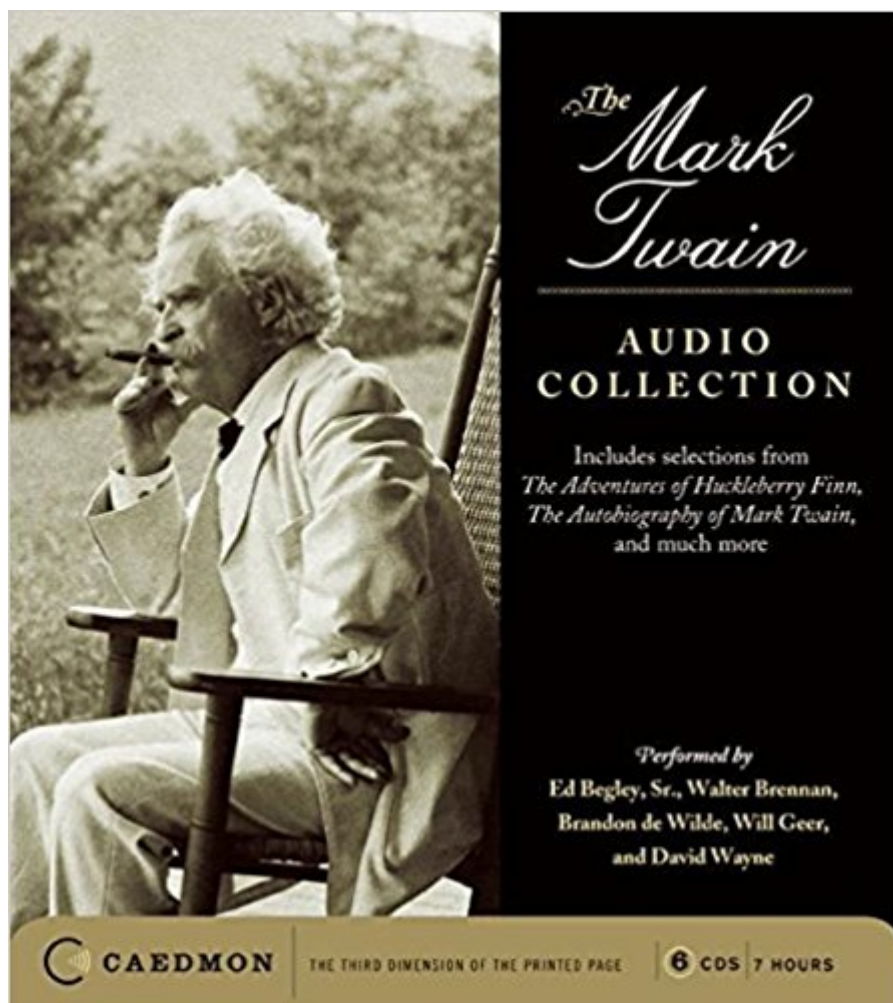


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Mark Twain Audio CD Collection



Synopsis

"The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." -- Mark Twain
Mark Twain (1835-1910) was the first American writer to capture the unique and colorful vernacular of his country's populace. Instead of striving to perfect any particular literary form, Twain strove to precisely imprint on paper the colloquial speech, mannerisms and experiences of the American people. Twain's books earned him an enduring reputation as a satirist and humorist, but he also wrote great short stories. These stories, with their wonderful characters and witty turns-of-phrase, have defined in Americans' minds what it means to have been at a time in our country which was at once optimistic, exploratory and recklessly exploitative. Listeners can still benefit today from hearing Mark Twain's stories and selections from his novels as they become again what they originally were: the oral history of our uniquely American consciousness. Includes selections from *Life on the Mississippi*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Roughing It*, and *The Autobiography of Mark Twain*, and the short stories *The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, *The \$1,000,000 Bank-Note*, *The Joke That Made Ed's Fortune*, *A Dog's Tale*, *A Story Without an End* and many more. Performed by Ed Begley, Sr., Walter Brennan, Brandon de Wilde, Will Geer, and David Wayne

Book Information

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

Mark Twain, who was born Samuel L. Clemens in Missouri in 1835, wrote some of the most enduring works of literature in the English language, including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc* was his last completed book—and, by his own estimate, his best. Its acquisition by Harper & Brothers allowed Twain

to stave off bankruptcy. He died in 1910. Ed Begley, Sr. was a prolific radio actor and from 1944-1948 he played the title role in the radio version of Charlie Chan. In 1947, Begley created the role of benighted war profiteer Joe Keller in Arthur Miller's All My Sons. He was a familiar figure in TV's "golden age" of the 1950s, and appeared 789 times as the William Jennings Bryan counterpart in the Broadway drama Inherit the Wind.

This rich archive of Twain stories and excerpts is drawn from Caedmon recordings made in the '50s and '60s. Five actors provide the voices of Twain. Ed Begley, Sr., and Will Geer read excerpts from Twain's LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI, and Geer continues with many of the other selections from THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARK TWAIN in his clear, jocular tones. Walter Brennan's performance of THE NOTORIOUS JUMPING FROG OF CALAVERAS COUNTY stands out--the listener can envision the country store and an old raconteur spinning tales. David Wayne is perhaps the only disappointment; his unaccented speech seems too dry and crisp. Careful remastering has cleaned up the sound and produced a program free of distracting flaws. The collection is a remarkable adjunct to the numerous Twain renditions. R.F.W. © AudioFile 2002, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

I am not sure what I was expecting from this collection, but I listened to it with mixed feelings. The opening CD dealing with Life on the Mississippi was probably the duller listening. It was fun to hear the material read by Will Geer and Walter Brennan. Some of the language is dated and some of the humor is slow developing, but other times the Twain's clever language made me laugh out loud. It was an OK addition to my collection.

Nothing beats Mark Twain. He was the consummate story-teller. His choice of words alone can expand your vocabulary, if nothing else. Twain was one of America's greatest writers because he wrote about his life-experiences in a vernacular that gives us insight to his era.

Good selection of voices for the various pieces; there was some mispronunciation, here and there, such as Sam's brother Orion (it should have been OR-ee-un, not O-Ryan). Also, if his sister Pamela is mentioned (I can't recall if she is) it should be Puh-MEEL-uh (sometimes Puh-MEEL-ee-uh), not the common pronunciation of that name.

I love audio books but this is just a bit boring. Product is fine though.

I listen to tapes while driving/ heavy traffic so sometimes its hard to concentrate on the reader. This one was very difficult to follow. "Story" just rambles and skips all over the place. I became so frustrated I finally ditched it and found something with a storyline I could follow. Maybe I'm just slow that way!

all good

Great old Mark Twain stories. Some I had never read or even heard of.

A fun, casual listen, nothing as interesting as his novels. A worthwhile listen of the life and times of Samuel Clemens, but Mark Twain is shadowing nearby. Thanks.

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