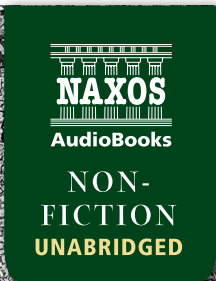
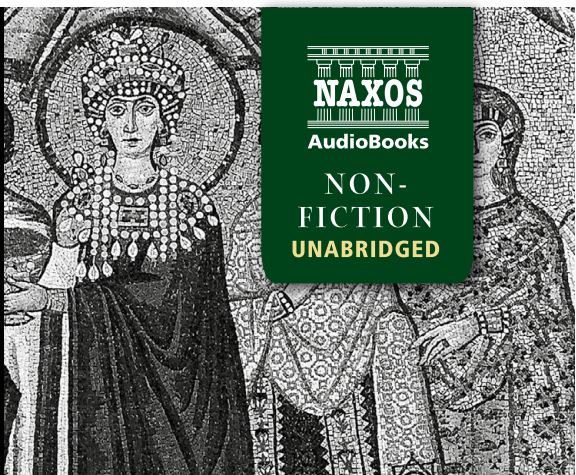




The Secret History

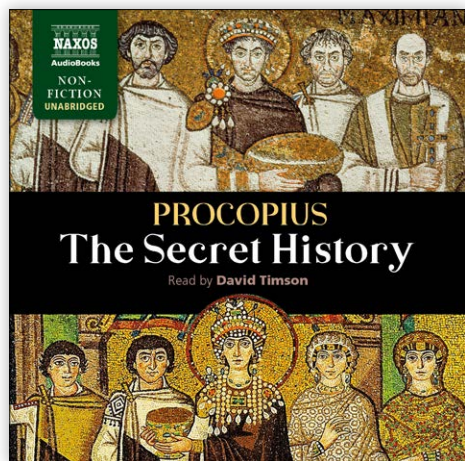
PROCOPIUS

Read by **David Timson**



Procopius appeared to be a loyal part of the Byzantine establishment, his official writing glorifying the deeds of the Emperor Justinian (d. AD 565). However, he also produced a work that he knew could never be published within the Emperor's lifetime: *The Secret History*, a vitriolic indictment of the rule of Justinian and his wife Theodora.

In *The Secret History*, the general Belisarius is presented as an idiot who is manipulated by his conniving wife Antonina, while the Emperor is depicted as a demon king, a dishonest and autocratic destroyer of established institutions. The Empress Theodora doesn't escape Procopius' invective – she is portrayed as the antithesis of the traditional Roman matron: depraved, brutal and bloodthirsty.



Total running time: 4:15:38 • *View our full range of titles at n-ab.com*



David Timson has made over 1,000 broadcasts for BBC Radio Drama. For Naxos AudioBooks he has written *The History of Theatre*, an award-winning production read by Derek Jacobi, and directed four Shakespeare plays including *King Richard III* (with Kenneth Branagh). He has also read the entire Sherlock Holmes canon and Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

1	The Secret History	0:13	9	7	9:51	17	15	8:08	25	23	6:23
2	Proemium	3:43	10	8	8:16	18	16	7:39	26	24	7:20
3	1	8:53	11	9	11:55	19	17	10:31	27	25	7:51
4	2	10:01	12	10	8:35	20	18	9:43	28	26	11:18
5	3	8:04	13	11	10:09	21	19	4:48	29	27	7:16
6	4	10:32	14	12	9:41	22	20	6:21	30	28	4:37
7	5	9:59	15	13	8:03	23	21	6:42	31	29	8:43
8	6	6:23	16	14	6:20	24	22	9:11	32	30	8:16

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Theodora and her entourage in the Basilica San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy; photograph by Petar Milošević, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

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