

The Ladies' Paradise

By Émile Zola

Unabridged

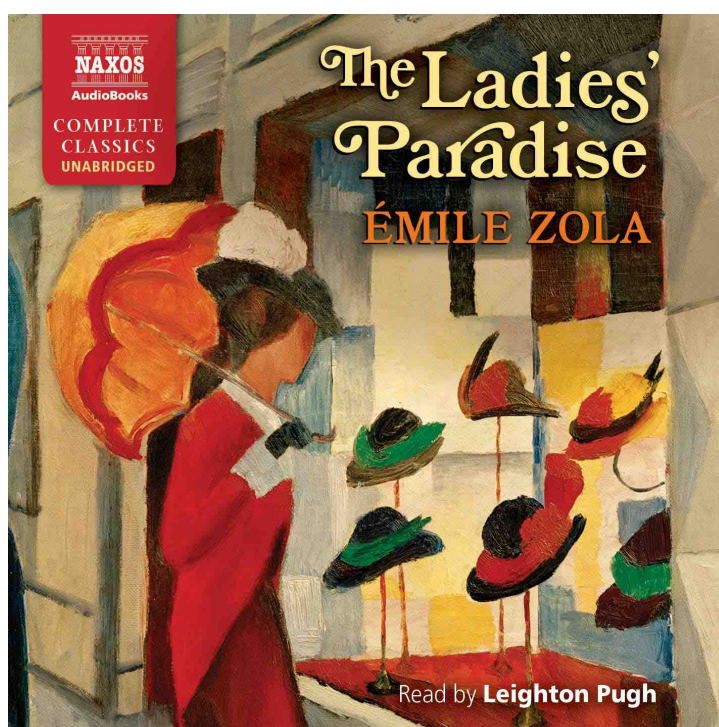
Read by Leighton Pugh

DESCRIPTION

Zola's *The Ladies' Paradise* (*Au Bonheur des Dames*, 1883) plays out in a colossal and opulent Parisian department store of the same name. Its owner, Octave Mouret, builds his innovative, upmarket women's fashion empire at the expense of the city's smaller, traditional shops. A self-declared manipulator of women, Mouret not only plays on his female customers' personal insecurities and social aspirations to keep his takings high, but also exploits his mostly female staff who work long hours in harsh conditions. After a difficult start, one young recruit, Denise Baudu, ends up giving Mouret much more than he bargained for.

SALES AND MARKETING POINTS

- Leighton Pugh, a popular Naxos AudioBooks reader, paces the novel beautifully and draws in his listeners.
- A welcome addition to the extensive Naxos AudioBooks collection of unabridged Zola novels, which includes *Germinal*, *Nana*, *L'Assommoir*, *The Masterpiece* and *La Bête Humaine*.



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