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**DAME EMMA THOMPSON TO NARRATE THE AUDIOBOOK  
OF GISEÈLE PELICOT'S MEMOIR *A HYMN TO LIFE***

NEW YORK, NY (February 9, 2026) – Academy Award-winning actor Dame Emma Thompson will narrate the audiobook edition of Gisèle Pelicot's **A HYMN TO LIFE** (Penguin Audio, on sale February 17, 2026) one of the most significant memoirs of recent years.

This is an extraordinarily powerful memoir by a heroine of our times, whose story inspires change, compassion and courage.

Emma Thompson said: "*A Hymn to Life* is truly a gift to every woman in the world, and we should thank her for her courage with all our hearts."

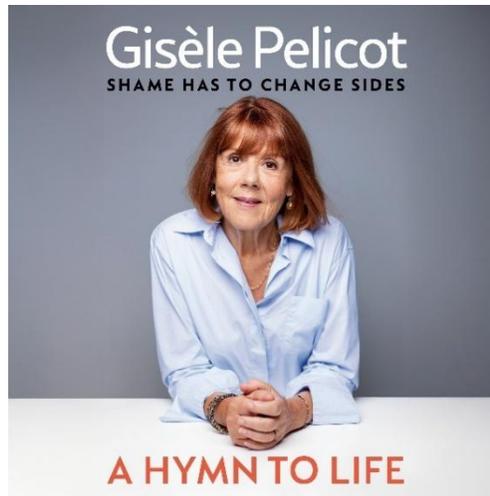
One November day, Gisèle Pelicot was called to a local police station and life as she knew it ended. Her husband of fifty years had been caught by a supermarket guard filming up women's skirts. But on his computer was shattering evidence: for nearly a decade, he had been secretly drugging and raping her and inviting dozens of strangers into their home to abuse her.

Four years later, he and fifty other men were put on trial and Gisèle's courage in waiving her right to anonymity made global headlines. 'Shame must change sides,' she declared, giving voice and hope to millions. Her words became a rallying cry and her decision marked a turning point in public feeling about sexual violence.

For the first time, and with unwavering honesty and grace, she describes a difficult childhood, first love, her career and motherhood. It is a life in determined search of happiness, both before and after her devastating discovery. She is an ordinary person who faces extraordinary catastrophe, whose example changes the world.

**A HYMN TO LIFE** is an unforgettable testament and a promise. Its message is one of defiance and renewal - that victims have no reason to feel ashamed; that even after unimaginable betrayal we can go on; that the color can come back to life. Ultimately, Gisèle Pelicot emerges with a renewed passion and reverence for living, and for love.

The audiobook, narrated by Thompson, brings Pelicot's voice and message to listeners with clarity, compassion and authority, amplifying a story that continues to resonate across borders and generations.



### **A HYMN TO LIFE**

By Gisèle Pelicot

Translated by Natasha Lehrer and Ruth Diver

Read by Emma Thompson

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BOT | Library Audio Download ISBN 9798217290147

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*Also available in hardcover and eBook from Penguin Press*

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#### **About Gisèle Pelicot**

Gisèle Pelicot was named the most noteworthy person of 2024 in an opinion poll in France, eclipsing world leaders, and was honored by *Time*. To mark International Women's Day, the *Independent* named her the most influential woman of 2025. Her case contributed to a national debate on sexual violence in France, leading to a change in the legal definition of rape. She has been awarded the Légion d'honneur, France's highest civic honor.

#### **About Emma Thompson**

Emma Thompson is one of Britain's most celebrated actors and writers, with a career spanning film, theatre and television. She is the recipient of multiple BAFTA Awards, Golden Globes and two Academy Awards, and is widely acclaimed for her work both on screen and as an advocate for human rights and equality.

#### **About Penguin Random House Audio**

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