

# THE BOOK — OF THE — COURTIER

**BALDASSARE CASTIGLIONE**

Read by **Nicholas Boulton**

Set in the court of Urbino in 1507, Castiglione's *The Book of the Courtier* presents an invaluable look at court life and culture during the Renaissance. Over four nights of dialogue, the book explores the key question, 'What should a courtier be like?'; it presents a deep and timeless discussion that is reminiscent of Plato's *Symposium* and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, and invites comparisons with Machiavelli's *The Prince*. It is absorbing and enlightening, and encompasses a wide range of topics that include dancing, fencing, war, religion, culture, courtly and corporeal love and gender relations, with a surprisingly modern defence of women and equal rights.



**Nicholas Boulton** graduated from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, winning the BBC Carleton Hobbs Award for Radio. He has since featured in countless BBC radio dramas, narrated a plethora of award-winning audiobooks, and died a thousand deaths in various video games. Film, TV and theatre appearances include *Shakespeare in Love*, *Game of Thrones* and *Wolf Hall* (RSC).

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