

The Diary of a Madman AND OTHER STORIES

NIKOLAI GOGOL

Read by **Nicholas Boulton**

The Diary of a Madman and Other Stories is a bizarre and colourful collection containing the finest short stories by the iconic Russian writer Nikolai Gogol. From the witty and Kafkaesque *The Nose*, where a civil servant wakes up one day to find his nose missing, to the moving and evocative *The Overcoat*, about a reclusive man whose only ambition is to replace his old, threadbare coat, Gogol gives us a unique take on the absurd. Gogol's tales of inconsequential civil servants, mixing the everyday with the surreal, foreshadow the work of his later acolytes, Bulgakov and Kafka. None is more cutting than the main story, *The Diary of a Madman*, where a government clerk descends to insanity, claiming that he can communicate with dogs and that he is next in line to the throne of Spain.



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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