

La Rabouilleuse or The Black Sheep

By Honoré de Balzac
Unabridged
Read by Bill Homewood

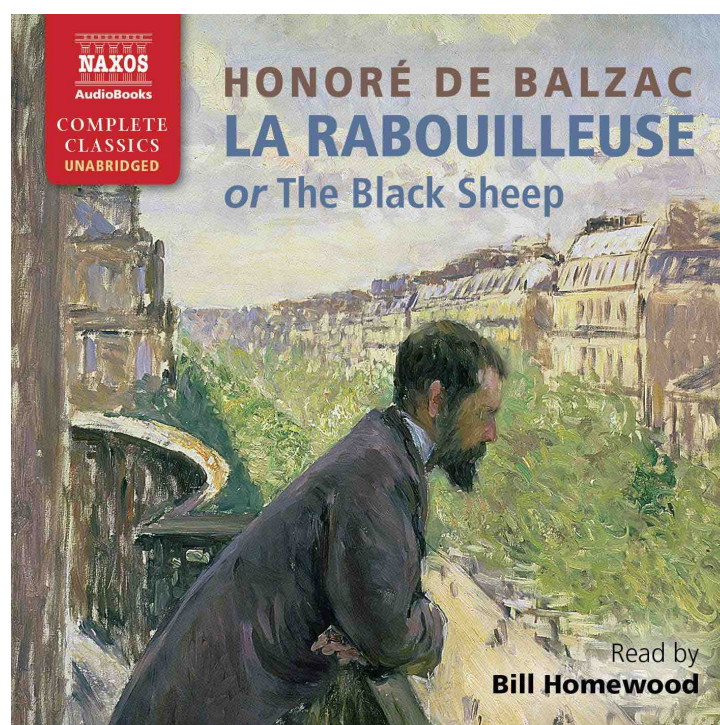
DESCRIPTION

Brothers Philippe and Joseph Bridau are completely unlike each other: Philippe, a once courageous soldier and Napoleon's former aide-de-camp, is their mother's favourite, while Joseph, a poor and aspiring artist, is the less favoured of the two. When their mother, Agathe, is reduced to poverty and Philippe amounts gambling debts following unemployment, the family joins together to focus their attentions on Agathe's brother, Jean-Jacques Rouget, the heir of the family fortune. The struggle for his inheritance pits them against Flore Brazier, 'La Rabouilleuse', Jean-Jacques's maid and the apple of his eye, and her lover Maxence Gilet, a crafty rake who manipulates her for his own financial gain. Philippe's greed and selfishness emerge in the aftermath, to the devastation of Agathe, but later prove to be his undoing. 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*.

SALES AND MARKETING POINTS

- Considered one of the essential novels from Balzac's *La Comédie Humaine*.
- Bill Homewood's recording of Balzac's *Father Goriot* was positively received: 'Bill Homewood's narration brings new life to the tragic story of Father Goriot. [His] profound characterisation of Goriot makes this audiobook particularly memorable' (*AudioFile*).

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