

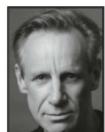
William Wordsworth

The Prelude

— The 1850 Text —

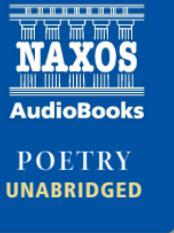
Read by **Nicholas Farrell**

Wordsworth's *Prelude* is the consummation of his achievement as the great founder of English romanticism. An autobiography in verse, it tells of his childhood in the Lake District, his student days in Cambridge, his passion for the French Revolution and his later disenchantment with it, and his personal journey to a belief in Nature as the great moral and spiritual force which shapes human life, but on which human society all too often turned its back. Subtitled 'Growth of a Poet's Mind', *The Prelude* is both a key document in the history of English literature, and an inspiring work of imagination, as fresh and challenging today as when it was written two centuries ago.



Nicholas Farrell has worked extensively on both stage and screen. His film credits include *Chariots of Fire*, *Pearl Harbor*, *Amazing Grace* and *The Iron Lady*. He also features as Horatio in Kenneth Branagh's film of *Hamlet* and can be seen in Trevor Nunn's *Twelfth Night* as Antonio. At the RSC and elsewhere in London he has appeared frequently in classical drama, including *Cymbeline*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Julius Caesar*, as well as Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* and *Three Sisters*. On television he is best known for his roles in *The Jury*, *Spooks*, *The Riff Raff Element*, *Foyles War*, *Torchwood* and *The Jewel in the Crown*. For Naxos AudioBooks he has read *Plutarch: Greek Lives* and has played the part of Buckingham in *King Richard III*; he can be heard regularly on radio.

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