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The Humor Of Mark Twain



Synopsis

Hardbound in a collector's library-style, gold-embossed album are six audio cassettes of unabridged narrations of 22 of Twain's best tall tales, stories and essays: The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, What Stumped the Bluejays, The Story of the Old Ram, Journalism in Tennessee, A Genuine Mexican Plug, Buck Fanshaw's Funeral, The Recent Carnival of Crime in Connecticut, Extract From Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven, Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses, The Art of Authorship. Includes extensive liner notes on author and works. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,141,872 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (T) > Twain, Mark #1064 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #2345 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Classics

Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up-From "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" to "The Burglar Alarm," Thomas Becker's delivery of Mark Twain's stories will delight and amuse listeners. Becker, a Shakespearean actor, adopts a slight Midwestern twang, which creates a highly enjoyable and credible presentation, as though the author himself were reading his own work. There are no sound effects or music between the stories, and the writer's own words carry the presentation. For the most part, this recording's success is the result of Becker's dramatic reading ability, which is nicely understated yet totally effective and appropriate. The other stories included here are: "The Story of the Old Ram," "What Stumped the Blue Jays," "Tom Quartz," "Cannibalism in the Cars," "The Facts in the Great Beef Contract," "Journalism in Tennessee, "Punch, Brothers, Punch," and "The McWilliamses with Membranous Group." The double-CD set is attractively packaged in a fold-out case with the CDs enclosed in plastic envelopes. There is no biographical information on the reader,

and chronological information for each story is omitted as well. Nevertheless, these stories are among Twain's finest and are sure to please students rediscovering a piece of American heritage. Teachers will find this high quality recording a useful tool for introducing the work of a truly remarkable author to a new generation. Celeste Steward, Contra Costa County Library, Clayton, CA
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Read by Thomas Becker whose narrations have been acclaimed by The Society of Performance Literature as "the best Twain on the Market". Produced by Commuters Library, awarded AUDIO BEST OF THE YEAR for four straight years (Publishers Weekly, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996). --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It is difficult to appreciate a short story that is filled with sentences of one long word after another. However, Becker's reading of Twain makes it flow together so well that you just have to laugh out loud. Journalism in Tennessee and Political Economy come to mind as I imagine that Lightning Rod Salesman just carrying on and the young editor trying to be impressive with his suave article which is later ripped to shreds by the author. How I Edited the Agricultural Paper was grand and I listened to it several times finding it funnier each time.

The narrator perfectly captures the western personality and expression of these pieces. Surely the greatest possible narration of the Twain's Humor.

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