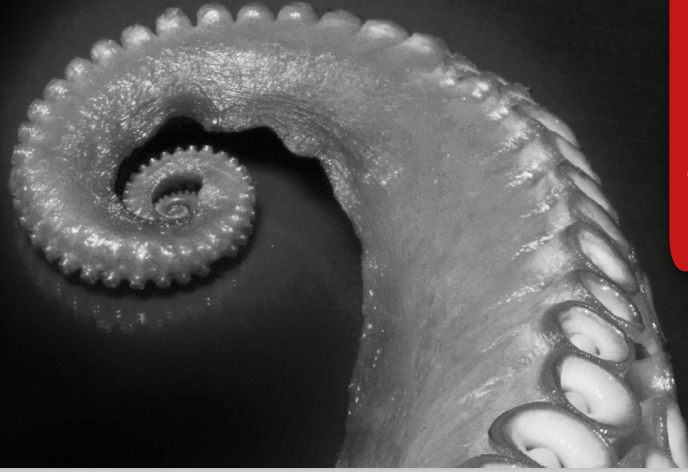


Jules Verne 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER the SEA

Read by **Bill Homewood**



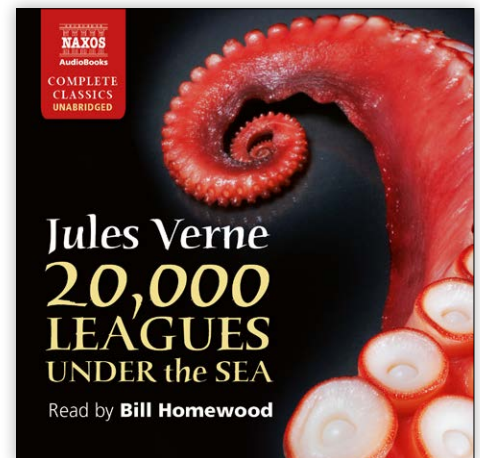
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The year is 1866 and the maritime world is gripped by fear after reported sightings of a huge sea monster. Famous marine biologist Pierre Aronnax, accompanied by his loyal servant Conseil and the redoubtable Canadian harpooner Ned Land, joins the hunt to track down and incapacitate the creature. But their enemy is no sea beast... and they soon come face to face with the sinister Captain Nemo. The story is relentlessly thrilling, while containing beautifully written observations of underwater life.























































































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.



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		1	1-1	20,000 Leagues Under the Sea	9:36			28	4-6	Chapter 15: An Invitation in Writing	9:32
		2	1-2	During the first months of the year 1867...	9:06			29	4-7	When I woke up the next day, on November...	11:31
		3	1-3	Chapter 2: The Pros and Cons	15:05			30	4-8	Chapter 16: Strolling the Plains	5:37
		4	1-4	Chapter 3: As Master Wishes	12:45			31	5-1	And now, how can I convey the impressions...	12:11
		5	1-5	Chapter 4: Ned Land	7:09			32	5-2	Chapter 17: An Underwater Forest	9:31
		6	1-6	Seated on the afterdeck, Ned Land and I chatted...	11:40			33	5-3	Captain Nemo continued to plummet...	9:39
		7	1-7	Chapter 5: At Random!	11:55			34	5-4	Chapter 18: Four Thousand Leagues Under...	12:55
		8	2-1	Two days passed, <i>The Abraham Lincoln</i> stayed...	4:28			35	5-5	Over the ensuing days and weeks...	10:46
		9	2-2	Chapter 6: At Full Steam	10:27			36	5-6	Chapter 19: Vanikoro	11:42
		10	2-3	While I was observing this phenomenal creature...	11:02			37	5-7	On December the 25th, the Nautilus navigated...	11:06
		11	2-4	Chapter 7: A Whale of Unknown Species	9:46			38	6-1	At this location, in three or four fathoms of water...	5:41
		12	2-5	For certain, I came to quickly...	9:39			39	6-2	Chapter 20: The Torres Strait	11:29
		13	2-6	Chapter 8: Mobilis in Mobili	11:15			40	6-3	The situation was indeed dangerous...	10:38
		14	2-7	The man with calm, gentle eyes listened to me...	11:33			41	6-4	Chapter 21: Some Days Ashore	13:02
		15	2-8	Chapter 9: The Tantrums of Ned Land	10:26			42	6-5	The next day, January the 6th: nothing new...	14:27
		16	3-1	'On the contrary, professor,' the harpooner replied...	8:28			43	6-6	Chapter 22: The Lightning Bolts of Captain...	10:56
		17	3-2	Chapter 10: The Man of the Waters	15:31			44	6-7	But just when I least expected it...	12:11
		18	3-3	I can't deny it; the commander's words...	11:46			45	7-1	I got up at six o'clock in the morning.	4:26
		19	3-4	Chapter 11: The Nautilus	12:49			46	7-2	Chapter 23: 'Aegri Somnia'	12:27
		20	3-5	I didn't disturb his meditations...	10:46			47	7-3	For several hours the Nautilus drifted...	11:17
		21	3-6	Chapter 12: Everything through Electricity	10:19			48	7-4	Chapter 24: The Coral Realm	9:35
		22	3-7	In essence, I was already familiar with the whole...	8:38			49	7-5	It was eight o'clock in the morning...	13:28
		23	4-1	Chapter 13: Some Figures	10:58			50	7-6	Part Two: Chapter 1: The Indian Ocean	14:44
		24	4-2	'In order to steer this boat to port or starboard...'	9:46			51	7-7	From January the 21st to the 23rd, the Nautilus...	12:56
		25	4-3	Chapter 14: The Black Current	10:02			52	8-1	Chapter 2: A New Proposition from Captain...	12:33
		26	4-4	Now then, at the spot indicated on the world...	10:11			53	8-2	Ned and Conseil took seats on a couch...	12:38
		27	4-5	'All right, listen and learn, Ned my friend!'	11:14			54	8-3	Chapter 3: A Pearl Worth Ten Million	9:59



55	8-4	Meanwhile, as the sun got progressively higher...	10:36
56	8-5	Ten minutes later, Captain Nemo stopped suddenly.	10:33
57	8-6	Chapter 4: The Red Sea	10:38
58	8-7	How many delightful hours I spent in this way...	9:33
59	9-1	Captain Nemo did not reply.	13:09
60	9-2	Chapter 5: Arabian Tunnel	10:55
61	9-3	Suddenly a hissing sound was audible...	11:38
62	9-4	Chapter 6: The Greek Islands	11:19
63	9-5	That's how we ended this conversation...	9:01
64	9-6	I re-entered my stateroom, very puzzled...	8:42
65	9-7	Chapter 7: The Mediterranean...	12:39
66	10-1	This was the situation.	16:16
67	10-2	Chapter 8: The Bay of Vigo	9:43
68	10-3	I hadn't seen the captain since our visit...	8:08
69	10-4	Just then the door to the main lounge opened...	11:49
70	10-5	Chapter 9: A Lost Continent	14:45
71	10-6	Two hours after leaving the Nautilus...	13:48
72	10-7	Chapter 10: The Underwater Coalfields	4:24
73	11-1	But while observing these different specimens...	12:06
74	11-2	The volcanic nature of this enormous pit...	12:09
75	11-3	Chapter 11: The Sargasso Sea	13:57
76	11-4	Our navigating continued under these conditions...	12:11
77	11-5	Chapter 12: Sperm Whales and Baleen Whales	14:40
78	11-6	Ned looked at me with a bantering expression.	13:52



79	12-1	Chapter 13: The Ice Bank	10:34
80	12-2	At last on March the 18th, after twenty futile...	11:21
81	12-3	Captain Nemo was right.	8:28
82	12-4	Chapter 14: The South Pole	12:06
83	12-5	The next day, March the 20th, it stopped snowing.	13:32
84	12-6	The next day, March the 21st, bright and early...	11:25
85	12-7	Chapter 15: Accident or Incident?	11:07
86	13-1	We were fully afloat as I have said...	8:19
87	13-2	Chapter 16: Shortage of Air	14:59
88	13-3	I broke out in a cold sweat.	13:12
89	13-4	Chapter 17: From Cape Horn to the Amazon	13:58
90	13-5	For two days we visited these deep and deserted...	13:00
91	13-6	Chapter 18: The Devilfish	15:25
92	14-1	'Finally, an actual event,' Ned Land said.	12:05
93	14-2	Chapter 19: The Gulf Stream	15:01
94	14-3	I entered. The captain was there.	15:24
95	14-4	Chapter 20: In Latitude 47 degrees 24'...	10:32
96	14-5	Now then, on May the 25th, while submerged...	12:41
97	15-1	Chapter 21: A Mass Execution	12:18
98	15-2	Near four o'clock in the afternoon...	12:34
99	15-3	Chapter 22: The Last Words of Captain Nemo	9:56
100	15-4	It was an insane idea.	9:37
101	15-5	Chapter 23: Conclusion	4:35

Total running time: 18:53:12 • 15 CDs

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20,000 LEAGUES UNDER the SEA

Jules Verne's fascination with the sea began in the great French seaport of Nantes, where he was born in 1828. Such was his passion for ships that in 1839, when he was only eleven, he ran away from home to be a sailor. His adventure did not last long however, and after returning home in disgrace, he promised his distraught mother: 'After this I will travel only in the imagination'. But it would be many years before he could give free rein to his imaginative powers.

In 1848 he was sent to Paris to complete his studies as a lawyer. Radical socialist thinking was sweeping through Revolutionary France and Verne was drawn to the radical writers, scientists and musicians of the time. He turned his back on his studies and became the secretary to the Théâtre Lyrique. During this time he wrote several plays and short stories, but he had little talent as a dramatist. In 1856, Verne married a young widow, Honorine Morel. She already had two children, and in order to support his new family, Verne took a job on the Paris Bourse.

However, Verne did not give up on his literary ambitions. He continued to write, and his friendship with the radical Pierre-Jean Hetzel was to prove crucial. Hetzel started a magazine for young people and Verne became one of its most popular contributors. Now Verne was able to combine his lifelong fascination for geography, science and technology with his talent for entertaining

and accessible writing, and his first successful novel, *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, was published in 1863. Next came *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, an extraordinary exploration of the earth's core, followed by *From the Earth to the Moon*. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* was published in two parts in 1869 and 1870.

At this time, underwater exploration was in its infancy. A diving apparatus had been introduced in 1865, but compressed air was not used until 1875. Thus he used primitive new technology and took it into near realms of sophistication, while still remaining well within the limits of possibility; this understanding of technology imbues his writing with the vital ingredient of all fine science fiction: plausibility. Verne was also the master of adventure and suspense, but his political ideas were never far from the surface. Through Captain Nemo, he was also able to explore his abiding interest in the freedom of the individual: Nemo could only really be free under the sea, beyond the control of oppressive nation states.

Verne's abiding popularity lies therefore in his extraordinarily prescient view of the future, his huge talent as a storyteller, and in his fascination for the natural world and the men who are destined to explore its mysteries.

Notes by Heather Godwin