

# 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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