

La Bête Humaine

By Émile Zola

Unabridged

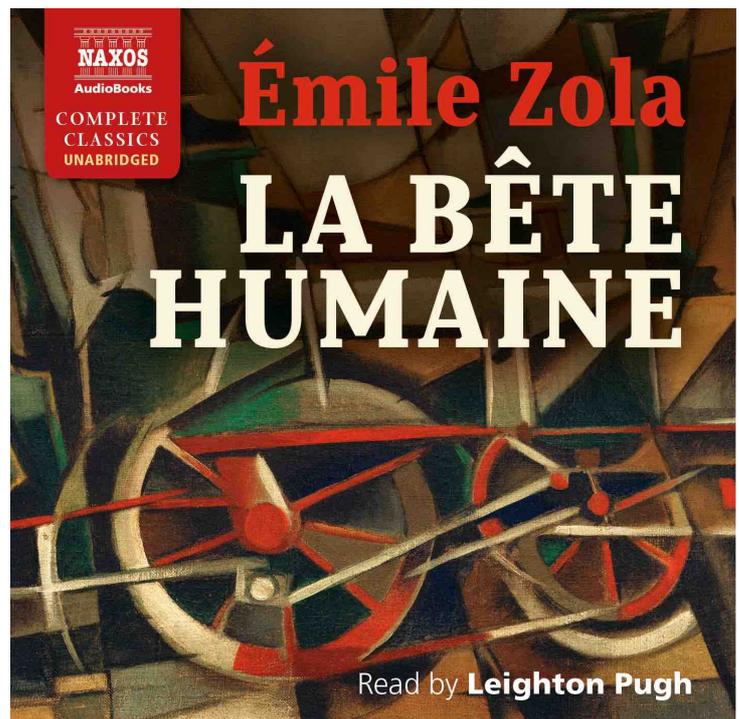
Read by Leighton Pugh

DESCRIPTION

Against the backdrop of political and legal corruption in Second Empire France, *La Bête Humaine* (1890) contrasts the technological advancements of the Machine Age with the primitive and timeless human impulse to possess through killing and to kill through possession. The lives of two railwaymen on the Paris to Le Havre line are fatally entwined by their love for the same woman in this shocking account of brutal violence, greed, revenge and repression. In the wider cast of Zola's characters, too, we see just how close to the surface of civilisation the beast within us lurks.

SALES AND MARKETING POINTS

- A piercing portrayal of violence and sexual dynamics.
- Leighton Pugh gives us a wonderfully intelligent reading.
- *Germinal*, *Nana*, *L'Assommoir* and *The Masterpiece*, read by Leighton Pugh, are also available on Naxos AudioBooks.
- The basis of Jean Renoir's 1938 film of the same name - one of the director's greatest successes.



ISBN: 978-1-78198-355-3

Category: Complete Classics

Catalogue Number: NA0493

Approximate running time: 15.5 hours

Format: Download

Download price: £29.00

Price code: M

Publication date: May 2021

Web Page: www.naxosaudiobooks.com

Rights: World

BIC code: FC

Translator: Ernest Alfred Vizetelly (updated by Leighton Pugh)

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