



## The Three Sisters

*Anton Chekhov (1860 - 1904)*

Read by:	Anton Chekhov	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	2 hours and 21 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1219
Language:	English	UPC:	0701236969382
Style:	Dramatic reading	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Fiction, Plays		

*The Three Sisters* is the third of Chekhov's four major plays. Written in 1900 and first performed by the Moscow Art Theatre in 1901, it is a chronicle of the aspirations, dreams, hopes, frustrations, temptations, transgressions, compromises, and disappointments in the lives of the Prozorov siblings over a span of several years in a provincial town. The eldest sister Olga, 28, is a spinster school teacher. Masha, 23, a temperamental concert pianist carries on an affair with a dashing soldier, Vershinin, to escape a disappointing marriage. Irina, still hopeful at 20, hopes only to return to life in Moscow to find true love. They dote on their brother Andrei, who falls off the fast track and gambles his way into debt after an ill-advised marriage to the scheming Natasha, who gradually takes over the household and cheats on him with his boss. A number of soldiers stationed nearby become frequent visitors and companions as well. Interestingly, several of the key characters are frequently mentioned but never appear on stage: Protopopov, head of the local Council and Natasha's paramour; Vershinin's suicidal wife and two daughters; and Bobik and Sofia, the children of Andrei and Natasha. A landmark of modern theatre, the play is a subtle and powerful portrayal of everyday life fenced in by the limits of character and small-town reality.

Anton Chekhov (January 29, 1860 – July 15, 1904) was a Russian physician, playwright and author of short stories. He is considered one of the finest writers of short fiction in history and, along with Ibsen and Strindberg, one of the founders of modernism in the theatre. He was born the third of six children in the port town of Taganrog on the north shore of the Sea of Azov in southern Russia. His father, a grocer, declared bankruptcy in 1876 and moved the family to Moscow, leaving Anton behind to liquidate the property and complete his schooling. Anton joined his family and entered medical school in 1879, supporting the family by writing short vignettes and humorous sketches for the newspapers and gaining both popular and literary attention. He became a doctor in 1884 but practiced little. At about the same time he contracted tuberculosis. Noted author Dmitry Grigorovich helped him win the Pushkin prize in 1888 for his short story collection *At Dusk*. He settled in a small country estate in 1892, where he wrote his first major play, *The Seagull*, in 1894, and then built a villa in Yalta after his tuberculosis worsened. He married actress Olga Knipper in 1901. *The Cherry Orchard*, his last major play, received accolades when it was produced a few months before his death in 1904 and established his reputation a great Russian writer, second only to Tolstoy, which stands to this day.

Contact: Sales Department  
 (216) 226-2964  
 classics@mp3audiobookclassics.com