



The Love Letters of Abelard and Heloise

by Peter Abelard and Heloise

Heloise was a strong-willed and gifted young woman, fluent in Latin, Greek and Hebrew. At age 19, living with her uncle, Canon Fulbert, in the precincts of Notre Dame de Paris, Heloise fell in love with her tutor Abelard, one of the great thinkers of 12th century Europe. They had a clandestine affair and conceived a child, Astrolabe. When Fulbert discovered the affair he had Abelard castrated, and Heloise entered a convent. Abelard was exiled to Brittany, where he lived as monk. Eventually Heloise became abbess of the Oratory of the Paraclete, an abbey which Abelard had founded. It was at this time that they exchanged their famous letters, presented in this book. The letters, originally written in Latin, are passionate both in the remembrance of lost love, and the attempt to reconcile that love with their respective monastic duty to remain chaste.

Total running time: 3:36:07

Read by icyjumbo and Laura Koskinen



Cover design by Kathryn Delaney

Miniature of Abelard & Heloise from a medieval manuscript of *Roman de la Rose*

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