



## A Room with a View

*E. M. Forster (1879 - 1970)*

Read by:	Elizabeth Klett	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	7 hours 8 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1094
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936721
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Fiction		

*A Room with a View* portrays the issues that the adventurous young Lucy Honeychurch faces as she journeys to Florence and Rome with her stuffy older cousin Charlotte as chaperone. An upper middle class Englishwoman, her strong independent streak leads her into situations that challenge the strict codes of conduct and social expectations in the culture of Edwardian England. It is a novel of binary opposites. Set in both Italy and England, we see the contrast between the warm, colorful, sensual Italy with the chilly, dark English culture. Conservative characters are static, stuck in rooms, while dynamic characters are modern, progressive, open to the winds of change. It is a romantic and optimistic work: as Lucy moves away from her protected life she eventually charts her own course with the partner she loves.

*A Room with a View* was adapted for the theatre in 1975 and made into an award-winning film by the team of Merchant-Ivory in 1985. The Modern Library ranks *A Room with a View* 79th on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century.

**Edward Morgan (E. M.) Forster** (January 1, 1879 – June 7, 1970) was an English author known best for his ironic novels examining class and hypocrisy in early 20th-century British society. He was born in London the only child of a middle class Anglo-Irish and Welsh family. His father died when he was a toddler. He inherited a substantial sum at age 8 that gave him enough to survive and become a writer. He attended King's College, Cambridge and belonged to the Apostles discussion group, whose membership included many who would belong to the Bloomsbury Group. After university he traveled widely in Europe, Egypt, and India. He volunteered with the Red Cross in Egypt during the First World War. In the 1920's he served as private secretary to the Maharajah of Dewas, and wrote *A Passage to India* (1924) upon his return to England, winning the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for fiction. In the 1930's and 1940's he became a successful broadcaster with the BBC.

Forster was a lifelong bachelor and an unapologetic homosexual, open to friends such as Benjamin Britten and Christopher Isherwood, but closeted in his public life. His novel *Maurice*, a gay love story written before the First World War, caused a stir when it was published shortly after his death.