

Mark Twain
THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER

Read by **Kenneth Jay**

JUNIOR
CLASSICS



1	A Tale for Young People of All Ages	1:33
2	Tom's Meeting with the Prince	4:17
3	One January day, Tom got up hungry	6:45
4	The Prince's Troubles Begin	3:33
5	Tom as a Patrician	8:19
6	Tom receives Instructions	5:26
7	The Question of the Seal	2:25
8	'About five o'clock, Henry VIII awoke	4:27
9	The Prince in the Toils	7:49
10	At Guildhall	4:20
11	The Prince and his Deliverer	12:15
12	Tom as King	5:45
13	'The next day the foreign ambassadors came...'	8:28
14	The Prince and the Tramps	3:37

15	'After a time...'	9:06
16	The Prince and the Hermit	6:52
17	'He kept his patient vigil there...'	2:34
18	A Victim of Treachery	3:54
19	'Softly, softly my prince, wag thy tongue warily...'	6:00
20	Hendon Hall	8:26
21	Disowned	4:47
22	In Prison	6:24
23	The Sacrifice	6:18
24	The Recognition Procession	6:14
25	Coronation Day	8:54
26	Edward as King	6:48
27	Conclusion	2:24

Total Time: 2:37:57

Mark Twain

THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER

Most people, at one time or another in their lives, have dreamed of being a prince – or a king or a president or a very rich and powerful man. In *The Prince and the Pauper*, first published in 1881, Mark Twain made the dream come true in a story.

Tom Canty, a poor boy, lives in wretched, unhappy circumstances in Tudor England nearly 500 years ago. He is befriended by a priest who teaches him to read – very unusual for a young beggar of the time – and even to understand a little Latin.

And, by a strange set of circumstances, he comes to sit on the throne of England, while his lookalike, the true Prince, is cast out among the rabble and has to learn to survive in the tough and dirty world of the streets of London.

Yes – it is a wonderful fantasy. Mark Twain (the American writer who lived from 1835 to 1910 and whose real name was Samuel Clemens) loved and understood the fantasies and hopes and dreams of children and particularly young boys. That is why his other novels – *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* – are full of these dreams.

But he was also very interested in history. That is why *The Prince and the Pauper* is not just a good story. It is packed with descriptions of what life was really like in the days of the 16th century, when Henry VIII, who had six wives, was coming to the end of his reign, a tired and diseased old man.

In that time, it was important that the king had a male heir, a prince who could become king and continue the rule. Everyone wanted it – because everyone was worried that if there wasn't a prince to become king, there would be questions over who would sit on the throne. The worst thing of all was if there was no clear heir there would be the danger of a civil war.

And it was just as bad if the prince and heir to the throne were to become mad just as he was about to become king. Who would be the ruler?

Mark Twain weaves all this in his enjoyable story, *The Prince and the Pauper*.

He also shows how harsh life was for the ordinary person. He points out that in 16th-century England, if you stole something – anything – worth more than eight pence, there was only one punishment: hanging.

If you walked along London Bridge, with

all its shops and clusters of people, there were decapitated heads stuck on poles to remind everyone what happened if you incurred the wrath of the King.

If you misbehaved in other ways, you would be put in the stocks and rotten fruit would be thrown at you. Or you could be lashed with a big whip.

Twain also reminds us of the power that the king or the prince had. No one was allowed to sit in the presence of the king, unless he or she was granted leave to do so. At supper, of course, the king would sit first and only then would everyone else sit. But no one sat in the throne room without his permission.

Royal princes at this time were expected to learn to read and write, not only English, but Latin and Greek as well. King Henry VIII was himself very well educated, and so were all his children, Edward, Mary and Elizabeth.

One of the most important things that happened during the reign of Henry VIII was his decision to dissolve the monasteries. There were thousands of very rich monasteries in England, and the power of the Church was very strong. He decided that this was not right – that power and wealth should rest with the King. So he closed the monasteries – and in many cases demolished the buildings. He forced the monks to go and live more like ordinary

people and many of the monks were very unhappy about it. Some did become hermits – and maybe a few went mad...like the hermit the prince encounters in Mark Twain's story. This is why, in this story, the hermit wants to take his revenge and kill the prince.

Edward VI (1537-1553) did not live long. He died when he was only 16 and England went through a very difficult time. There was first of all the reign of Mary, a Catholic; then came the reign of Elizabeth I, a Protestant, which was difficult, although generally there was peace in the land. Through Elizabeth, a time of Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh and William Shakespeare, England learned that queens could rule as well as kings.

What would have happened if Edward VI had lived longer nobody knows.

But in *The Prince and the Pauper*, Mark Twain invents a story that could have happened when Edward was a boy. It is an unforgettable tale.

Notes by Nicolas Soames

**The music on this recording is taken from the
NAXOS and MARCO POLO catalogues**

SULLIVAN MACBETH RTE Concert Orchestra, Andrew Penny	8.223635
PURCELL THE FAIRY QUEEN The Scholars Baroque Ensemble	8.550660-1
TOMKINS CONSORT MUSIC FOR VIOLS Rose Consort of Viols, Red Byrd	8.550602
MACDOWELL Suite No. 1 Ulster Orchestra, Takuo Yuasa	8.559075
WAGNER POLONIA Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Varujan Kojian	8.220114
PURCELL OVERTURE Aradia Baroque Ensemble, Kevin Mallon	8.554262

Music programming by Nicolas Soames

Cover picture by Hemesh Alles.

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It is England in the time of Henry VIII. Two boys meet. They were born on the same day, they look identical but they are not from the same family. Tom Canty is a pauper living in a hovel in the backstreets of London, surviving as a beggar. The other is Edward, Prince of Wales, and about to become Edward VI.

By a sudden twist of fate, they find themselves in each other's circumstances, the pauper raised to royalty and the prince – to the state of a pauper.

This engaging fantasy is one of the classics of children's literature from the pen of Mark Twain. Woven into the fragment of an exciting story involving two boys trying to make sense of their worlds, is a wealth of historical detail colouring the life and times of Tudor England.



Canadian-born **Kenneth Jay** trained at Ryerson in Toronto but has lived and worked in the United Kingdom since 1983 where his theatrical career has ranged from weekly rep to national tours of *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Noises Off* and *Adam's Dream*. Numerous West End appearances include *The Boys Next Door* and *Indian Ink*. He has also toured Europe with *The Imaginary Invalid* and *I Ought To Be In Pictures*. Film and television includes *Emmerdale*, *The Bill*, *Happy Birthday Shakespeare*, *Cousin Bette* and *Hotel*.

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