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Jules Verne AROUND the WORLD in EIGHTY DAYS

Read by **Bill Homewood**





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| 1 | 1-1 | Chapter 1 | 11:39 |
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| 3 | 1-3 | Chapter 3 | 15:31 |
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| 5 | 1-5 | Chapter 5 | 6:54 |
| 6 | 1-6 | Chapter 6 | 9:50 |
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| 9 | 1-9 | Chapter 9 | 4:16 |



| | | | |
|----|-----|---|-------|
| 10 | 2-1 | As for Passepartout, he, too, had escaped sea-sickness... | 7:33 |
| 11 | 2-2 | Chapter 10 | 11:34 |
| 12 | 2-3 | Chapter 11 | 8:52 |
| 13 | 2-4 | The train entered the defiles of the Sutpour Mountains... | 9:42 |
| 14 | 2-5 | Chapter 12 | 15:14 |
| 15 | 2-6 | Chapter 13 | 14:02 |
| 16 | 2-7 | Chapter 14 | 10:48 |



| | | | |
|----|-----|--|-------|
| 17 | 3-1 | The railway, on leaving Benares, passed for a while... | 3:10 |
| 18 | 3-2 | Chapter 15 | 14:14 |
| 19 | 3-3 | Chapter 16 | 11:35 |
| 20 | 3-4 | Chapter 17 | 12:35 |
| 21 | 3-5 | Chapter 18 | 9:27 |
| 22 | 3-6 | Chapter 19 | 15:39 |
| 23 | 3-7 | Chapter 20 | 12:13 |



| | | | |
|----|-----|--|-------|
| 24 | 4-1 | Chapter 21 | 9:02 |
| 25 | 4-2 | At daybreak the wind began to blow hard again... | 9:01 |
| 26 | 4-3 | Chapter 22 | 15:09 |
| 27 | 4-4 | Chapter 23 | 14:17 |
| 28 | 4-5 | Chapter 24 | 14:14 |
| 29 | 4-6 | Chapter 25 | 14:32 |



| | | | |
|----|-----|------------|-------|
| 30 | 5-1 | Chapter 26 | 11:19 |
| 31 | 5-2 | Chapter 27 | 14:26 |
| 32 | 5-3 | Chapter 28 | 17:23 |
| 33 | 5-4 | Chapter 29 | 14:54 |
| 34 | 5-5 | Chapter 30 | 15:17 |
| 35 | 5-6 | Chapter 31 | 4:27 |



| | | | |
|----|-----|---|-------|
| 36 | 6-1 | At eight o'clock the sledge was ready to start. | 8:20 |
| 37 | 6-2 | Chapter 32 | 7:35 |
| 38 | 6-3 | Chapter 33 | 17:37 |
| 39 | 6-4 | Chapter 34 | 7:16 |
| 40 | 6-5 | Chapter 35 | 12:12 |
| 41 | 6-6 | Chapter 36 | 8:17 |
| 42 | 6-7 | Chapter 37 | 8:11 |

Total time: 7:39:13

Jules Verne

AROUND the WORLD in EIGHTY DAYS

Jules Verne was born in the French seaport of Nantes in 1828. In 1839, he stowed away on the *Coralie*, a ship bound for the West Indies, but was retrieved by his father. His father wanted Jules to become a lawyer, as he himself was, and sent his son to Paris in 1848 to train.

In Paris, Verne became part of the literary circle of Alexandre Dumas. In 1852, he passed his law exams and became Secretary to the Théâtre Lyrique, writing several unsuccessful plays.

In 1856, Verne married a young widow from Amiens, Honorine Morel, who had two children, and they had one son of their own, Michel. In order to support his family, he became a stockbroker on the Paris Bourse.

As well as plays, Verne wrote many poems and stories for magazines, and in 1854 he published a fantasy novella,

Master Zacharius. But his first real success came in 1863, with the publication of *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, followed in 1864 by *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and, in 1865, *From the Earth to the Moon*. *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* was published in two parts, in 1869 and 1870. Like many of Verne's books, it shows his love of exploration and scientific discovery.

Verne was left crippled in 1886 after being shot by his nephew, Gaston, when he refused him money. But he continued to work, and wrote a total of 67 titles. He died in 1905.

Around the World in Eighty Days was Verne's tenth novel. It was published in 1873, at the height of his powers, and it established his popularity in Britain – and in America, where it was the bestseller of the year, with sales topping a million.

It achieved its greatest popularity in the twentieth century through Michael Todd's film with David Niven in the title role.

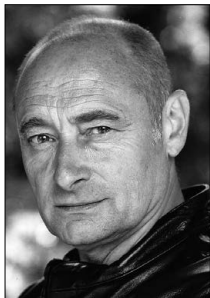
Around the World in Eighty Days chronicles the dramatic dash from continent to continent by the eccentric Englishman, Phileas Fogg, who takes the challenge in order to win a wager. Fogg is very much a Frenchman's idea of the English gentleman, a figure of extreme punctiliousness who is quite content to 'let his servant do his sightseeing for him'. He is balanced by the excitable and warm-hearted Passepartout – perhaps a Frenchman's idea of the true Frenchman.

The book was written as a serial and ran in the Paris newspaper, *Le Temps*, in real time, with the story and the journey ending on the same day at the end of December 1872. Fogg's journey was followed keenly by readers, and episodes were telegraphed across the Atlantic.

It was a time when international tourist travel was becoming increasingly available to a wider section of people, and the details of visas, travelling methods and differing cultural traits was fascinating to the general reader.

The story falls easily into episodes, and the immediacy of the writing, mirroring the fast-moving pace of the action, makes it as gripping today as when it was first written.

Notes by Lesley Young



Bill Homewood is well known for his innumerable television performances and leading credits in the West End and for the RSC. His other recordings for Naxos AudioBooks include *She*, *Tom Jones*, *Allan Quatermain*, *The Red & the Black*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and the *Four Just Men* series.

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Executive Producer: Samuel Howard

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Booklet and cover design: Hannah Whale, Fruition – Creative Concepts,
using images from Shutterstock

CD catalogue no.: NA0231
Digital catalogue no.: NA0231D
CD ISBN: 978-1-84379-972-6
Digital ISBN: 978-1-84379-973-3

View our catalogue online at

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