

Oliver Goldsmith

THE VICAR OF WAKEFIELD

Read by **Nicholas Farrell**

The Vicar of Wakefield is a delightful tragicomedy of character and manners set in 18th-century England. The sufferings and fortitude of Doctor Primrose and his family at the hands of evil fortune make this a Book of Job transferred to the domestic stage. This is a classic novel that has baffled the critics, because no one is certain if it was intended as a sincere moral tale, or a sly satire on the chaotic, Hogarthian world in which Goldsmith, despite his brilliance, struggled in vain to survive.



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*, *Folye's 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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6 CDs
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ISBN: 978-184-379-777-7