

ANTON CHEKHOV

In the Ravine and Other Short Stories

Oh! The Public • The Chorus Girl • The Trousseau
A Story Without a Title • Children • Misery • Fat and Thin
The Beggar • Hush! • The Orator • An Actor's End

Read by **Kenneth Branagh**

Anton Chekhov is regarded by many as the most outstanding short story writer. This may be a surprise at the first encounter with even his most famous stories, because they are rarely driven by plot or anticipation. They are often gentle in character, elusive in purpose; but they create a resonance in the imagination that rings long. Here are twelve stories, from the brightly comic to the overtly tragic, each full of the sharpest observations of personality and situation, and with implications beyond their brief form: the dying actor, the children playing a game, the cabman with his tragedy, the orator's mistake and, perhaps most richly of all, a family laid bare in *In The Ravine*.



Kenneth Branagh, an award-winning figure in film, TV and on stage, is known for his contribution to Shakespearean performance with his films such as *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Henry V*, *Hamlet* and *Love's Labour's Lost*, and his productions for the Royal Shakespeare, Lyric and Renaissance theatre companies. Among his other films are: *Sleuth*, *Thor* and *Cinderella*. He has also recorded *King Richard III* and *King Lear* for Naxos AudioBooks.

'The 12 stories demonstrate Chekhov's versatility in tone – the dark comedy of Oh! The Public contrasts with the relatively light Children. All read with feeling and interspersed with Russian music.' **THE TIMES**

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9