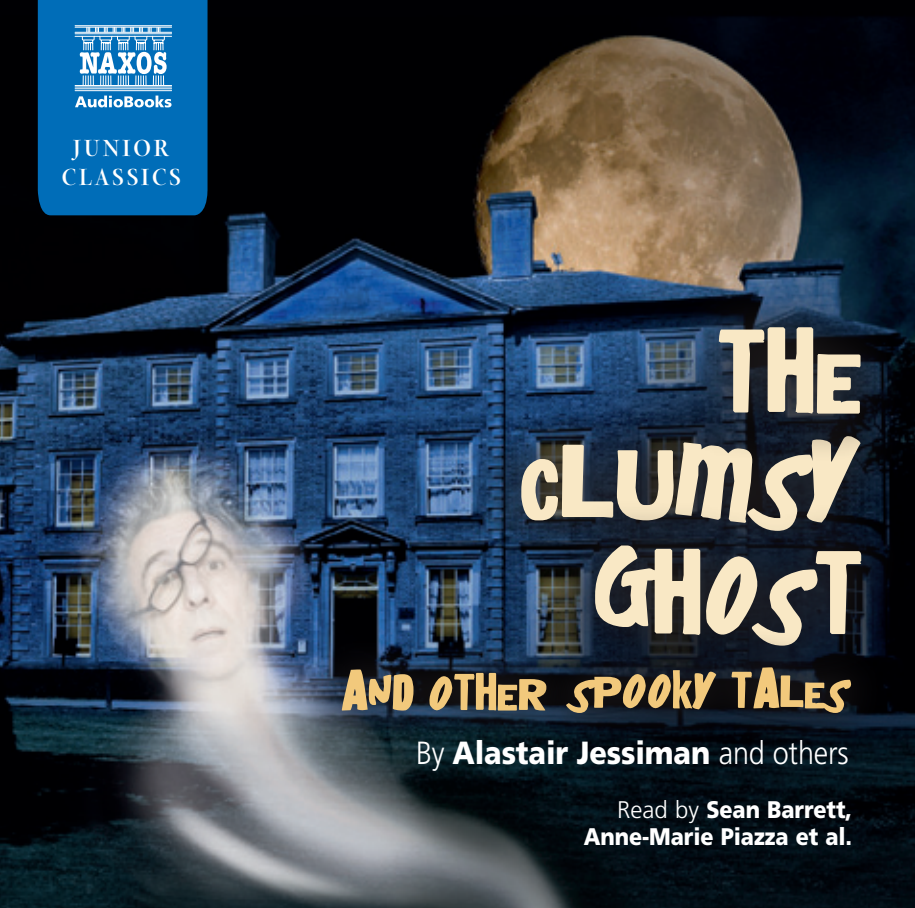




NAXOS
AudioBooks

JUNIOR
CLASSICS



THE CLUMSY GHOST

AND OTHER SPOOKY TALES

By **Alastair Jessiman** and others

Read by **Sean Barrett,**
Anne-Marie Piazza et al.

1	The Clumsy Ghost by Alastair Jessiman, read by Sean Barrett	5:14
2	But of course there was a problem...	6:04
3	One evening, the family had a séance in the lounge.	5:20
4	That evening, I stood by the arched window...	6:03
5	By the Hot Green Water by Anna Britten, read by Harry Somerville	4:19
6	After a couple of hours, we had a break...	5:43
7	Mum and I walked home the long way...	5:43
8	Unable to Connect by David Blake, read by Anne-Marie Piazza	5:21
9	When I went in this evening, there was still one customer...	6:09
10	After Mum died I was in a daze for weeks.	5:32
11	The Stillness written and read by Roy McMillan	4:10
12	Jake learned his father's trade quickly...	4:07
13	Three months later...	5:57
14	There was a lot of activity.	7:13

15	The Piper Boy by Edward Ferrie, read by Thomas Eyre	6:44
16	But Monday came before Friday...	3:27
17	Friday came and Steven knocked on the big oaken door...	4:31
18	Steven took a closer look...	5:13
19	Monday morning came. The swimming pool.	3:31
20	The Weeping Tree by Margaret Ferrie, read by Anne-Marie Piazza	4:25
21	She awoke the next morning...	4:15
22	Soon the three of them were seated around the table...	7:08
23	Amy slept fitfully that night...	5:43
24	For the next three nights...	7:26
25	The Book of Imhotep by David Angus, read by Sean Barrett	5:44
26	Together with some servants, carrying picks and shovels...	5:12
27	Setna reached out his hand to lift the book...	5:42
28	'This story is very sad,' said Setna...	5:52

Total time: 2:32:06

THE CLUMSY GHOST AND OTHER SPOOKY TALES

By **Alastair Jessiman** and others

Two of the greatest classic ghost stories are read all over the world by children: Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost* and Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. They have been made into films and plays and set to music. They are available in cartoon books, illustrated books and audiobooks. So it is surprising to realise that they are (as far as I know) virtually the only classic ghost stories that appeal to younger readers (as well as older ones, of course!).

What happened? Why didn't a genre develop in the 19th and early 20th centuries? Did our great classic writers miss a trick? There have been lots of magical tales in recent years, from Edith Nesbit, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien all the way through to J.K. Rowling, but few enduring stories to match *A Christmas Carol*. And ghost stories are so good to listen to, even better than to read on the page perhaps!

Over the years, Naxos AudioBooks has released quite a few collections of ghost stories – by Ambrose Bierce, Guy de Maupassant, M.R. James, Edgar Allan Poe, Saki, O. Henry and many others. But they were almost always for adults.

One day, I was talking to **David Blake**, sales manager of Naxos AudioBooks in the UK. He has a particular interest in ghost stories and has made various compilations for us. He mentioned that for some years, during the Christmas holidays, he, his wife and his two daughters each wrote a ghost story which they would then read aloud to the family, and over the years they had amassed quite a collection.

That prompted the idea for a new collection of ghost stories for junior listeners, and I asked to see some of David's stories. He sent me *Unable to Connect*, a ghost story with a modern setting and a very modern object – a

mobile phone. When I read it, I got a slightly chilling feeling: it worked! So I started to approach other writers, some of whom had written for Naxos AudioBooks in the past. My proposal was simple: that they write a ghost story for 8–13-year-olds, of between 2,500 and 3,500 words. Many had a go: some stories worked, some stories didn't, and some writers admitted defeat! It wasn't as easy as they had thought.

Alastair Jessiman has written a series of funny and even macabre radio plays for BBC Radio 4 (including a series devoted to a psychic detective) but could he write for a younger audience? With *The Clumsy Ghost* he showed his natural ability. **Anna Britten** worked for the Naxos AudioBooks office just after she left Oxford University, and went on to become a journalist and writer, successful in short story competitions and published by Bloomsbury. She has a young son and lives in Bath, which is partly why her story *By The Hot Green Water* feels so authentic!

Roy McMillan features prominently on Naxos AudioBooks as an outstanding reader (he has read *Don Quixote*, *A Dog's*

Heart and many others), producer (he has directed scores of major productions and radio plays) and abridger. He has also written *Pirates!* in our junior non-fiction range, and he decided to go back to the subject for his shivery tale *The Stillness*.

Edward Ferrie was the first writer to produce new texts for Naxos AudioBooks: he is the author of *Tales from the Greek Legends* and *Tales from the Norse Legends*, both of which remain among the label's bestsellers. An English teacher in Newcastle who also teaches judo (he was a member of the British judo team), he knows the world of sport well, and *The Piper Boy* draws on his experience in this field. A few days after his story arrived by email, another Ferrie text arrived unannounced: *The Weeping Tree* by his sister, **Margaret Ferrie**, a school inspector who also writes... and I suddenly found that the two CDs were rapidly becoming full up. There was room for just one more story: *The Book of Imhotep* by **David Angus**, the author of many of our junior non-fiction texts. He had just finished writing *The Glory of the*

Pharaohs, and he returned to this theme for his ghost story.

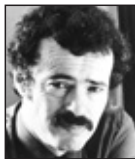
This was how this entertaining collection came together. Our five talented readers came into the studio and we had a lot of fun reading the stories; they were then edited, with music added by Sarah Butcher... and here we have it, an unusual collection of ghost stories for younger listeners written especially for audiobook.

I hope you enjoy listening to them as much as we have all enjoyed creating them. I am sure Mr Wilde and Mr Dickens would have approved!

Notes by Nicolas Soames



David Angus read Anthropology at university and then trained as an actor at the Drama Studio, London. In between acting jobs he began to write scripts and books and he has now written the texts for more than 30 audiobooks, including *Ballet Stories* for Naxos AudioBooks. This was both an AudioFile Earphone Award-winner and a 2002 Audie Award-winner for Best Children's Title for Ages 0–7.



Sean Barrett started acting as a boy on BBC children's television in the days before colour, when it went out live. He grew up through *Z Cars*, *Armchair Theatre*, *Minder* and *Father Ted*. His theatre credits include *Peter Pan* at the old Scala Theatre and Noël Coward's *Suite in 3 Keys* in the West End. Films include *War & Peace*, *Dunkirk* and *A Cry from the Streets*. He was a member of the BBC Radio Drama Company. He also features in *Molloy*, *Malone Dies*, *The Unnamable*, *The Voice of the Buddha* and *Canterbury Tales III* and read the part of Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot* for Naxos AudioBooks.



David Blake is a tall, middle-aged man, living in London in a house full of females – a wife, daughters and cats. He gardens, sculpts, writes but spends most of his time working as head of sales for a classical music company. This is better than accountancy, his first career choice, though perhaps not as healthy as leading a plough team, the career suggested by his accent, build and ancestry.



Anna Britten is an author and journalist from Bath, England. Her short stories have been broadcast by BBC Radio 4, published in the Bridport Prize Anthology 2010, the Bloomsbury anthology *Is This What You Want?* (via the Asham Award), *Tales of the DeCongested*, and on the US websites *Eclectica* and *Prick Of The Spindle*. She has just completed her debut novel.



Thomas Eyre read English at Lincoln College, Oxford, before training as an actor at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. He has recorded several audiobooks including Kate Mosse's *The Winter Ghosts*, Ken Follett's *Eye Of The Needle*, BBC's *Life: Extraordinary Animals, Extreme Behaviour* and Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis And Other Stories* for RNIB.



Margaret Ferrie has worked with young people in education for over 30 years. Originally a historian, teacher and schools advisor, she has developed a wide range of expertise in writing and the role of storytelling to inform learning. She is currently developing a project to improve writing using dramatic readings and multimedia approaches based upon her own stories.



Edward Ferrie is a teacher, writer, linguist and photographer, an ex-judo champion and special correspondent for the *Guardian*, and a former royal bodyguard. He has produced numerous books on judo, martial arts, physical training and combat sports as well as written audiobooks on Greek and Norse myths for Naxos. He currently works and lives with his two daughters in Newcastle upon Tyne.



Alastair Jessiman is originally from Scotland but now lives in Norwich, where he works for the Norwich Buddhist Centre. He is also the author of a number of radio plays, and a very silly comedy series called *Boxer and Doberman*. *The Clumsy Ghost* is his first children's story but he hopes to write many more.



Roy McMillan is a director, writer, actor and abridger. For Naxos AudioBooks he has read *The Body Snatcher and Other Stories*, *Bulldog Drummond*, *The French Revolution – In a Nutshell*, *Heaven's Command* and the introductions to works by Nietzsche and the Ancient Greeks. He has directed readings of Hardy, Hopkins, Kipling, Milton, Blake, Austen, Murakami, Conrad and Bulgakov, among many others; and has written podcasts and sleevenotes, as well as biographies of Milton and Poe. He has also directed plays for BBC Radio 3 and 4.



Anne-Marie Piazza graduated from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in 2008, having played Olivia in *Twelfth Night* and Doris, Diana and Isabel in *The American Clock*. Other theatre roles include Queen Elizabeth in *Richard III* (Durham Castle) and Kate in *Kiss Me Kate* (Gala Theatre). She has also appeared in the National Youth Theatre and Kneehigh's *Hanging Around*. Her work for Radio 4 includes *The Archers* and the plays *I Believe I Have Genius* and *The Day They Wouldn't Take It Anymore*.



Harry Somerville has appeared in TV productions for CBBC and ITV as well as theatre, and has recently completed his first short film, *Be Blessed*, in a lead role. Harry loves reading and listening to books, as well as playing the piano and singing. This is his first reading for Naxos AudioBooks.

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

DEBUSSY IMAGES

BRT Philharmonic Orchestra (Brussels); Alexander Rahbari, conductor 8.550505

ORCHESTRAL WORKS, VOL. 1

Lyon National Orchestra; Jun Märkl, conductor 8.570759

ELGAR FALSTAFF/THE SANGUINE FAN

English Northern Philharmonia; David Lloyd-Jones, conductor 8.553879

GLAZUNOV ORCHESTRAL WORKS VOL. 13

Moscow Symphony Orchestra; Alexander Anissimov, conductor 8.554293

RESPIGHI SYMPHONIC POEMS

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RIMSKY-KORSAKOV BATTLE MUSIC

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Music programming by Sarah Butcher

Credits

Recorded at Motivation Sound Studios, London

Produced by Nicolas Soames

Edited by Malcolm Blackmoor

Mastered by Sarah Butcher

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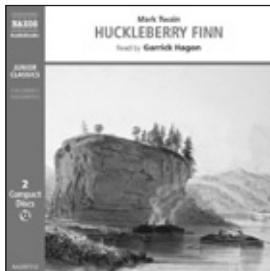
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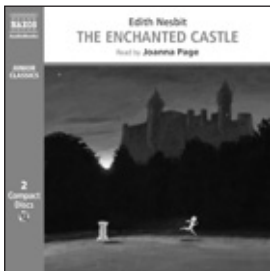
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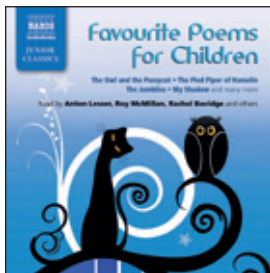
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Read by Joe Marsh



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Rachel Bavidge and others



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Read by Benjamin Soames

THE CLUMSY GHOST AND OTHER SPOOKY TALES

The Clumsy Ghost by Alastair Jessiman
By the Hot Green Water by Anna Britten
Unable to Connect by David Blake
The Stillness by Roy McMillan
The Piper Boy by Edward Ferrie
The Weeping Tree by Margaret Ferrie
The Book of Imhotep by David Angus

Read by **Sean Barrett • Harry Somerville • Anne-Marie Piazza
Roy McMillan • Thomas Eyre**

In this entertaining anthology of seven new ghost stories, written especially for Naxos AudioBooks, we meet all kinds of phantoms in different situations: a kind-hearted but accident-prone spectre unwittingly upsetting a family home, as well as ghosts in ancient Egypt, on board a pirate ship, and in a Newcastle swimming pool. Engaging and slightly sinister, *The Clumsy Ghost and Other Spooky Tales* is a delightful shiver for all the family.

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