

Dante LA VITA NUOVA

Read by **Jonathan Keeble**

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POETRY
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Written in alternating prose and poetry, *La Vita Nuova* (*The New Life*) is a profound reflection on the nature of love, devoted to Dante's muse Beatrice. Following Beatrice's death in 1290, Dante became obsessed with the young Florentine woman, whom he only ever knew from a distance. He believed his love for her was a form of divine love, and saw her as an image of salvation itself – a theme that is later explored in his masterpiece *The Divine Comedy*, where she guides him through heaven. *La Vita Nuova* gives a fascinating glimpse into the poet's innermost feelings – his joy, his guilt and his grief – and remains one of the greatest works of Christian autobiography.



Jonathan Keeble is an award-winning actor who combines his audio work with a busy theatre and TV career. Much in demand, his voice work ranges from the voice of God in the Sistine Chapel to the Angel of Death in the film *Hellboy 2*, with all stops in between. He has featured in over 700 radio plays for the BBC, appearing in everything from Shakespeare to Sherlock Holmes and Dr Who; he also played evil Owen in *The Archers*. He has recorded over 400 audiobooks, for which he has won multiple awards.



Total running time: 2:23:26

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1	La Vita Nuova (or, The New Life)	7:43	20	I. You that thus wear a modest countenance...	1:12
2	To every heart which the sweet pain doth...	5:51	21	II. Canst thou indeed be he that still would...	7:39
3	All ye that pass along Love's trodden way...	1:04	22	A very pitiful lady, very young...	8:42
4	This poem has two principal parts; for, in...	1:27	23	I felt a spirit of love begin to stir...	9:39
5	I. Weep, Lovers, sith Love's very self doth...	1:25	24	My lady looks so gentle and so pure...	1:26
6	II. Death, alway cruel, Pity's foe in chief...	3:46	25	For certain he hath seen all perfectness...	2:24
7	A day ago, as I rode sullenly...	8:03	26	Love hath so long possessed me for his own...	8:44
8	Song, 'tis my will that thou do seek out Love...	2:37	27	The eyes that weep for pity of the heart...	5:52
9	This ditty is divided into three parts.	2:45	28	Stay now with me, and listen to my sighs...	2:15
10	All my thoughts always speak to me of Love...	4:58	29	Whatever while the thought comes over me...	3:32
11	Even as the others mock, thou mockest me...	1:48	30	That lady of all gentle memories...	2:40
12	A while after this strange disfigurement...	1:19	31	Mine eyes beheld the blessed pity spring...	1:32
13	The thoughts are broken in my memory...	2:13	32	Love's pallor and the semblance of deep ruth...	2:25
14	Thereafter, this sonnet bred in me a desire...	1:02	33	'The very bitter weeping that ye made...'	4:01
15	At whiles (yea oftentimes) I muse over...	1:18	34	A gentle thought there is will often start...	3:25
16	After I had written these three last sonnets...	4:56	35	Woe's me! by dint of all these sighs that...	3:41
17	Ladies that have intelligence in love...	8:41	36	Ye pilgrim-folk, advancing pensively...	3:17
18	Love and the gentle heart are one same...	2:14	37	Beyond the sphere which spreads to widest...	2:03
19	My lady carries love within her eyes...	5:37			

Translated by Dante Gabriel Rossetti

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