



The Man Who Knew Too Much

G. K. Chesterton (1874 - 1936)

Read by:	Martin Clifton	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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”The Prime Minister is my father’s friend. The Foreign Minister married my sister. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is my first cousin.” In this statement from “The Vengeance of the Statue”, Horne Fisher, the eponymous protagonist of eight of the stories in *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, encapsulates the dilemma of the ultimate insider who knows too much of the goings on behind the scenes played out in the public political arena. Each of these interconnected tales features a murder, and the knowledgeable Fisher can uncover the underlying injustices and corruptions pertinent to each. Sadly, the perpetrators go free, as revealing the truth would lead to epic ramifications – war, rebellion, or loss of faith in government. Fisher’s activities are chroni-

clled by a political journalist, Harold March, who serves as a sounding board for Fisher’s theories and ruminations. The book was published in 1922 and contained four additional stories in a similar vein in the English edition. The title has been appropriated for four films, two by Alfred Hitchcock, and at least seven books and magazine stories, none of which bear any relation to the original book.

Gilbert Keith “G. K.” Chesterton (May 29, 1874 – June 14, 1936) was an English writer who addressed a wide array of subjects. His non-fiction work includes philosophy, biography, journalism, history, literary and art criticism, and Christian apologetics. His creative work includes poetry, plays, and fiction. He is best known for his Father Brown series of detective stories, his novel *The Man Who was Thursday*, his biographies of Charles Dickens and Thomas Aquinas, and his Christian apologetics *Orthodoxy* and *The Everlasting Man*. His style is characterized by frequent use of adages, proverbs, and allegory, and a penchant for paradox. His prodigious output includes 80 books, 200 short stories, several hundred poems, several plays and 4,000 essays. In the 1930’s he gave a series of about 40 talks on BBC Radio which were immensely popular.

He was born in London, educated at St. Paul’s School and attended the Slade School of Art and University College but did not complete a degree. He worked in publishing and became a freelance journalist and critic, and was fond of engaging in public debates with friends such as H. G. Wells, Bertrand Russell, and especially George Bernard Shaw, with whom he had a congenial friendship in spite of their differences, and who remembered him as “a colossal genius”. Baptized an Anglican and raised Unitarian, he converted to Catholicism in 1922. His influence was well described in the homily given at his funeral: “All of this generation has grown up under Chesterton’s influence so completely that we do not even know when we are thinking Chesterton”.