

THE BOOK — OF THE — COURTIER BALDASSARE CASTIGLIONE



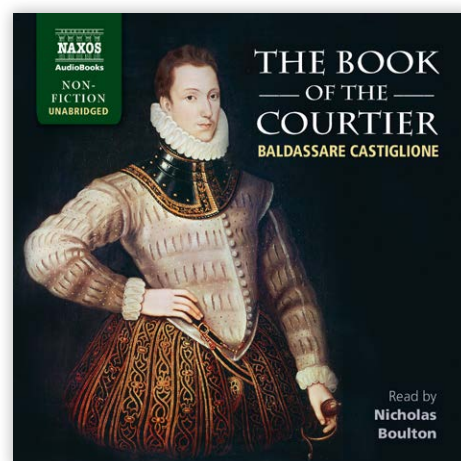
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Read by
**Nicholas
Boulton**

Set in the court of Urbino in 1507, Castiglione's *The Book of the Courtier* presents an invaluable look at court life and culture during the Renaissance. Over four nights of dialogue, the book explores the key question, 'What should a courtier be like?'; it presents a deep and timeless discussion that is reminiscent of Plato's *Symposium* and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, and invites comparisons with Machiavelli's *The Prince*. It is absorbing and enlightening, and encompasses a wide range of topics that include dancing, fencing, war, religion, culture, courtly and corporeal love and gender relations, with a surprisingly modern defence of women and equal rights.







Nicholas Boulton graduated from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, winning the BBC Carleton Hobbs Award for Radio. He has since featured in countless BBC radio dramas, narrated a plethora of award-winning audiobooks, and died a thousand deaths in various video games. Film, TV and theatre appearances include *Shakespeare in Love*, *Game of Thrones* and *Wolf Hall* (RSC).



Total running time: 11:24:15 • 10 CDs
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		The Book of the Courtier	13:27				
1	1-1	The First Book of the Courtier	10:16	23	4-4	'Sometimes, thinking it to be droll and witty...'	11:04
2	1-2		12:26	24	4-5	'Hence in our mode of life and conversation...'	12:27
3	1-3	The same it was among the ladies...	11:25	25	4-6	'Moreover we must diligently consider...'	12:34
4	1-4	My lady Duchess laughed, and the Unico...	11:31	26	5-1	Messer Bernardo said: 'They must rather have...'	11:42
5	1-5	'I wish, then, that this Courtier of ours...'	11:36	27	5-2	'But among other witticisms those have...'	11:25
6	1-6	Then my lord Gaspare replied: 'As for me...'	11:39	28	5-3	'You see that this situation gave opportunity...'	10:14
7	2-1	Then Messer Cesare Gonzaga said...	12:04	29	5-4	'Don Giovanni di Cardona said something...'	10:44
8	2-2	Then my lord Magnifico said: 'This is true...'	11:52	30	5-5	'Another time Rafaello de Pazzi saw a letter...'	11:26
9	2-3	The Magnifico said: 'I cannot and in reason...'	11:25	31	5-6	Then my lady Duchess said: 'And why do you...'	9:13
10	2-4	'We, on the contrary, much more strict...'	11:24	32	5-7	And so, after they had again laughed awhile...	8:31
11	2-5	Then the Count said: 'I fear we shall be entering...'	12:17	33	6-1	Then Messer Bernardo said, laughing...	13:30
12	2-6	'Thus you know Alexander held Homer...'	11:28	34	6-2	The Third Book of the Courtier	11:33
13	3-1	Then my lord Gaspare said: 'I admit that music...'	10:40	35	6-3	'Laying aside, then, those faculties of the mind...'	11:36
14	3-2	'Therefore painting seems to me nobler...'	10:16	36	6-4	Then my lord Gaspare said: 'I do not wish...'	12:01
15	3-3	The Second Book of the Courtier	10:34	37	6-5	'I do not see, my lord Magnifico,...'	11:54
16	3-4	Therefore let it be allowed us also to follow...	9:53	38	6-6	The Magnifico Giuliano laughed, and said...	11:10
17	3-5	'And I remember having in my time known...'	10:40	39	7-1	My lord Gaspare said: 'It may be that this lady...'	11:51
18	3-6	Messer Federico replied: 'I regard as beautiful...'	9:40	40	7-2	'But laying all others aside, tell me, my lord...'	12:39
19	3-7	Without waiting for more, Pietro da Napoli...	11:31	41	7-3	Then Messer Cesare, who had been silent...	11:02
20	4-1	Then Messer Federico replied: 'I will by no...'	11:19	42	7-4	'Forgive me, my lord Gaspare, if I say the truth...'	12:46
21	4-2	'But I do not wish to touch on painful subjects...'	11:17	43	7-5	Messer Cesare having ceased speaking...	11:23
22	4-3	'What,' replied my lord Gaspare, 'do you say...'		44	7-6	Then my lord Gaspare said, laughing...	12:20

									
45	8-1	'My Lady,' replied the Unico...	10:08	54	9-3	'I should say then, that the prince ought to...'	10:17		
46	8-2	The Magnifico replied: 'Love affairs that have...'	10:29	55	9-4	My lord Ottaviano added: 'I think, then...'	12:30		
47	8-3	Then my lord Gaspare said: 'Another cause...'	10:29	56	9-5	My lord Ottaviano laughed, and said: 'My lord...'	12:40		
48	8-4	If, then, these men had lived...	10:16	57	9-6	Then my lady Duchess said: 'I am glad, Messer...'	10:59		
49	8-5	'From this it follows that...'	10:11	58	10-1	Here Bembo paused a little, as if to rest...	10:43		
50	8-6	Then my lord Ottaviano said, smiling...	9:27	59	10-2	Messer Pietro Bembo was silent...	10:55		
51	8-7	My lord Ottaviano replied: 'You have judged...'	10:16	60	10-3	'Therefore the lover who considers beauty...'	10:39		
52	9-1	My lord Ottaviano replied: 'With that gentle...'	12:18	61	10-4	'What mortal tongue, then, O most holy Love...'	9:05		
53	9-2	Then my lord Gaspare said: 'I should much like...'	10:39						

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Translated by Leonard Eckstein Opdycke (updated)

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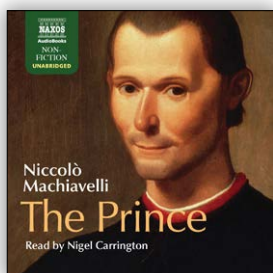
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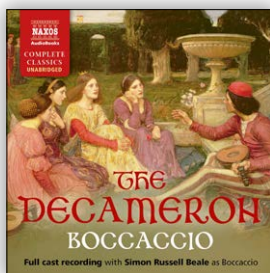
English poet, courtier, scholar and soldier, courtesy of AKG images

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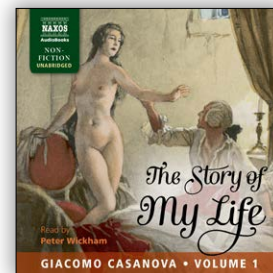
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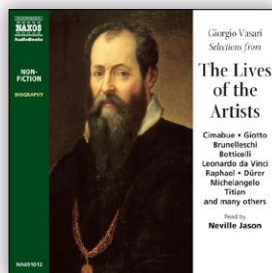
Niccolò Machiavelli
The Prince
Read by Nigel Carrington



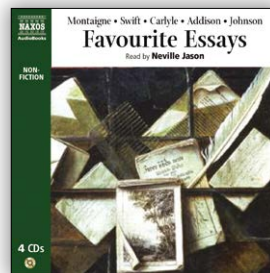
Boccaccio
The Decameron
Read by Simon Russell Beale and cast



Giacomo Casanova
The Story of My Life, Volume 1
Read by Peter Wickham



Giorgio Vasari
Selections from The Lives of the Artists
Read by Neville Jason



Montaigne, Swift et al.
Favourite Essays: An Anthology
Read by Neville Jason