

# A.E. Housman

## A Shropshire lad

Read by Samuel West

In *A Shropshire Lad*, A.E. Housman recreates a nostalgic world of lost love, lost youth, thwarted friendships, unfaithful girls, male bonding, untimely death and the uncertain glories of being a soldier. The poems deal with the exuberance of youth – its aspirations and disappointments, its naïve certainties and tragic mistakes. Though written in 1895, it struck a chord with the generation of young men who fought in World War I. It was said that every 'Tommy' had a copy in his knapsack. It has never been out of print.



Samuel West was widely praised for his performance as Leonard Bast in the Merchant Ivory film *Howard's End*. He has also read *Great Narrative Poems of the Romantic Age*, *Great Speeches in History*, *The Great Poets – John Keats and Peter Pan*, all for Naxos AudioBooks.

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