



Stars of Game of Thrones, Fleabag and Homeland read 50 new audiobooks of the world famous Penguin Classics

On 26th September, Penguin Random House is launching a new series of audiobooks of the world-renowned Penguin Classics. For the first time, these titles are totally unabridged in audio and include the highly regarded introductions from the print editions. The series will comprise fifty works and will be released simultaneously. They have been performed by some of the UK's best-known actors. The fifty narrators include Fleabag actors Sian Clifford (*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*) and Andrew Scott (*Dubliners*); Game of Thrones' Natalie Dormer (*A Room of One's Own*) and star of Homeland David Harewood (*The War of the Worlds*).

The ambitious casting will bring new audiences to these works from iconic authors such as Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë and Franz Kafka as well as lesser-known titles published for the first time in audio, including *The Wonderful Adventure of Nils Holgersson* by Selma Lagerlöf, read by Horrible Histories actor Mathew Baynton and *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, read by Sheila Atim, Jamael Westman and Jessica Brown Findlay. The title selection includes one of the surprise bestsellers of recent years – Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations* will likely sell over 100,000 copies this year in print alone and now can reach an even wider audience in its audio edition, read by Richard Armitage (*The Hobbit*).

David Harewood (Homeland and Westworld), said:

'It's been such a wonderful pleasure reading H. G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*. The imagination and detail of the piece is extraordinary and bringing it to life has been a career highlight.'

Gemma Whelan (Game of Thrones) said:

'*North and South* is a tour de force - a novel with a political and social conscience, written by a woman who was completely ahead of her time. Narrating this story was a fantastic experience and I'm thrilled at the thought that it will reach a whole new audience.'

Audiobooks are enjoying a huge boom in popularity with sales increasing by 43% year on year in 2018 and it's estimated that nearly 10% of the UK population are listening to audiobooks regularly*.

Penguin Random House Audio Publisher, Richard Lennon, says:

'With this collection our aim is to bring these classic texts to life for an audience for whom listening, rather than reading, is the default way to consume stories and ideas. By pairing these classic works with a diverse range of modern acting talent we want to encourage more people to enjoy these beautifully read, unabridged editions.'

Penguin Classics Brand Director, Sam Voulters, says:

'We want to give classics readers every opportunity to discover books to fall in love with. Now these fifty magnificent audiobooks will stand alongside the paperback Penguin Classics as the best editions available.'

Other narrators include Blake Harrison (Inbetweeners), Jessie Buckley (War and Peace), George Blagden (Versailles), Ben Barnes (Westworld) and bestselling author Jeanette Winterson.

Andrew Scott (Fleabag) reading *Dubliners* said:

'These stories are absolutely stunning. Heartbreaking, funny and exquisitely human. I love the idea that people can be immersed in these extraordinary characters on their way to work, and as a Dubliner myself, I'm very proud to be associated with this project, and with this true genius of a writer.'

Available to download from Audible, Apple Books and Google, the Penguin Classics audiobooks can be pre-ordered now.

See below for a full list of the titles and narrators.

Publication date 26th September

Listen to an extract of *The War of the Worlds* read by David Harewood here: <https://soundcloud.com/penguin-books/war-of-the-worlds/s-ZPFN7>

For further information, for a free download code to listen and interview requests please contact:

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* Source: Publishers' Association Yearbook 2018

ABOUT PENGUIN CLASSICS AUDIO

About Penguin Classics: Penguin Classics is geographically and chronologically the largest library of classic literature ever published, originally launched in 1946 with E.V. Rieu's translation of *The Odyssey*. The launch of Penguin Classics in Audio follows a global 'Happy Reading' campaign celebrating the dog-eared and weathered books from readers' collections and, in March, the first ever Penguin Classics pop-up shop in London.

About Penguin Random House Audio: Penguin Random House Audio is the UK's leading publisher of audiobooks. We bring together our amazing authors and the world's very best acting talent to create exceptional listening experiences from the finest stories and ideas for adults to entertainment and education for children and families. Penguin Random House Audio have won awards including the British Book Award: Audiobook of the Year in 2019 and 2018 for *Becoming* written and narrated by Michelle Obama and *The Book of Dust* by Phillip Pullman, narrated by Michael Sheen, respectively.

One of the many joys of audiobooks is their accessibility and the ability to listen wherever you are. They can transform a commute, keep you motivated on a long run or simply distract you whilst doing the household chores. For example:

- *North and South* narrated by Gemma Whelan will keep you entertained for a whole month of hour-long commutes. (28 hours)
- Andrew Scott reading *Dubliners* would last for over 26 Parkruns.
- The average Brit spends 4 hours a week in the kitchen, so listening to *Villette* read by Charlotte Ritchie, could keep you entertained for 8 whole weeks of cooking
- Brits spend a year and a half on housework during the average lifetime - why not listen to the Penguin Classics canon to distract you from your chores!



Penguin Classics Audio – Title List

Title	ISBN	Author	Read by
The Picture of Dorian Gray (CD)	9780141439570	Oscar Wilde	Ben Barnes
The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and Other Tales of Terror (CD)	9780141439730	Robert Louis Stevenson	Rory Kinnear
The War of the Worlds (CD)	97801414441030	H. G. Wells	David Harewood
Frankenstein (CD)	9780141439471	Mary Shelley	Colin Salmon
The Turn of the Screw (CD)	97801414441351	Henry James	Tuppence Middleton
Three Men in a Boat	97801414441214	Jerome K. Jerome	Blake Harrison
Silas Marner	9780141439754	George Eliot	Jan Francis
Tess of the D'Urbervilles	9780141439594	Thomas Hardy	Sian Clifford
Lady Susan, the Watsons, Sanditon	9780140431025	Jane Austen	Emilia Fox
A Tale of Two Cities	9780141439600	Charles Dickens	Julian Rhind-Tutt
Daisy Miller	97801414441344	Henry James	Ellie Kendrick
Madame Bovary	9780140449129	Gustave Flaubert	Fiona Glascott
The Odyssey	9780140449112	Homer	George Blagden
The Moonstone	9780140434088	Wilkie Collins	Jessie Buckley, Richard Cordery, Julian Wadham, David Sturzaker, Hugh Fraser, Bruce Alexander, Oscar Batterham, Matthew Spencer, James MacCallum, Stewart Clarke and Jot Davies
Middlemarch	9780141439549	George Eliot	Juliet Aubrey
The Yellow Wallpaper	9780141397412	Charlotte Perkins Gilman	Sheila Atim , Jamael Westman and Jessica Brown Findlay
The Woman in White	9780141439617	Wilkie Collins	Tim McInnery
The Communist Manifesto	9780140447576	Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels	Arinzé Kene
The Prince	9780141442259	Niccolò Machiavelli	Simon Callow
The Three Musketeers	9780141442341	Alexandre Dumas	Paterson Joseph
The Prophet	9780141187013	Kahlil Gibran	Antonio Aakeel
Letters from a Stoic	9780140442106	Seneca	Julian Glover
The Unconscious	9780141183886	Sigmund Freud	Michael Pennington
Mrs Dalloway	9780241371947	Virginia Woolf	Anjli Mohindra



Persuasion	9780141439686	Jane Austen	Erin Doherty
The Portrait of a Lady	9780141441269	Henry James	Simon Harrison
Villette	9780140434798	Charlotte Brontë	Charlotte Ritchie
Passing	9780142437278	Nella Larsen	Amaka Okafor
Orlando	9780241371961	Virginia Woolf	Pippa Nixon
A Vindication of the Rights of Woman	9780141441252	Mary Wollstonecraft	Jeanette Winterson
The Book of Tea	9780141191843	Kakuzo Okakura	Sadao Ueda
Meditations	9780140449334	Marcus Aurelius	Richard Armitage
On The Origin of Species	9780140439120	Charles Darwin	Ben Arogundade
A Room of One's Own	9780241387528	Virginia Woolf	Natalie Dormer
The Wonderful Adventure of Nils Holgersson	9780241206096	Selma Lagerlöf	Matthew Baynton
North and South	9780140434248	Elizabeth Gaskell	Gemma Whelan
Death Comes for the Archbishop	9780241338261	Willa Cather	Ako Mitchell
Mansfield Park	9780141439808	Jane Austen	Pippa Bennett-Warner
The Diary of a Provincial Lady	9780141191812	E. M. Delafield	Kirsty Besterman
The Tenant of Wildfell Hall	9780140434743	Anne Brontë	Adjoa Andoh
The Garden Party and Other Stories	9780141441801	Katherine Mansfield	Bonnie Wright
The Trial	9780241372562	Franz Kafka	Kobna Holdbrook-Smith
The Secret Agent	9780141441580	Joseph Conrad	Luke Norris
The Fall of The House of Usher	9780141439815	Edgar Allan Poe	Tom Ravenscroft and Catherine Bailey
Japanese Ghost Stories	9780241381274	Lafcadio Hearn	Eleanor Matsuura
Ulysses	9780141182803	James Joyce	Patrick Gibson
The Canterbury Tales	9780140424386	Geoffrey Chaucer	Lesley Manville, Daniel Weyman, Derek Jacobi, Seroqa Davis, Jay Bernard, Michael Balogun
Jane Eyre	9780141441146	Charlotte Brontë	Anna Popplewell
Dubliners	9780141192802	James Joyce	Andrew Scott
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass	9780141439761	Lewis Carroll	Katie Leung