

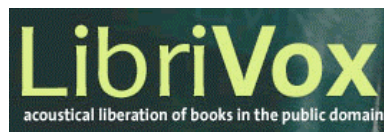
Bel Ami, or The History of a Scoundrel

by **Guy de Maupassant (1850-1893)**

“He had faith in his good fortune, in that power of attraction which he felt within him - a power so irresistible that all women yielded to it.”

Though firmly set in 1880s Paris, Maupassant's gripping story of an amoral journalist on the make could, with only slight modifications, be updated to the 1960s, to the Reagan-Thatcher years, or maybe to the present day. Anti-hero Georges Duroy is a down-at-heel ex-soldier of no particular talent. Good-looking but somewhat lacking in self-confidence, he discovers an ability to control and exploit women - whereupon his career in journalism takes off, fuelled by the corruption of colleagues and government arrivistes. He may be a provincial Don Juan, but he is neither accident-prone nor heading for a fall . . .

Total running time: 8:15:20
Read by Martin Geeson



Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
 Painting by John Singer Sargent, *Leon Delafosse*, (1893)

BEL AMI

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