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The stories I have chosen for this collection include only one horror story, *The Sandman*. My aim has been to illustrate a different side of Hoffmann's genius by concentrating on his fairy-tales. The three longest tales in this volume, *The Golden Pot*, *Princess Brambilla*, and *Master Flea*, are all tales of the supernatural; but, despite some alarming incidents, they are humorous, not blood-curdling. The humour comes from the juxtaposition of supernatural beings at large in an ostentatiously everyday world. The subtitle of *The Golden Pot*, 'A Modern Fairy-Tale', could also apply to the others. All are set in Hoffmann's own times: *The Golden Pot* in contemporary Dresden, *Master Flea* in Frankfurt, and *Princess Brambilla* in Rome at an indeterminate period, suggesting the late eighteenth