

Honoré de Balzac

FATHER GORIOT

Read by **Bill Homewood**

Impoverished young aristocrat Eugène de Rastignac is determined to climb the social ladder and impress himself on Parisian high society. While staying at the Maison Vauquer, a boarding house in Paris's rue Neuve-Sainte-Genève, he encounters Jean-Joachim Goriot, a retired vermicelli maker who has spent his entire fortune supporting his two daughters. The boarders strike up a friendship and Goriot learns of Rastignac's feelings for his daughter Delphine. He begins to see Rastignac as the ideal son-in-law, and the perfect substitute for Delphine's domineering husband. But Rastignac has other opportunities too, as the notorious criminal Vautrin, 'The Death Dodger', offers to murder the brother of a wealthy woman, giving the ambitious young lawyer a clear path to her fortune... Profound and realistic, *Father Goriot* is a startling glimpse into the vanity and selfishness of 19th-century Paris. It is considered one of the finest works of Balzac's *La Comédie Humaine*.



Bill Homewood is well known for his innumerable television performances and leading credits in the West End and for the RSC. His other recordings for Naxos AudioBooks include *She*, *Tom Jones*, *The Red & the Black*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, the *Four Just Men* series and *Les Misérables*.

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