

H.E. Bates *Oh! To Be in England*

Read by **Philip Franks**

In the third sequel to *The Darling Buds of May*, Charley and Mariette decide to get baby Blenheim christened, leading to a wholesale christening of all seven of the Larkin children. Chaos abounds as the vicar, Mr Candy, is run ragged by the naughty twins Zinnia and Petunia, and finds himself the object of desire for Pop's second eldest, Primrose. To top it all off, Pop buys a fairground on a whim, and Mlle Dupont arrives to discover that Pop is not a Lord, nor does he live in a mansion. The result is a celebratory ending and a wonderful tribute to Pop's beloved countryside, with its 'nightingales and blackbirds, bluebells and primroses, haytime and high summer'. Perfick.



Philip Franks performed alongside Catherine Zeta-Jones and David Jason in the television series *The Darling Buds of May*. His extensive theatre credits encompass a range of roles, as he has worked variously with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Old Vic Theatre, and the Whitehall Theatre. He is regularly heard on BBC Radio in such programmes as *Poetry Please*, *With Great Pleasure* and *Words and Music*.

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