

NAXOS
AudioBooks

Johanna Spyri

HEIDI

Read by **Teresa Gallagher**

JUNIOR
CLASSICS



NA228512D

1	The Mountain Pass	8:15
2	Up to Uncle Alp	5:05
3	Heidi and Her Grandfather	8:22
4	The Goats and the Mountain	6:54
5	An Exciting Day Closes	4:26
6	A Visit to Granny	7:12
7	Leaving the Mountain	3:40
8	A New Life Begins	5:06
9	The Church Tower	4:59
10	Homesickness	5:22
11	Grandmamma's Visit	6:58
12	The House is Haunted!	8:19
13	Back Home Again	6:07
14	Plans for a Journey	6:55

15	The Doctor's Arrival	4:44
16	Happy Days on the Mountain	4:16
17	Winter in Dörfli	6:57
18	Peter Surprises Everyone	3:35
19	More Visitors	4:49
20	Good News	4:22
21	Clara Enjoys Life	7:13
22	Unexpected Benefits	6:42
23	Grandmamma's Delight	3:17
24	Peter Learns His Lesson	8:16
25	Travelling Plans	3:40
26	Goodbye!	4:33

Total time: 2:30:22

Johanna Spyri

HEIDI

Orphaned and taken to live with her reputedly monstrous grandfather in the Swiss Alps, the bright, spirited, eight-year-old Heidi is unphased. Accepting, observant, and infectiously enchanted by the many beautiful things that she discovers, she becomes irreversibly attached to living in the mountains. Life in Frankfurt is a shocking piece of urban suffocation, but good things come from bad. With firm friends and the ability to read, Heidi returns to the mountains a little older, a little wiser, and even happier than before.

Heidi herself is generally better known than her creator, Johanna Spyri. The daughter of a doctor, she was born in 1827 and grew up with her five siblings in a farming village near Zurich, with distant views of the Alps. She married a promising young lawyer and moved to Zurich, but despite intense social activity through a literary society, where she met Richard Wagner and the writer Gottfried Keller, she was unhappy in the city and struggled with depression. She became well known as a children's writer in 1878 when she began **Heimathlos** (or 'Homeless'), a volume

containing 'Stories for Children and for Those Who Love Children'. The inspiration for **Heidi**, by far her most famous story, came when she spent some time in Jenins – a village along the east bank of the Rhine near Mayenfeld, where the story is set. When **Heidi's Formative Years** (part one of what we now know as **Heidi**) appeared in 1880 it met with immediate success, despite the anonymity of authorship. On writing the sequel, concerned with Heidi's homesickness in the city, Spyri revealed her identity. Even C.F. Meyer, the author with whom Spyri had established a friendly relationship of mutual criticism, was enthusiastic about **Heidi**. However, Spyri's already subdued disposition was permanently saddened after the death in 1884 of both her husband and her only son. Her love of children compelled her to write over thirty more stories at her tiny ink-stained desk, before she herself died in 1901.

It seems clear that in **Heidi** Spyri was expanding upon the nostalgia of her own rural childhood. Heidi's instinctive love of the open countryside and consequent

rejection of city life unmistakably reflect the experiences of Spyri, who depicts the mountain scenery with genuine affection and vivid clarity. Although she also wrote specifically for adults, it is her uncommon empathy with children's thoughts and feelings that has proved her most remarkable attribute. She was innovative in seeing and representing the world from a child's perspective. In **Heidi** we can appreciate her desire to preserve the innocence of children and indulge in their fascination with the world. In so doing, she appeals to adults as well, who are only too willing to believe in this gentle, uplifting story.

Each character in **Heidi** is so carefully and crisply drawn that we feel well-acquainted with them all. With the exception of Miss Rottenmeier – the straight-laced disciplinarian housekeeper – they are all extremely likeable, and even Miss Rottenmeier's uptight intolerance seems faintly comical. From the gruff but warm-hearted Grandfather to the gentle, mature Clara; from poor, blind Granny to the upright, loving Grandmamma; and from the simple, clumsy Peter to the endearing Heidi herself, each character has a pleasingly defined role to play.

Does the story represent too simplistic

an ideal? The triumph of Good over Evil is undeniably black and white, inviting the charge that it presents an unrealistic view of the world to children. However, the success speaks for itself, and the idealism is harmless. The most enduring fairy stories are those with a similar dependable optimism, and these also enjoy the unquestioning belief of children, not to mention the escapist indulgence of adults.

Written over 120 years ago, **Heidi** has since been translated into over fifty languages and printed in an equivalent number of millions of copies. Through a variety of print, film and television versions all over the world, the tale is renowned. **Heidi** has retained her character through generations of social and literary change. Simple and affecting, its themes are timeless, and its charm everlasting.

Notes by Genevieve Helsby

**The music on this recording was taken
from the NAXOS catalogue**

GRIEG SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL CSSR State Philharmonic / Richard Edlinger	8.550090
DVORAK SLAVONIC DANCES Slovak Philharmonic / Zdeněk Kosler	8.550143
FAURÉ ORCHESTRAL MUSIC RTE Sinfonietta / John Georgiadis	8.553360
NORWEGIAN VIOLIN FAVOURITES Henning Kraggerund, violin / Razumovsky Symphony Orchestra / Bjarte Engeset	8.554497

Music programmed by Genevieve Helsby

Johanna Spyri HEIDI

Read by **Teresa Gallagher**

Heidi comes to live with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps where she befriends the animals and children – in particular the goatherd Peter. She is later taken away to the stern and confining home of the invalid Clara where she enriches the lives of those around her but longs to return home. After many adventures she returns to her grandfather's cabin in her beloved Alps.



Teresa Gallagher has performed in many leading roles in both plays and musicals across the country, London's West End and off Broadway. In addition, she is a well-known voice to listeners of BBC Radio Drama. Her work on film includes *The Misadventures of Margaret* and Mike Leigh's *Topsy Turvy*. For Naxos AudioBooks she has recorded the *Biography of Jane Austen* and selections from *The Decameron* by Boccaccio. She also read *Classic Women's Short Stories* for Naxos AudioBooks.

CD ISBN:

978-962-634-285-5

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Produced by Nicolas Soames
Abridged by Genevieve Heibly
Recorded at Motivation Sound Studios, London
Edited by Sarah Butcher, SBS

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Total time
2:30:22