philippe had ended by acquiring the sang-froid...	13:13	<b>40</b>	<b>Chapter 11</b>	11:21
<b>18</b>	The two rose late on Christmas morning.	12:56	<b>41</b>	Joseph looked at the two young men...	11:36
<b>19</b>	<b>Chapter 6</b>	10:23	<b>42</b>	A supper worthy of La Cognette brightened...	9:30
<b>20</b>	When Joseph related Philippe's position to his...	8:10	<b>43</b>	The Hochons were not clever enough to match Max.	10:37
<b>21</b>	Two months later, as Agathe was about to start...	10:25	<b>44</b>	<b>Chapter 12</b>	9:41
<b>22</b>	While the artist was confiding his brother's affairs...	11:04	<b>45</b>	On the morrow, Joseph did not wake up till midday.	10:06
<b>23</b>	<b>Chapter 7</b>	11:49	<b>46</b>	In fact, before evening many persons in Issoudun...	9:20

47	After three weeks' stay in Issoudun...	11:49	58	Old Rouget, turning a deaf ear to Monsieur...	8:51
48	<b>Chapter 13</b>	11:27	59	<b>Chapter 16</b>	12:13
49	While Monsieur Hochon went to find Gritte...	12:52	60	At eight o'clock the next morning...	12:55
50	Shortly after, while Monsieur Mouilleron...	13:29	61	Agathe, informed by Madame Hochon of what...	12:13
51	<b>Chapter 14</b>	11:19	62	After breakfast, on the morning succeeding...	10:33
52	On a hint from Philippe, Monsieur Hochon...	11:37	63	<b>Chapter 17</b>	10:50
53	After obtaining his situation, Philippe...	11:10	64	After the Salon of 1823, one of the leading...	12:58
54	Everyone can imagine the scenes which...	12:02	65	Joseph returned to his mother's room...	12:44
55	<b>Chapter 15</b>	11:25	66	The woman presently appeared, looking...	10:16
56	This lion, tangled in the meshes Philippe Bridau...	11:04	67	No sooner did this occur, than the Comte...	9:41
57	Monsieur Hochon found old Rouget in his bedroom...	8:44			

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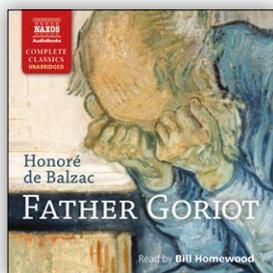
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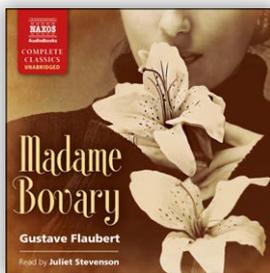
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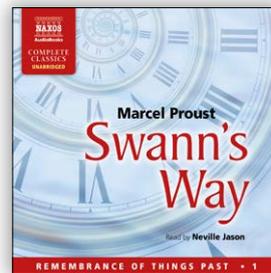
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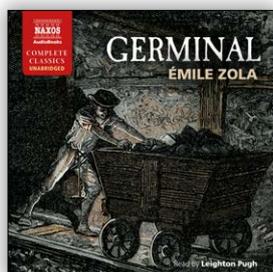
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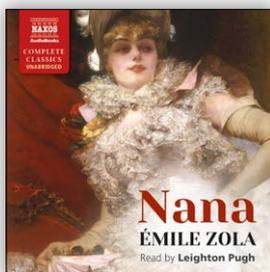
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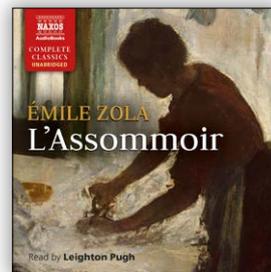
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