

L'Assommoir

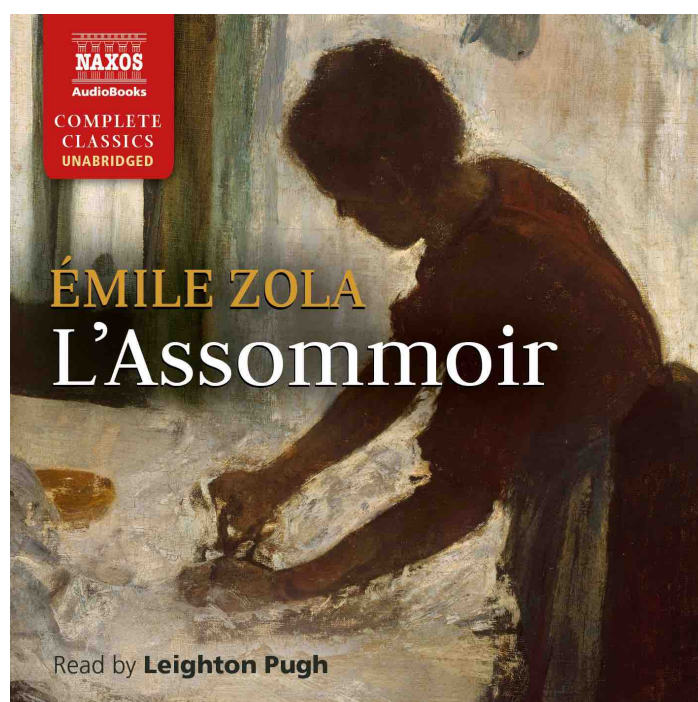
By Émile Zola
Unabridged
Read by Leighton Pugh

DESCRIPTION

Brutal, gripping and heart wrenching, *L'Assommoir* (also known as *The Drinking Den*) chronicles the tragic downward spiral of Gervaise Macquart, a good-natured and hardworking laundress who slides into alcoholism and despair. After her lover abandons her and their two children, Gervaise marries a tin worker, Coupeau, who helps her rebuild her life. She starts her own business and the two have a daughter, Anna (the protagonist of Zola's later novel, *Nana*). But their happiness is short-lived as a freak accident leaves Coupeau seriously injured, beginning the family's fall into alcohol, desperation and violence. Disturbingly realistic, *L'Assommoir* is a vivid portrayal of life in late 19th-century Paris.

SALES AND MARKETING POINTS

- *L'Assommoir* was a sensation upon its original publication and is one of Zola's bestselling novels.
- Leighton Pugh gives us a wonderfully intelligent reading.
- *Germinal* and *Nana*, read by Leighton Pugh, are also available on Naxos AudioBooks.



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