The Portrait of a Lady tells the compelling and ultimately tragic tale of a beautiful young American woman’s encounter with European sophistication. Set principally in England and Italy, the story follows Isabel Archer’s fortunes as a variety of admirers vie for her hand. Her choice will be crucial, and she is not wanting for advice, whether from the generous-spirited Ralph Touchett or the charming but rootless Madame Merle.

Juliet Stevenson, one of the UK’s leading actresses, has worked extensively for the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal National Theatre. She received an Olivier Award for her role in Death and the Maiden at the Royal Court, and a number of other awards for her work in the film Truly, Madly, Deeply. Other film credits include The Thal, Drowning by Numbers and Emma. For Naxos AudioBooks she has recorded Lady Windermere’s Fan, Sense and Sensibility, Emma, Northanger Abbey, Persuasion, Stories from Shakespeare, To the Lighthouse, Bliss and Other Stories, The Road Home, Middlemarch and many more.
‘However, you know him better than I, though…’
Madame Merle took a sheet of music…

Chapter 20
By way of answer Isabel kissed her…

Chapter 21
He took a great interest in Isabel…

Chapter 22
She looked at him as if she had not heard him…

Chapter 23
The child turned her head earnestly to one side…

Chapter 24
He watched the lady from the convent…

Chapter 25
The child fixed him an instant…

Chapter 26
‘Exactly, but yourself includes so many other…’

Chapter 27
All this went on quite over Isabel’s head…

Chapter 28
Isabel considered him with interest.

Chapter 29
‘I was not waiting for your death; I was waiting…’

Chapter 30
Mrs Touchett was silent; then she gave a sharp…

Chapter 31
There were two other rooms, beyond the one…

Chapter 32
In the manner and tone of these two persons…

Chapter 33
Two days afterward Ralph arrived…

Chapter 34
She raised her eyes and gave him a wide…

Chapter 35
At these words a sudden passion…

Chapter 36
She brought Pansy with him two or three times…

Chapter 37
‘I esteem a dot very much. I can do without it…’

Chapter 38
This was enough for Edward Rosier…

Chapter 39
I remember that myself,’ said Osmond.

Chapter 40
Isabel had many questions to ask about Ralph…

Chapter 41
Ralph, as I say, had wished to see for himself…

Chapter 42
For Gilbert Osmond Ralph had not now that…

Chapter 43
It will come from him, rather. I seem to see that…’

Chapter 44
‘Yes; but a lover outside’s always a lover.’

Chapter 45
Chapter 46
Chapter 47
Chapter 48
Chapter 49
Chapter 50
Chapter 51
Chapter 52
Chapter 53
Chapter 54
Chapter 55

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