



NAXOS
AudioBooks

JUNIOR
CLASSICS

Read by **Anton Lesser**

Aesop's Fables

'The great Anton Lesser'
– **Stephen Fry**



1	The Dog and the Shadow	1:25
2	The Cock and the Pearl	1:01
3	The Wolf and the Lamb	1:19
4	The Wolf and the Crane	1:36
5	The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse	1:46
6	The Fox and the Crow	1:35
7	The Lion and the Mouse	1:27
8	The Swallow and the Other Birds	1:32
9	The Mountains in Labour	1:14
10	The Hares and the Frogs	1:05
11	The Wolf and the Kid	0:52
12	The Woodman and the Serpent	1:05
13	The Fox and the Stork	1:30
14	The Fox and the Mask	0:35
15	The Jay and the Peacock	1:05
16	The Frog and the Ox	1:35
17	Androcles and the Lion	1:43
18	The Bat, the Birds and the Beasts	1:50
19	The Hart and the Hunter	1:02
20	The Serpent and the File	0:36
21	The Man and the Wood	0:33
22	The Dog and the Wolf	1:33

23	The Belly and the Members	0:59
24	The Fox and the Grapes	1:11
25	The Horse, Hunter and Stag	1:18
26	The Peacock and Juno	0:35
27	The Fox and the Lion	0:38
28	The Lion and the Statue	1:14
29	The Ant and the Grasshopper	1:17
30	The Tree and the Reed	1:27
31	The Fox and the Cat	1:19
32	The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing	0:43
33	The Man and His Two Wives	1:31
34	The Nurse and the Wolf	1:11
35	The Tortoise and the Birds	0:59
36	The Two Crabs	0:40
37	The Ass in the Lion's Skin	0:49
38	The Two Fellows and the Bear	1:21
39	The Two Pots	0:52
40	The Four Oxen and the Lion	0:50
41	The Fisher and the Little Fish	0:47
42	The Crow and the Pitcher	1:14
43	The Man and the Satyr	1:14
44	The Goose With the Golden Eggs	0:49

45	The Labourer and the Nightingale	1:49
46	The Fox, the Cock and the Dog	1:13
47	The North Wind and the Sun	1:17
48	Hercules and the Waggoner	1:09
49	The Man, the Boy and the Donkey	2:10
50	The Miser and His Gold	0:55
51	The Fox and the Mosquitoes	1:13
52	The Fox Without a Tail	1:18
53	Belling the Cat	1:38
55	The Hare and the Tortoise	1:10
56	The Old Man and Death	1:08
57	The Hare With Many Friends	1:49
58	The Lion In Love	1:16
59	The Bundle of Sticks	0:45
59	The Lion, the Fox and the Beasts	1:10
60	The Ass's Brains	1:26
61	The Eagle and the Arrow	0:52
62	The Milkmaid and Her Pail	1:00
63	The Trumpeter Taken Prisoner	0:54
64	The Horse and the Ass	0:56
65	The Old Woman and the Wine-Jar	0:45
66	The Fox and the Goat	1:21

Total time: 78:42

Aesop's Fables

Legend says that Aesop was a slave who lived in Ancient Greece around 600BC but there is no real record of his life or death. We don't even know for certain which of these fables, called Aesop's Fables, were actually by him.

Over the years, over the many centuries, people added to this collection, contributing new stories and perhaps adding new aphorisms – the short sentences which explain the moral of the tale. For many people have found that this method of telling a short story to make a point – and help people remember the point – is a very effective way.

In France in the 17th century, a writer called Jean de la Fontaine produced many new fables which told stories for his time. In America in the 19th century, Ambrose Bierce also loved the fable, and wrote many for his time. And in Japan, the same method was used by Zen Buddhist monks as a learning and teaching device – these are called Zen stories.

But who Aesop was, we have no idea.

We can imagine him as a quiet, well-educated reflective man – tradition says he was a slave, but often slaves were educated in Ancient Greece. Perhaps he wasn't so quiet – because he must have been a good storyteller. In the days of Aesop, the stories would have been told, rather than written for others to read.

By the time these fables emerged, Ancient Greece had a strong tradition of telling stories or poems – Homer's famous tales of Troy and Odysseus were well-known by the time Aesop was supposed to have lived. And the pictures we have of storytellers on Greek vases show, very often, the storyteller weaving his spell with the help of a harp – adding music to the words, as we do here.

And there is no reason why the tradition of fables should come to an end now... anyone... everyone can add new fables to the store of history.

Even you.

Notes by Nicolas Soames



The Fox and the Crow



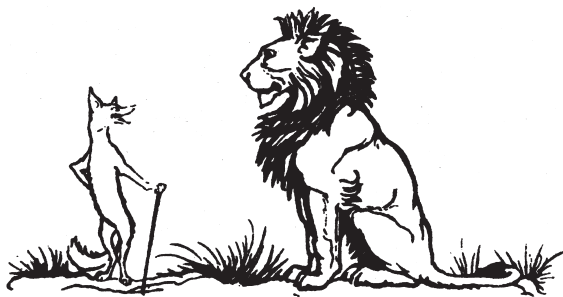
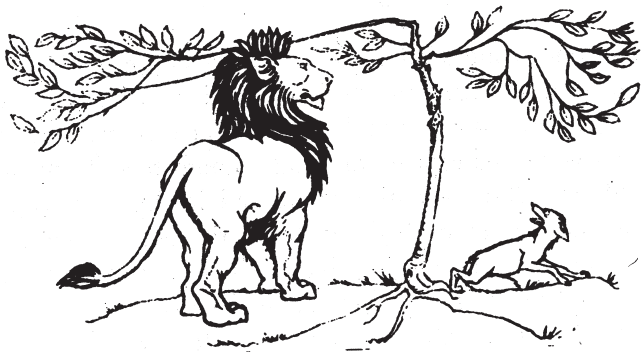
The Crow and the Pitcher



The North Wind and the Sun



The Fox and the Stork



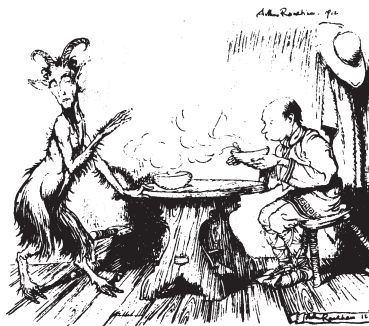
The Fox and the Lion



The Dog and the Shadow



The Frog and the Ox



The Man and the Satyr



The Old Woman and the Wine-Jar



The Wolf and the Crane



The Man, the Boy and the Donkey



The Man, the Boy and the Donkey



Anton Lesser, one of Britain's leading classical actors, has worked extensively at the National Theatre, and is an associate artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company. His many television appearances include roles in *The Cherry Orchard*, *King Lear*, *The Politician's Wife*, *Vanity Fair*, *Perfect Strangers* and *Dickens*. Films in which he has appeared include *Charlotte Gray*, *Fairytale – A True Story*, *Imagining Argentina*, *River Queen* and *Miss Potter*. He is a familiar voice on radio, and has become particularly associated with his award-winning readings of Dickens for Naxos AudioBooks. He has also read *Tristram Shandy* for Naxos AudioBooks.

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

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Jaroslav Krček, Capella Istropolitana, Nicholas Kraemer

Music programmed by Sarah Butcher

Credits

Selected and produced by Nicolas Soames

Edited by Sarah Butcher, SBS

Recorded by Alan Smyth, Bucks Audio Recordings

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Aesop's Fables

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Androcles and the Lion • The Crow and the Pitcher
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Read by **Anton Lesser**

How can the Tortoise run faster than the Hare? What happens when the Dog growls at its image? Or when the Country Mouse goes to supper with the Town Mouse? These wonderful stories have delighted adults and children for centuries, with their witty observations on both animals and humans. In the Fox, in the Crow, in the Lion, in the Ass who puts on a wolf's skin, we see humankind with all its foibles.

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"Swept along by Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Lesser reads the classic cautionary tales with his customary magic."

– The Times Educational Supplement

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FAVOURITES**

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