

THE BETROTHED

ALESSANDRO
MANZONI

NAXOS
AudioBooks

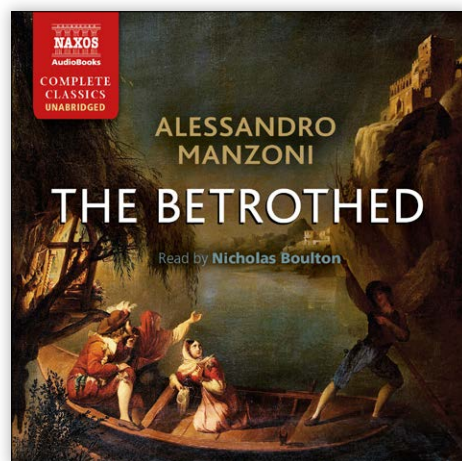
COMPLETE
CLASSICS
UNABRIDGED

Read by
**Nicholas
Boulton**

After the jealous tyrant Don Rodrigo foils their wedding, young Lombardian peasants Lucia and Lorenzo must separate and flee for their safety. Their difficult path to matrimony takes place against the turbulent backdrop of the Thirty Years War, where lawlessness and exploitation are at their height. Lucia takes refuge in a convent, where she is later abducted and taken on a nightmarish journey to a sinister castle, while Lorenzo goes to Milan, where he witnesses famine, riots and plague – all evoked through meticulous description and with stunning immediacy. *The Betrothed* is a masterful example of historical fiction and remains one of the most famous novels in Italian literature.



Nicholas Boulton graduated from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, winning the BBC Carleton Hobbs Award for Radio. He has since featured in countless BBC radio dramas, narrated a plethora of award-winning audiobooks, and died a thousand deaths in various video games. Film, TV and theatre appearances include *Shakespeare in Love*, *Game of Thrones* and *Wolf Hall* (RSC).



Total running time: 24:39:33

View our catalogue online at n-ab.com/cat

1	The Betrothed		
2	But the following year, on the 12th of April...	9:48	
3	'Silence, silence,' replied the first orator...	10:16	
4	It was not that he had not too his own little...	10:33	
5	Chapter 2	11:23	
6	Having reached the road, and walking with...	10:58	
7	Perpetua arrived at length, with a great...	10:15	
8	Chapter 3	9:00	
9	The Doctor was in his dressing-gown...	9:50	
10	'I can do nothing,' replied the Doctor...	8:19	
11	'And what must we do, good woman, to make...'	8:10	
12	Chapter 4	8:35	
13	He was walking one day along the streets...	9:41	
14	The resolution of Ludovico came very apropos...	9:07	
15	All eyes were immovably fixed upon the novice...	7:49	
16	Chapter 5	8:08	
17	Having passed through two or three dark...	11:51	
18	The reader must know that, at this time...	12:10	
19	Chapter 6	9:24	
20	On his death, the new master dismissed all the...	10:00	
21	'How can it help standing firm, and being well...'	9:57	
22	Chapter 7	11:32	
23	Here the author confesses his ignorance of...	10:19	
24	Late at night he returned to his own palace...	9:47	
		11:23	
		25	When they got in, they saw the others whose...
			11:06
		26	Chapter 8
			9:58
		27	The light, just glimmering on the ground...
			10:16
		28	'If the cap fits, put it on,' says a Milanese...
			10:45
		29	Some ran, some slipped between their fellows...
			9:26
		30	'After this,' continued he, 'you must feel...'
			9:33
		31	Chapter 9
			10:10
		32	A black veil, stiffened and stretched quite flat...
			12:29
		33	Dolls dressed like nuns were the first playthings...
			12:09
		34	The letter was agreed upon with three or four...
			12:16
		35	Chapter 10
			9:31
		36	As evening approached they returned home...
			10:45
		37	The Abbess quickly answered, that she was very...
			10:58
		38	The true answer to such a demand rose up...
			10:21
		39	Shortly after finally taking the veil, Gertrude had...
			10:40
		40	Chapter 11
			12:17
		41	After these, and a few similar words, Count Attilio...
			9:34
		42	Don Rodrigo felt a malicious satisfaction...
			10:01
		43	Nevertheless, without betraying any impatience...
			11:33
		44	Chapter 12
			10:16
		45	There only wanted something to lay hold of...
			10:43
		46	Such was the state of things, when Renzo...
			11:11
		47	Chapter 13
			9:52
		48	All on a sudden, a movement, begun at one...
			9:54

49	Then overcome, and, as it were, smothered...	8:27	101	He then said aloud: 'Oh, my Lord, you are joking...'	8:44
50	'Quick, quick,' said he: 'open it wide...'	8:40	102	Home she went as quickly as possible...	8:17
51	Chapter 14	8:47	103	Agnese, with much feeling, assured her daughter...	8:37
52	Renzo, however, heard nothing but compliments...	9:18	104	Chapter 27	8:39
53	'I speak in earnest,' said the landlord...	8:52	105	At length, by dint of searching and sounding...	10:08
54	'Lorenzo Tramaglino,' said the youth...	9:38	106	Lucia, with a voice tremulous with shame...	8:21
55	Chapter 15	9:19	107	He had made a recreation rather than a study...	8:16
56	At every step the innkeeper met either with...	9:27	108	Chapter 28	9:21
57	'Ah! have you heard, for once, Lorenzo Tramaglino?'...	8:37	109	At every step, the shops closed; manufactories...	12:02
58	While Renzo was putting on his jacket...	9:52	110	Throughout the day a confused humming...	9:39
59	Chapter 16	9:07	111	This being perceived, it was considered advisable...	9:43
60	By and by, however, he became still more...	9:21	112	While this army was retiring on one hand...	9:01
61	'There are, certainly,' replied the landlord...	7:35	113	Chapter 29	8:07
62	'The soldiers had the vicar's house to defend...'	9:12	114	Thinking that in such confusion the poor man...	8:07
63	Chapter 17	9:56	115	It was determined to stop here and take a little...	8:16
64	While he thus stood, the rustling of his feet...	9:24	116	These and other reasons sheltered him also...	8:23
65	Had Renzo been here to enjoy himself...	9:28	117	Chapter 30	8:48
66	During the remainder of his walk...	9:08	118	The Unnamed interrupted these words...	10:23
67	Chapter 18	8:59	119	The flying squadron of Venetians made their...	9:36
68	The path of iniquity, as our manuscript here...	9:15	120	Chapter 31	10:02
69	The reader may remember that the Capuchin...	9:07	121	But that which, leaving censure, diminishes our...	10:38
70	'There is a Capuchin friar in that neighbourhood...'	8:21	122	One day, as he was going in a litter to visit...	9:32
71	Chapter 19	10:08	123	But two actions, one of blind and undisciplined...	9:21
72	The proverb was not exactly to the purpose...	8:24	124	Chapter 32	9:39
73	'At any rate, it would be well to try and prevent...'	7:51	125	Three days were spent in preparations...	9:57
74	He went on thus, till, on his own service and that...	9:12	126	On one occasion, the Lazzaretto was left...	10:20
75	Chapter 20	9:26	127	This story, generally believed there by the...	8:50
76	Now, on the contrary, it was the thoughts of...	9:42	128	Chapter 33	9:48
77	She passed the gate of the cloister unobserved...	8:05	129	Don Rodrigo lay down, and accompanied him...	10:18
78	Overcome with distress, agony, and terror...	7:53	130	It is well to hope, my good Renzo.	8:20
79	Chapter 21	9:48	131	Renzo hastened to meet him, and made a low...	9:03
80	As if invigorated by fear, the unhappy girl...	10:38	132	The bramble intruded everywhere...	9:29
81	Lucia remained motionless, shrunk up into the...	9:51	133	Chapter 34	9:23
82	Like one suddenly surprised by an unexpected...	8:40	134	He ran towards her; and when he came near...	10:56
83	Chapter 22	10:26	135	At daybreak, midday, and evening, one of the...	9:59
84	He employed the authority conceded to him...	9:52	136	Recovered from these singular emotions...	10:33
85	It were useless to inquire what were the effects...	9:48	137	At this action they all fled in horror; and Renzo...	8:59
86	Chapter 23	9:13	138	Chapter 35	10:36
87	These words were uttered with an accent of...	9:43	139	The history of the friar, from the point at which...	11:34
88	The chaplain quitted the room, and on entering...	9:44	140	But Renzo, whose anger had for some time...	11:05
89	It was afterwards found that the passage...	9:28	141	Chapter 36	8:33
90	Repentance, when there is an inclination to it...	7:47	142	Father Felice now came up, barefoot, with the...	10:55
91	Chapter 24	9:08	143	'Heartless man!' replied Lucia, turning round...	8:57
92	Lucia replied with a look which expressed assent...	11:03	144	She was a wealthy tradeswoman, of about thirty...	10:35
93	Invigorated in body, and gradually revived in heart...	10:40	145	The friar beckoned to the youth, who was standing...	7:56
94	When, however, the tumultuous feelings...	9:35	146	Chapter 37	9:47
95	Here the mistress of the house came into the...	8:56	147	His friend then went out, and soon returned...	11:18
96	In a moment, all those who were scattered...	9:07	148	If the survivors of the plague were to one another...	10:24
97	Chapter 25	9:30	149	Chapter 38	8:38
98	He knew not, poor man, that Federigo had not...	10:27	150	Here Agnese and the widow, each in their own way...	9:42
99	It was a continual annoyance to the poor man...	12:38	151	The day following, he received a visit as unexpected...	10:49
100	Chapter 26	9:02	152	Should any one ask if there was no grief felt...	11:43

Recorded at SNK Studios, London

Produced by John Foley

Edited and mastered by Timothy Brown

Executive Producer: Genevieve Helsby

© 2019 Naxos AudioBooks. Artwork © 2019 Naxos AudioBooks

Booklet and cover design: Hannah Whale, Fruition – Creative Concepts, using image the image *The departure of the Betrothed*, 1831, by Michele Anoli (1807-1876), courtesy of Bridgeman Images

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE, BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THIS RECORDING PROHIBITED

Total running time: 24:39:33

Catalogue no.: NA0344

ISBN: 978-1-78198-210-5