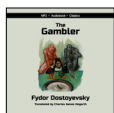


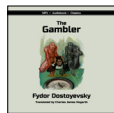
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CD jacket



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## The Gambler

*Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821 - 1881) Translated by Charles James Hogarth*

Read by: Jason Ingolfsland and Bill Boerst Language: English  
 Length: 6 hours 2 minutes Style: Solo  
 Genre: Fiction

### Product Formats and Options

Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-1305	0686175923094	\$7.99
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1305	0686175923087	\$9.99
MP3 CD	Security sleeve	CD-1305	NA	\$4.99
MP3 download	Zip file	DL-1305	NA	\$4.99

Dostoevsky knew his subject all too well when he wrote *The Gambler*, as he had a serious addiction to roulette. In 1866, he made a deal with a ruthless publisher to pay off his considerable gambling debts: he would deliver a novel within 30 days or forfeit his publishing income for nine years. He wrote quickly, dictating to a stenographer, and delivered the finished product with only hours to spare. Alexei, the gambler and narrator of the story, is an impoverished young nobleman serving as a tutor to the family of an imperious Russian general living beyond his means in an Alpine resort noted for its casino and international clientele of high rollers. Alexei falls for Polina, the general's stepdaughter, who is pretty, seductive and manipulative. She treats him like a dog and sets off his obsession with gambling by asking him to place a bet for her, which he wins, and which culminates in a spree in which he wins big but fails to win her affection. Alexei is not the only gambler, however. We come see that each of the characters is betting that they can manipulate circumstances to their advantage. The General hopes to inherit a fortune from his rich aunt; the alluring Frenchwoman wants to marry the General for his money;

the pompous Frenchman wants to foreclose on the General's properties; the rich aunt visits and drops a bundle at the tables and stiffs the General. After the Frenchwoman seduces Alexei and persuades him to spend his winnings on her, she ditches him to marry the General. And the winner is?

**Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoyevsky** (November 11, 1821 – February 9, 1881) was a Russian author whose works are noted for their extraordinary psychological depth and engagement with religious and philosophical themes. Born the second son of a physician to the poor in Moscow, his nanny read him fairy tales, legends and heroic sagas and his family introduced him to wide range of literature. He attended boarding schools in Moscow, followed by the Nickolayev Military Engineering School in St. Petersburg, where he was a solitary, introverted outsider with a distinctly un-military bearing. In 1846 he published *Poor Folk*, described as Russia's first "social novel" by renowned literary critic Belinsky. Commercial success enabled him to focus on his writing and gain access to St. Petersburg literary circles, where he developed an interest in socialism and joined a group that discussed banned books critical of "Tsarist Russia". Group members were arrested in 1849 and sentenced to death. The sentence was commuted at the last minute to four years in a Siberian prison camp followed by six years of military service. During his time in the military he the widow of an officer. He suffered from epilepsy, and was released from the military due to poor health in 1859. He returned to Russia and 1861 published *The House of the Dead*, the first book describing the horrid conditions in Russian prisons. He toured Europe for the first time in 1862 and again in 1863, where he lost most of his money gambling. Both his wife and elder brother died in 1864. Returning to St. Petersburg, he published his first major work, *Crime and Punishment*, in 1866, followed by *The Gambler* in 1867. He married his stenographer that same year and left for a honeymoon in Germany planned for several months that lasted four years. He returned again to Russia in 1871 and struggled with financial troubles as well as increasingly poor health. In 1873 he began *A Writer's Diary*, a continuing collection of essays that attracted the attention of Tsar Alexander II, who commanded an in-presentation of the work and requested that he educate his two sons. While his recognition increased and his mature work continued, his health deteriorated. He was elected to the honorary committee of the Association Litteraire er Atistique Internationale alongside the likes of Victor Hugo, Alfred Tennyson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Leo Tolstoy. *The Brothers Karamazov* was published in 1880. His address at the unveiling of the Pushkin Memorial in 1880 had a significant emotional impact and was met with thunderous applause. When he died in 1881 his funeral was attended by an estimated 50,000 – 100,000 mourners.