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## The Nose

## Nicolai Gogol (1809 - 1852) Translated by Charles James Hogarth

Read by: D. S. Harvey Language: English Length: 59 minutes Style: Solo

Genre: Short Fiction

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-6018	0686175923155	\$7.99
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-6018	0686175923148	\$9.99
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In 1722 Peter the Great introduced a system of positions and ranks for the military, the government, and the Russian court which enabled commoners to gain a modicum of nobility through service to the state. He did so in order to diminish the power of the hereditary nobility with whom he was struggling. This led to large bureaucracies and an obsession with appearances and status, a situation ripe for the brilliant satire of "The Nose". The story is an absurd, comic, surreal and sometimes grotesque send up of Major Kovalyov, who wakes up one morning to find his nose missing. The story has three parts. In part one, Kovalyov's barber finds his client's nose in his breakfast and is nabbed by the police when he tries to throw it off a bridge. In part two, Kovalyov awakes to find his nose gone. When he leaves to report the loss, runs into it on the street dressed in the uniform of an important

official who outranks him. He chases it, but the nose eludes him until it is apprehended it is about to flee the city by coach. The nose is returned to Kovalyov, but it can't be re-attached, leading him to suspect that a curse has been placed on him. Meanwhile, the nose has become the talk of the town. In part three, the Major awakes with the nose fully intact. Things just drift back to normal. The story is a staple of Russian literature, has been staged and adapted numerous times, and has had a monument erected in its honor in St. Petersburg.

Nikolai Vassilievitch Gogol (March 31, 1809 - March 4, 1852) was a Russian author best known for his short stories, his play the Government Inspector, and his novels Dead Souls and Taras Bulba. During his lifetime he was considered a preeminent figure of the emerging natural school of Russian realism but has since come to be known for his gifts for satire, absurdity, surrealism, and the grotesque. Born in the government of Pultowa, in Ukraine, then Little Russia, he was educated in a public gymnasium and subsequently in the Lyceum newly established at Niejinsk. In 1831 he was appointed teacher of history at the Patriotic Institution, a position he then exchanged for the professorship of history in the University of St. Petersburg. He resigned at the end of a year when it was learned that he was unqualified. From 1835 he devoted himself entirely to literature. In 1836 Gogol left Russia and lived most of the time in Rome. In 1837 he wrote Dead Souls. In 1840 he went to Russia for a short period to superintend the publication of the first volume of 'Dead Souls,' and then returned to Italy. In 1846 he returned to Russia and fell into a state of fanatical mysticism. One of his last acts was to burn the manuscript of the concluding portion of Dead Souls, which he considered harmful. His stories include 'The Nose', Overcoat', and the collections 'Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka,' 'Mirgorod,' and Arabesques'.