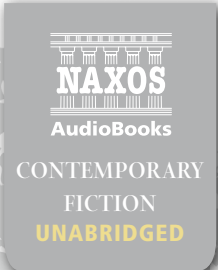


# A HOUSE for MR BISWAS

## V.S. NAIPAUL

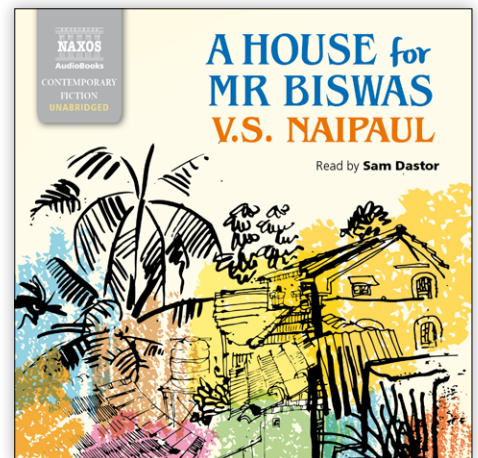


Read by  
**Sam Dastor**

*A House for Mr Biswas*, by Nobel and Booker Prize-winning author V.S. Naipaul, is a powerful novel about one man's struggle for identity and belonging. Born into poverty, then trapped in the shackles of charity and gratitude, Mr Biswas longs for a house he can call his own. He loathes his wife and her wealthy family, upon whom he is dependent. Finding himself a mere accessory on their estate, his constant rebellion is motivated by the one thing that can symbolise his independence. The book is striking in its lush and sensual descriptions of Trinidad and was listed as one of *Time* magazine's 100 Best English-Language Novels from 1923 to 2005.



**Sam Dastor** trained at RADA. His early theatrical experience includes a spell at the National Theatre under Sir Laurence Olivier. In the West End he appeared as Ariel to Paul Scofield's Prospero. For the RSC he performed in *Timon of Athens*, *Tales from Ovid* and a world tour of *A Servant to Two Masters*. His television appearances include *I, Claudius*, *Yes Minister*, *Fortunes of War* and *Spooks*. He has appeared in the films *Made*, *Jinnah* and *Such A Long Journey*, recorded over 1,000 broadcasts for the BBC, and read many audiobooks.



**Total running time: 21:29:00 • 18 CDs**  
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📄	🎧						
1	1-1	<b>A House for Mr Biswas</b>	6:43	23	3-7	'We never had a quarrel,' Mrs Tulsi said.	10:51
2	1-2	<b>Prologue</b>	8:19	24	3-8	He felt unchanged, unmarried.	7:43
3	1-3	The solicitor's clerk lived in every house he built.	7:53	25	4-1	'What?' Shama said in English.	9:46
4	1-4	<b>Part 1. 1: Pastoral</b>	10:23	26	4-2	Mr Biswas thought of Govind as a fellow...	11:58
5	1-5	The subsequent quarrel and threats cleared the air.	11:08	27	4-3	Before he could decide, C and Padma...	10:10
6	1-6	Dhari, the next-door neighbour...	9:59	28	4-4	After he had spoken Pankaj Rai distributed...	10:21
7	1-7	Lakhan the carter said...	9:14	29	4-5	'Just a moment,' Mr Biswas said. 'Not so fast...'	10:24
8	1-8	Bipti was bathed. Her hair, still wet...	8:00	30	4-6	In the Rose Room, then, after a faint...	8:47
9	2-1	Because no cooking could be done at their house...	9:53	31	4-7	In the long room Mr Biswas gathered...	11:56
10	2-2	<b>2: Before the Tulsis</b>	10:53	32	5-1	They heard the hall return to life.	9:11
11	2-3	Mr Biswas was taught other things.	10:51	33	5-2	<b>4: The Chase</b>	9:57
12	2-4	For eight months, in a bare, spacious, unpainted...	10:02	34	5-3	In his careless retreat the previous tenant...	11:13
13	2-5	Soanie stood in the doorway, blocking the light.	8:57	35	5-4	Shama was determined to do things well.	10:04
14	2-6	Ajodha had bought a motorbus...	10:14	36	5-5	The beating had ceased to be a simple...	10:23
15	2-7	Bhandat was spending more week-ends away...	8:52	37	5-6	Shama was a puzzle. Within the girl...	9:29
16	2-8	On Monday morning he set about looking...	3:44	38	5-7	He asked, 'what is that, eh?'	11:24
17	3-1	The men drivers sat on their carts...	8:50	39	6-1	Moti did not belong to the village.	8:18
18	3-2	They went on a tour of the small hut...	8:00	40	6-2	Mungroo was the leader of the village...	9:23
19	3-3	After a time he started to go again to Tara's.	8:58	41	6-3	'Slowly, slowly, brothers and sisters...'	8:22
20	3-4	<b>3: The Tulsis</b>	10:36	42	6-4	In all, Mr Biswas lived for six years at The Chase.	8:18
21	3-5	The note was in Mrs Tulsi's hand.	9:47	43	6-5	All this made Mr Biswas uneasy...	10:21
22	3-6	He put the cup down when he heard someone...	8:51	44	6-6	Once, years before, he was conducting...	9:06



45	6-7	Mr Biswas went in by the tall side gate.
46	6-8	Savi fumbled ineffectually again.
47	7-1	Mr Biswas felt that talk like this belonged...
48	7-2	<b>5: Green Veil</b>
49	7-3	Seth took out a roll of dollar notes...
50	7-4	After breakfast – tea and biscuits...
51	7-5	Chinta got up, straightened out her long skirt...
52	7-6	Mr Biswas closed his eyes, rocked on the noisy...
53	7-7	Each side patronised the other...
54	8-1	Anand followed Mr Biswas outside...
55	8-2	Mr Biswas walked away from Mr Maclean...
56	8-3	Surreptitiously rubbing his paining finger...
57	8-4	Mr Biswas said, 'You think they're going...?'
58	8-5	Every day Mr Biswas went to the site...
59	8-6	As the sugarcane grew taller...
60	8-7	He saw no one. The barracks had gone to sleep.
61	9-1	One Saturday Seth said, while they were...
62	9-2	He was beginning to enjoy the argument.
63	9-3	There were many reasons why Mr Biswas...
64	9-4	The early morning breeze dropped.
65	9-5	Anything could sound like talk...
66	9-6	<b>6: A Departure</b>
67	9-7	Almost as soon as the doctor had gone...
68	9-8	The thin, short-winded and repetitive cry...
69	10-1	<b>Part 2. 1: Amazing Scenes</b>
70	10-2	The organisation of the city...
71	10-3	He went up the central steps and found himself...
72	10-4	Mr Biswas was given paint and a brush...
73	10-5	But within the walls of the office...
74	10-6	Hari, in his pundit's clothes...
75	10-7	The cover had to be taken off and licked...
76	11-1	At home one day Anand began singing...
77	11-2	It was not long after this that Mr Biswas...
78	11-3	Shekhar was coming to spend a week-end...
79	11-4	The next day Mr Biswas wrote an angry article...
80	11-5	In the week before Owad's departure...
81	11-6	<b>2: The New Regime</b>
82	11-7	Change followed change. At Pagotes Tara...
83	11-8	It was only to Shama that Mr Biswas spoke...
84	12-1	He read political books. They gave him phrases...
85	12-2	For many days Anand didn't speak...
86	12-3	Towards the end of that year a letter came...
87	12-4	<b>3: The Short Hills Adventure</b>
88	12-5	Soon she received impressive assistance.
89	12-6	Then at the far end of the cricket ground...



8:33	90	12-7	The money was little but regular...	9:16
10:52	91	13-1	Théophile was a blacksmith whose trade...	11:57
5:32	92	13-2	So for the children Shorthills became a nightmare.	11:06
10:55	93	13-3	About a fortnight after Hari died news came...	8:40
11:23	94	13-4	Buds, stalks and leaves were collected...	9:50
11:02	95	13-5	The speed with which the house went up...	9:33
10:33	96	13-6	One of the smoke wisps shrank...	10:04
11:45	97	13-7	<b>4: Among the Readers and Learners</b>	13:20
12:07	98	14-1	It was now that he began to speak...	10:01
10:20	99	14-2	And other dangers. Once, climbing up a short...	9:46
11:31	100	14-3	It was not long after this that Mr Biswas...	10:11
11:51	101	14-4	Mr Biswas tried to avoid Bhandat's gaze...	9:48
11:24	102	14-5	When the children asked Mr Biswas...	8:25
11:01	103	14-6	After the acquisition of the glass cabinet...	8:41
10:04	104	14-7	With the exhibition examination less than two...	9:02
8:27	105	14-8	'You go,' Mr Biswas said. Anand's cheeks bulged...	8:25
10:13	106	15-1	It was as Anand feared. The exhibition candidates...	8:08
11:42	107	15-2	Mr Biswas took back his pen. It dripped with ink.	8:10
10:43	108	15-3	Mr Biswas found himself a little out of his depth...	11:16
6:54	109	15-4	But the wound was still there, too deep...	9:38
6:47	110	15-5	The school had taken the first four places...	11:01
9:05	111	15-6	<b>5: The Void</b>	9:24
9:41	112	15-7	How many letters of resignation...	8:21
8:11	113	15-8	On Saturday Shama began packing a hamper.	8:18
10:39	114	16-1	They stopped at Balandra...	12:55
11:41	115	16-2	The interviews completed...	9:03
10:46	116	16-3	They parked the car in the road...	8:18
9:07	117	16-4	Not long after Basdai reported that the tenants...	8:51
9:06	118	16-5	For every puja Mrs Tulsi tried a different pundit...	9:12
11:05	119	16-6	And though he had nerved himself for the blow...	9:09
10:59	120	16-7	There was little need for her to worry.	8:12
11:57	121	16-8	<b>6: The Revolution</b>	4:21
11:11	122	17-1	The cavalcade left the house in sections.	12:10
10:38	123	17-2	For a full week the festival continued.	9:37
7:50	124	17-3	While they waited for the revolution...	10:50
8:11	125	17-4	The game dragged on. Anand played worse...	10:40
8:00	126	17-5	The light from the diningroom came through...	8:26
8:24	127	17-6	Shortly after he had been taken on the Sentinel...	9:33
7:47	128	17-7	When, racing into the house out of the rain...	8:23
11:39	129	18-1	Between eight hundred dollars...	9:53
11:27	130	18-2	<b>7: The House</b>	8:09
13:08	131	18-3	But at last they could leave the Tulsi house.	9:23
8:47	132	18-4	W.C. Tuttle played with the hairs in his nose...	8:10
10:05	133	18-5	<b>Epilogue</b>	12:05
9:31				

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