

# Apuleius

## The Golden Ass

Read by **David Timson**

Translated by **E.J. Kenney**

'In this hapless state I looked myself over and saw that I was now no bird, but an ass...'

In this ancient picaresque adventure, Lucius, an insatiably curious young man, finds himself transformed into a donkey after his fascination with black magic and witchcraft goes awry. While trapped in his new body, he becomes the property of thieves, farmers, cooks, soldiers and priests, and observes the hypocrisy and ineptitude of Imperial Roman society. *The Golden Ass* is considered the only novel to survive the Roman period, and the earliest novel to survive complete in the Western literary tradition. It is brimming with slapstick humour and sexual escapades, and foreshadows later works by Boccaccio, Rabelais, Cervantes and Chaucer, upon whom it was a direct influence.



**David Timson** has made over 1,000 broadcasts for BBC Radio Drama. For Naxos AudioBooks he has written *The History of Theatre* and directed four Shakespeare plays. He has also read the entire *Sherlock Holmes* canon and Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

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