

Jules Verne JOURNEY to the CENTRE of the EARTH

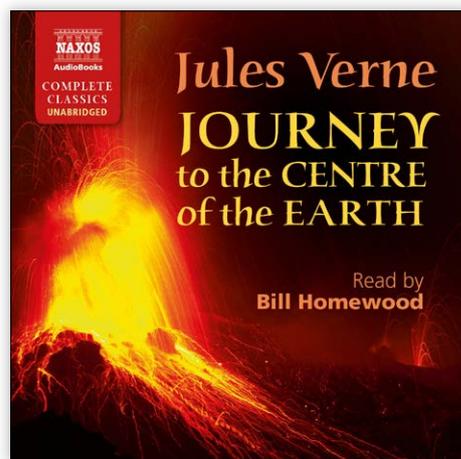
Read by **Bill Homewood**

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The story begins in Hamburg, 1863. The brilliant Professor Liedenbrock, inspired by an ancient, encoded manuscript, impetuously decides to take his reluctant nephew Axel on a seemingly insane mission: to travel down volcanic tunnels to the very centre of the earth. With Hans, their intrepid Icelandic guide, they descend deeper and deeper, encountering terrifying prehistoric animals and passing through unimaginably beautiful landscapes. Will Axel ever again see his beloved fiancée Graüben? All is revealed in the incredible dénouement of this thrilling adventure.



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*, *Allan Quatermain*, *The Red & the Black*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Les Misérables*, and the *Four Just Men* series.



Total running time: 8:35:09 • 7 CDs
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		1			26
		1-1			4-4
		Journey to the Centre of the Earth			Chapter 22: Total Failure of Water
		10:52			6:56
		2			27
		1-2			4-5
		Chapter 2: A Mystery to be Solved at Any Price			Chapter 23: Water Discovered
		10:09			10:22
		3			28
		1-3			4-6
		Chapter 3: The Runic Writing Exercises...			Chapter 24: Well Said, Old Mole!
		9:01			7:38
		4			29
		1-4			4-7
		I answered not a word, and for a very good reason.			Chapter 25: De Profundis
		8:15			8:49
		5			30
		1-5			4-8
		Chapter 4: The Enemy to be Starved...			Chapter 26: The Worst Peril Of All
		9:27			5:37
		6			31
		1-6			4-9
		Chapter 5: Famine, Then Victory...			Chapter 27: Lost in the Bowels of the Earth
		12:39			8:01
		7			32
		1-7			5-1
		Chapter 6: Exciting Discussions About...			Chapter 28: The Rescue in the Whispering Gallery
		9:08			10:05
		8			33
		1-8			5-2
		Decidedly, my uncle had answered every one...			Chapter 29: Thalatta! Thalatta!
		7:37			7:02
		9			34
		2-1			5-3
		'Upon my word, this is a very clever hypothesis...'			Chapter 30: A New Mare Internum
		2:31			17:10
		10			35
		2-2			5-4
		Chapter 7: A Woman's Courage			Chapter 31: Preparations for a Voyage...
		13:14			8:28
		11			36
		2-3			5-5
		Chapter 8: Serious Preparations...			Chapter 32: Wonders of the Deep
		14:01			14:38
		12			37
		2-4			5-6
		Chapter 9: Iceland! But What Next?			Chapter 33: A Battle of Monsters
		14:17			14:10
		13			38
		2-5			6-1
		Chapter 10: Interesting Conversations...			Chapter 34: The Great Geyser
		10:57			9:46
		14			39
		2-6			6-2
		Chapter 11: A Guide Found to the Centre...			Chapter 35: An Electric Storm
		12:27			13:30
		15			40
		2-7			6-3
		Chapter 12: A Barren Land			Chapter 36: Calm Philosophic Discussions
		7:01			11:09
		16			41
		3-1			6-4
		Three hours later...			Chapter 37: The Liedenbrock Museum...
		4:10			10:13
		17			42
		3-2			6-5
		Chapter 13: Hospitality Under the Arctic Circle			Chapter 38: The Professor In His Chair Again
		11:53			12:50
		18			43
		3-3			6-6
		Chapter 14: But Arctics Can Be Inhospitable, Too			Chapter 39: Forest Scenery Illuminated...
		13:19			14:13
		19			44
		3-4			7-1
		Chapter 15: Snæfell At Last			Chapter 40: Preparations for Blasting a Passage...
		12:44			10:44
		20			45
		3-5			7-2
		Chapter 16: Boldly Down The Crater			Chapter 41: The Great Explosion and the Rush...
		13:03			10:25
		21			46
		3-6			7-3
		Chapter 17: Vertical Descent			Chapter 42: Headlong Speed Upward...
		9:53			11:49
		22			47
		3-7			7-4
		Chapter 18: The Wonders of Terrestrial Depths			Chapter 43: Shot Out of a Volcano At Last!
		11:16			12:52
		23			48
		4-1			7-5
		Chapter 19: Geological Studies In Situ			Chapter 44: Sunny Lands...
		9:26			13:19
		24			49
		4-2			7-6
		Chapter 20: The First Signs of Distress			Chapter 45: All's Well That Ends Well
		9:52			8:18
		25			
		4-3			
		Chapter 21: Compassion Fuses the Professor's...			
		9:20			

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Translated by F.A. Malleon
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Jules Verne JOURNEY to the CENTRE of the EARTH

Sometimes christened the father of science fiction, the French novelist Jules Verne (1828–1905) is a much greater writer than that suggests. As with his other fantastic voyages, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* is as much about an inner exploration as an external journey requiring courage, determination and skill.

The central figure of this tale, young Axel – his age is indeterminate – is a reluctant explorer, drawn into the terrible journey to the world's core by an overbearing and irascible uncle, Otto Liedenbrock. Professor Liedenbrock's obsession with discovery takes them – accompanied by the sturdy, devoted guide Hans – miles beneath the earth's crust, in an effort to discover the planet's secrets. But the discovery Axel makes is not just geographic; he also discovers, to some extent, his manhood, tempered by the trauma of their joint experience.

This book was the second of Verne's extraordinary voyage novels, and pre-figures themes which recur in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, and *From the Earth to the Moon*.

Jules Gabriel Verne was born in central Nantes, in western France. He travelled to Paris in 1847 to study law but his first ten

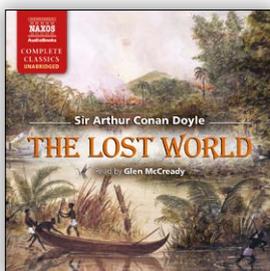
years there were spent in relatively obscure poverty, during which he wrote almost 30 plays, some of which were performed and brought modest success.

But it was only in 1862, when he published *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, his first strange voyage, that he achieved wide acclaim as a writer, and commercial success. Eventually he wrote a total of 63 novels, and is today recognised as one of the greatest French novelists. Himself a great traveller – he visited Norway, Denmark, and in 1867 the United States – Verne loved yachts, in which he sailed to Scotland, Scandinavia and North Africa.

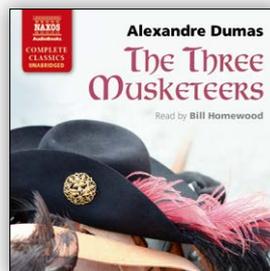
The power of Verne's voyaging fiction resides in his free-flowing use of the imagination. Not for nothing have film-makers found his stories wonderfully suitable for adaptation to the cinema. But in a way these novels lend themselves even more to the audio world, where the listener can close their eyes, sit back and conjure forth the amazing sights and unusual events that befall the travellers. As journeys go, none has more excitement than those invented by Jules Verne.

Notes by Gary Mead

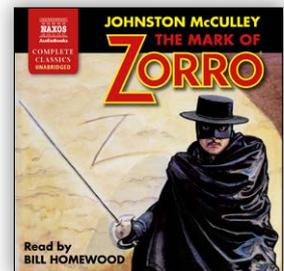
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