



## Howards End

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

Read by:	Elizabeth Klett	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	12 hours 3 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1093
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936714
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$11.99
Genre:	Fiction		

*Howards End* intertwines the lives of three families in early 20th century England. The idealistic and intellectual Schlegel siblings, Margaret, Tibby and Helen, are deeply involved with modern art and social progress. The Wilcoxes are well-to-do capitalists with interests in the colonies; the matriarch, Ruth, owns a country known as Howards End. The Basts, the struggling clerk Leonard and his wife Jacky, a “fallen woman”, eke out a lower class living. The events of the complex plot places the characters in one another’s lives in surprising and challenging ways. Alliances are formed, mistakes made, confidences betrayed, and reality clashes repeatedly with the dictates of social convention and codes of behavior.

Published in 1910, *Howards End* is considered Forster’s masterpiece by many. Emma Thompson won an Academy Award for her portrayal of Margaret Schlegel in the 1992 Merchant-Ivory film. The Modern Library places it 38th on its list of the 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.