

# ADULT FICTION

## PROSE – ENGLISH

### FABLE

---

SWA-PY3 United Kingdom 2000

### THE BAT, THE BIRDS, AND THE BEASTS

SW – Fiction – Adult

Scr: (?) (From *Aesop's Fables*)

Mus: Antonio Vivaldi – The Four Seasons & Flute Concertos

Perf: Anton LESSER (reader)

Prod: Nicolas Soames

Prod. Co: Naxos AudioBooks Ltd.

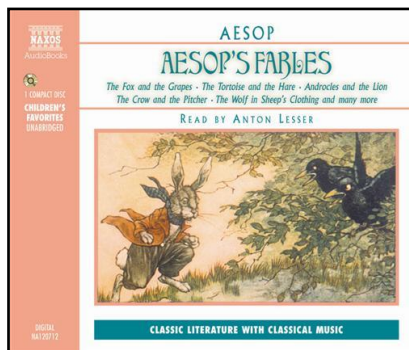
Time: 1:51

CD: AESOP – AESOP'S FABLES

Naxos AudioBooks NA 120712 (Tk 18)



Anton LESSER



**Notes:** We are told Aesop lived in Greece in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. “His name was known to Aristotle, Plato, and Aristophanes, but we don’t have anything actually written by Aesop. His fables have survived in retellings by others, so that the term Aesop’s Fables is really a generic designation. No doubt many stories told as Aesop’s Fables were created by others. Many seem to be traditional wisdom stories.” (Webster n.d.)

Here is the fable –

A great conflict was about to come off between the Birds and the Beasts. When the two armies were collected together the Bat hesitated which to join. The Birds that passed his perch said: “Come with us”; but he said: “I am a Beast.” Later on, some Beasts who were passing underneath him looked up and said: “Come with us”; but he said: “I am a Bird.” Luckily at the last moment

peace was made, and no battle took place, so the Bat came to the Birds and wished to join in the rejoicings, but they all turned against him and he had to fly away. He then went to the Beasts, but soon had to beat a retreat, or else they would have torn him to pieces. “Ah,” said the Bat, “I see now, he that is neither one thing nor the other has no friends.” (Aesop n.d.)

This fable was adopted and revised by Jean La Fontaine for his fable, *La Chauve-souris et les deux belettes* [The Bat and the Two Weasels] (see under Spoken Word – Adult Fiction – Poetry – French).

Anton Lesser is a well-known British stage actor and he also read *The Odyssey* (see Spoken Word – Adult Fiction – *The Odyssey*).

Ref: Aesop's Fables, Data, [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aesop's_Fables)

Aesop n.d., Aesop's Fables, The Harvard Classics 1909-1914, [bartleby](http://bartleby.com)

Anton Lesser, Aesop's Fables CD, [prestoclassical.co.uk](http://prestoclassical.co.uk) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Webster, T. 2009, Aesop – Aesop's Fables CD, Customer Review, [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk)