



## The Metamorphoses of Ovid

*Publius Ovidius Naso* (3 B.C. - 7 A.D.)

Read by: Multiple readers	Format: MP3 CD in DVD case, jewel case, or paper sleeve
Length: 14 hours 43 minutes	Catalog: DB-1265
Language: English	UPC: 0701236969856
Style: Collaborative	MSLP: \$11.99
Genre: Poetry; Myth, Legends, & Fairy Tales	

*The Metamorphoses* is considered Ovid's masterpiece. It defies easy classification: it is a Latin narrative poem written in an epic style that sets out to chronicle no less than the entire history of the world from creation through the deification of Julius Caesar in a framework that loosely blends history and mythology. Consisting of 15 books and 11,995 lines in dactylic hexameter, it weaves over 250 myths into a tapestry of varying tones and themes, with a common thread of change and transformation and the recurring theme of love. The narrative jumps around somewhat, but the whole has been identified to fall into four divisions: *The Divine Comedy* (Books 1-2); *The Avenging Gods* (Books 3-6); *The Pathos of Love* (Books 6-11); and *Rome and the*

*Deified Ruler* (Books 12-15). The *Metamorphoses* is a virtual encyclopedia of mythology and served as the main source of myth for many writers and artists. Scenes from the poem are the subject of famous paintings by Titian, Brueghel, and Bernini, among others. Some consider it to be the most important influence on western literature; its material features prominently in *The Canterbury Tales*, the Shakespeare plays, in *Milton's Paradise Lost*, and in the works of Boccaccio, Dante, and Cervantes. In spite of its enormous popularity, there is no surviving manuscript from antiquity; nothing complete was found until the 11th century. Highly popular in the Renaissance, interest declined until a number of new translations in the last half of the 20th century sparked a renewed interest.

**Publius Ovidius Naso** (March 20, 43 BC – c. 17 AD), generally known as Ovid, was a Roman poet who lived during the time of Augustus and is ranked with Virgil and Horace as one of the three great canonical poets of Roman literature. He is best known for *The Metamorphoses*, a mythological narrative written in epic meter, and for *Ars Amatoria* (*The Art of Love*). He was born to an in the Apennine Valley and educated in rhetoric in Rome in preparation for a law career, which he renounced in favor of poetry. His early work consisted of poems in elegiac meter with erotic themes; his first was the *Heriodes* (19 BC), letters of mythological heroines to their absent lovers, followed by *Amores*, (16 BC), a collection of erotic poems to a lover. He wrote a tragedy *Medea*, which has been lost, and a work on women's beauty treatments before the appearance of the *Art of Love*, a manual of seduction and intrigue. Not surprisingly, he was married three times by the age of 30. *The Metamorphoses* was published in 8 AD, the same year he was exiled to a province on the Black Sea for reasons unknown, a mystery that has remained unsolved and which Ovid himself said was the result of "a poem and a mistake". His work was popular in antiquity and the Middle Ages and has exerted a major influence in the works of Chaucer, Cervantes, Shakespeare, Boccaccio, and Dante in literature, and Degas and Delacroix in art.