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## Bashan and I

*Thomas Mann (June 6, 1875 - August 12, 1955)*

Read by: David Wales                      Translator: Kenneth Burke  
 Length: 4 hours and 13 minutes        Genre: Fiction  
 Language: English                          Style: Solo

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1343	0674012595535	\$9.99
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-1343	0674012595542	\$9.99
MP3 CD	Security sleeve	CD-1343	NA	\$3.99
MP3 download	Zip file	DL-1343	NA	\$3.99

During the First World War Thomas Mann wrote this simple, moving story of his relationship with his short-haired German pointer Bashan. It was a refuge from the hideous realities of the world at war and a flight into the deeper mysteries of nature embodied in his devoted, energetic, intelligent companion. Over the course of their daily walks Mann's understanding and appreciation of Bashan's nature as a living creature slowly grows as he documents his delight in chasing rabbits and squirrels and his careful investigation of stones, branches, and wet leaves. Over time the two develop a deep bond, leading Mann to contemplate his dog's inner life and marvel at the ease with which Bashan trusts him completely. He finds that the unique relationship has quietly moved to the forefront of

his life and is surprised by the depth of his loneliness when the two are briefly separated. Despite the connection, Mann also feels an acute sense of loss at not being able to enter the private world of the animal and an increasing awareness of the eternal divide between mankind and the rest of nature. Nevertheless, the deep affection he feels for another living creature reveals to Mann a newfound understanding of the nature of love in all its complexity.

**Thomas Mann** (June 6, 1875 - August 12, 1955) was a German novelist, short story writer, social critic, and essayist, active during the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich. Born in 1875 in Lübeck, Mann was the second oldest of five siblings. His father was a senator and merchant. Mann's family was well-educated and had a strong interest in literature, which influenced Mann's early love of literature. He began writing at a young age and published his first story at the age of 18. Mann studied at the Technical University of Munich but dropped out to focus on writing. In 1901 he published his first novel, "Buddenbrooks," which was based on the history of his own family. The novel was a great success and established him as one of the leading German writers of his time. Mann's literary career spanned several decades, during which he wrote numerous novels and stories, including the famous novel "Death in Venice" in 1912, which explored the themes of beauty and decay, and the novel "The Magic Mountain," in 1924, a rich exploration of the human condition. Mann's political views were liberal, and during the rise of Nazism in Germany, he was an outspoken critic of the regime. He was forced to flee to Switzerland in 1933 and later moved to the United States, becoming an American citizen in 1944. He died in 1955 in Zurich, Switzerland.