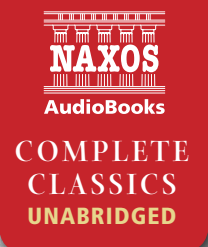


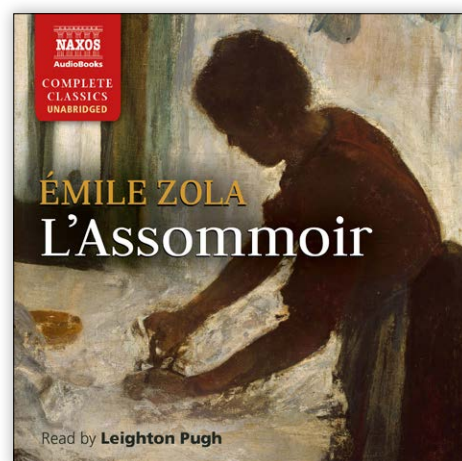
# L'Assommoir

## ÉMILE ZOLA

Read by **Leighton Pugh**



Brutal, gripping and heart-wrenching, *L'Assommoir* (also known as *The Drinking Den*) chronicles the tragic downward spiral of Gervaise Macquart, a good-natured and hardworking laundress who slides into alcoholism and despair. After her lover abandons her and their two children, Gervaise marries a tin worker, Coupeau, who helps her rebuild her life. She starts her own business and the two have a daughter, Anna (the protagonist of Zola's later novel, *Nana*). But their happiness is short-lived as a freak accident leaves Coupeau seriously injured, beginning the family's fall into alcohol, desperation and violence. Disturbingly realistic, *L'Assommoir* is a vivid portrayal of life in late 19th-century Paris.



**Leighton Pugh** trained at LAMDA, after studying Modern Languages at Queen's College, Oxford. Radio work includes the plays *Murder by the Book* and *Scenes from Provincial Life* for BBC Radio 4 and the voice of Heinrich von Kleist in the BBC Radio 3 documentary *The Tragical Adventure of Heinrich von Kleist*. From 2010 to 2011 Leighton was in four productions at the National Theatre, including *The Habit of Art* and *A Woman Killed with Kindness*. For Naxos AudioBooks he has recorded *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*, unabridged.

**Total running time: 15:45:24**

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<b>1</b>	<b>L'Assommoir</b>	10:34	<b>22</b>	Coupeau did not sleep much that night.	11:24
<b>2</b>	In time the Boulevards settled into their usual...	9:25	<b>23</b>	The Coupeaus went out nearly every Sunday...	8:43
<b>3</b>	She went to the pawnshop, however.	10:13	<b>24</b>	'Have you seen my wife?' he asked.	10:34
<b>4</b>	Madame Boche was now washing only very slowly.	9:47	<b>25</b>	Coupeau's accident had created quite a commotion...	9:49
<b>5</b>	'Has papa sent you?' asked Gervaise.	9:46	<b>26</b>	For another two months Coupeau hobbled about...	9:59
<b>6</b>	Gervaise was hit first in the legs.	14:29	<b>27</b>	<b>Chapter 5</b>	12:39
<b>7</b>	<b>Chapter 2</b>	12:04	<b>28</b>	In the neighbourhood the new shop produced...	13:08
<b>8</b>	The shops were now almost empty.	9:47	<b>29</b>	It was now the warm time of the year.	10:09
<b>9</b>	They had already gone about a hundred paces...	10:04	<b>30</b>	Gervaise, serious and her mind fully occupied...	9:19
<b>10</b>	Towards the end of June, Coupeau lost his...	11:56	<b>31</b>	Coupeau had arisen and was becoming angry...	9:55
<b>11</b>	Now that she had finally made it to the top...	9:10	<b>32</b>	When he had thoroughly badgered the...	11:12
<b>12</b>	Gervaise had returned to her seat, disenchanted...	11:02	<b>33</b>	As a matter of fact, things had not gone...	11:02
<b>13</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>	10:23	<b>34</b>	<b>Chapter 6</b>	7:22
<b>14</b>	It was a fair walk from the mayor's office...	11:15	<b>35</b>	She remained. Étienne returned to the bellows.	10:24
<b>15</b>	There was a discussion after each proposal.	10:33	<b>36</b>	There was no brandy in Golden-Mug's veins...	10:09
<b>16</b>	When they had been all around the Salon...	9:29	<b>37</b>	'You sure you've brought everything?'...	10:20
<b>17</b>	Boche thought of a joke and everyone took it up.	11:02	<b>38</b>	That was the starting point of a great friendship.	12:13
<b>18</b>	The general conversation was becoming grave.	10:15	<b>39</b>	She drank another small sip, then added rapidly...	9:15
<b>19</b>	Coupeau delivered the little speech with...	13:13	<b>40</b>	The laundress took particular pains with the...	10:46
<b>20</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>	11:02	<b>41</b>	<b>Chapter 7</b>	10:08
<b>21</b>	Coupeau was still employed at the hospital.	9:34	<b>42</b>	At length Monday arrived. Now that Gervaise...	7:58

43	Towards five o'clock the guests began to arrive.	11:19	69	However, one evening in January she knocked...	12:58
44	At length they discovered Coupeau and Poisson...	8:45	70	Whenever Gervaise thought of Lalie, she felt...	9:34
45	Christ almighty! What a hole they were...	9:23	71	Gervaise remained with him until the evening.	13:02
46	It was one hell of a feast; that is to say...	9:19	72	Gervaise noticed a couple of men at the bar.	11:56
47	In the midst of the noise, however, a conversation...	10:47	73	<b>Chapter 11</b>	11:32
48	Golden horizons were opening up all around...	9:00	74	Madame Lerat arrived the first, in view of...	9:51
49	Gervaise exchanged a glance with Madame Boche...	9:33	75	Whilst speaking they hastened from shop...	10:01
50	<b>Chapter 8</b>	8:04	76	When the winter arrived, life became...	11:40
51	As soon as the Lorilleuxs knew who he was...	9:31	77	'Look here, Madame Coupeau!' cried Virginie...	7:31
52	Then the furniture for the room had to be...	8:49	78	He paused to take five or six marshmallows...	7:35
53	At the beginning of the new arrangement...	9:46	79	It happened one November evening that...	11:36
54	Gervaise was quite at her ease in this matter...	9:35	80	There was only one thing that really bothered...	12:10
55	Goujet now didn't know what to do with his hands...	11:39	81	<b>Chapter 12</b>	10:56
56	Now they were talking of women...	10:49	82	At winter time, up these stairs of the house...	11:12
57	Two days passed by. The roofer had not returned.	11:35	83	Gervaise had sprung upon Bijard and torn...	10:22
58	<b>Chapter 9</b>	10:43	84	She was walking heavily up the Rue des...	8:33
59	Very pale, her limbs already trembling...	11:44	85	The night was gathering, but children were...	8:06
60	Whilst idleness and poverty entered, dirtiness...	10:09	86	Gervaise stood in front of l'Assommoir...	10:14
61	Towards the autumn, unfortunately, things...	8:53	87	It was a perfect tempest. On these heights...	8:20
62	Gently, without uttering a cry, icy cold yet prudent...	10:18	88	Overcome with surprise and emotion she...	8:04
63	'There are three of us,' concluded the laundress.	9:40	89	<b>Chapter 13</b>	8:32
64	The explanation caused the others to nod...	12:21	90	That evening everyone in the tenement...	8:51
65	Happily, the cemetery was not far off, the little...	8:20	91	In the Rue de la Goutte-d'Or the Boches...	8:11
66	<b>Chapter 10</b>	11:15	92	With a terrible leap, he went head first against...	11:06
67	It so happened that on the evening before...	9:22			
68	This was their last happy day. Two years...	10:45			

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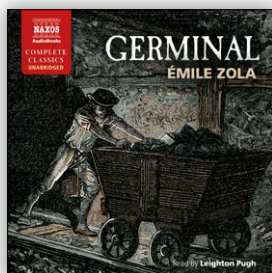
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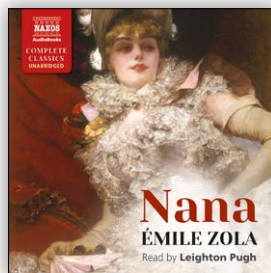
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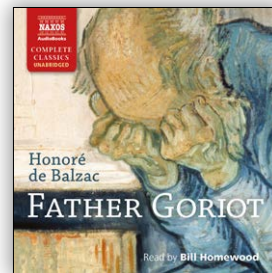
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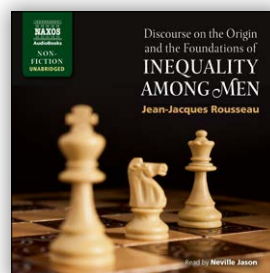
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