



The Man Who Was Thursday

G. K. Chesterton (1874 - 1936)

Read by:	Zachary Brewster-Geislen	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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Genre:	Mystery & Detective Fiction		

Written in 1908 and set in the Edwardian era, *The Man Who Was Thursday* is a classic suspense novel sometimes termed a “metaphysical thriller”. Detective Gabriel Syme is recruited by Scotland Yard to fight the anarchist movement. He meets Lucian Gregory, an anarchist poet, at a party and after debating the meaning of poetry he is invited to a meeting of the local branch of the European anarchist council. The seven council members each use the name of a day of the week as a cover, and the council is set to elect the position of Thursday, which Gregory seeks but which Syme wins after making a rousing speech. He discovers some surprising truths in seeking to thwart the council.

The book’s popularity gave rise to a companion annotated edition by

Martin Gardener called *The Annotated Thursday*. The book has been adapted for radio three times, the first by Orson Welles in 1938 for the Mercury Theatre. It has enjoyed recent popularity, with an adaptation for film in 2016 by Hungarian Balazs Juszts and a 2017 science fiction version by American Jake Kerr.

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”.