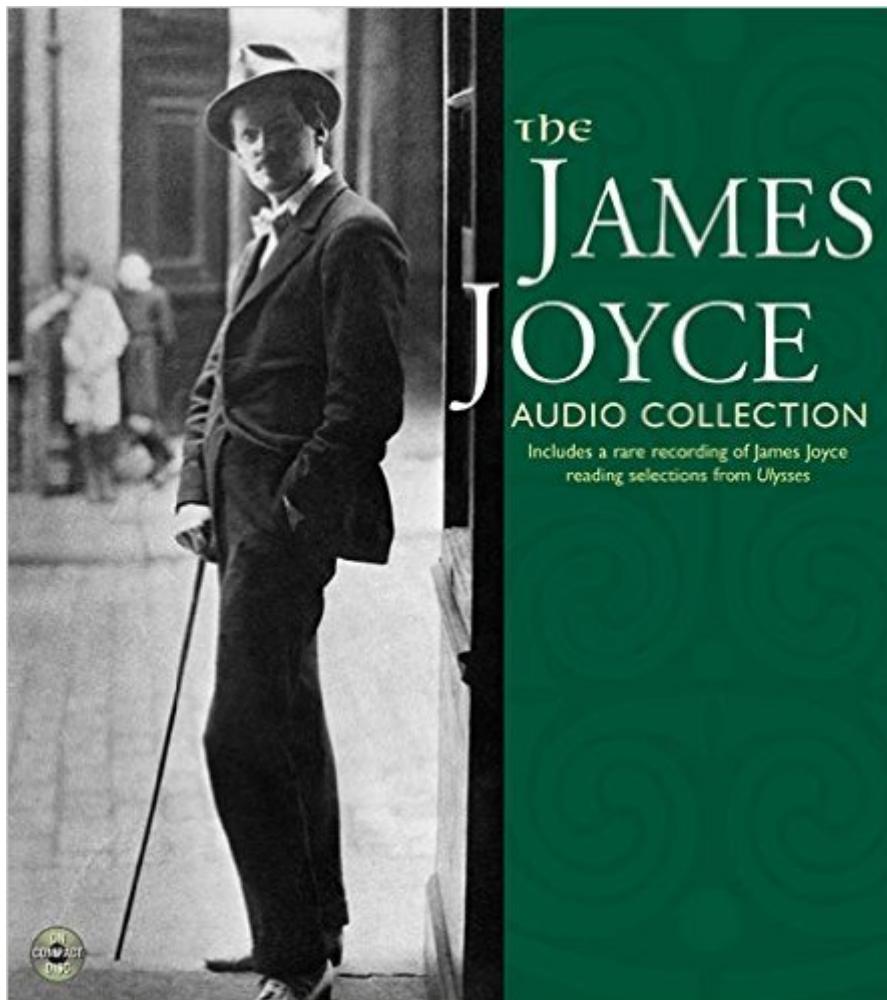


The book was found

The James Joyce Audio Collection



Synopsis

James Joyce's self-referential, allusive, and pun-filled works are widely recognized as the signature pieces of European modernist literature, and helped hasten the 20th Century break from traditionally recognized forms of prose. He repeatedly explored the themes of childhood and adulthood, and youth and maturity while simultaneously widening the boundaries of the novel. This collection includes selections from his most important works: *Ulysses*, *Finnegan's Wake*, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Dubliners*. The most fascinating treat here is the landmark recording of James Joyce reading selections from *Ulysses*. This rare recording was made in 1924, and Joyce's reading provides the singular experience of hearing the work as he intended it to be read. Also providing the unique insight of spoken-word to these wonderful works are the accomplished, sensitive and expressive performers Cyril Cusack, Siobhan McKenna, Jim Norton, Colm Meaney, and E.G. Marshall.

Book Information

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

If you are a fan (student?) of Joyce, this set is indeed wonderful and, yes, indispensable. In the "Truth in Advertising" department, however, be advised that the recording of Joyce reading from *Ulysses* is very short (just a little over four minutes!). The outer package states, "The most fascinating treat here is the landmark recording of James Joyce reading selections from *Ulysses*. This rare recording was made in 1924, and Joyce's reading provides the singular experience of hearing the work as he intended it to be read." In truth, there is just one selection of Joyce reading from *Ulysses*; representing barely one-and-one-half pages from Chapter 7, *Aeolus* (pp. 142-43 in

the 1990 Vintage International Edition). Another inconsistency concerns the recording date: There is a written quotation in the package attributed to Sylvia Beach that provides informative details about the process by which she recorded Joyce reading from Ulysses in 1924. She goes on to say that Joyce was adamant that "this would be his only reading from Ulysses." Yet the CD track listings indicate that the Ulysses excerpt was recorded "circa 1921." Which is it? Further, given the considerable logistics, negotiations and expense that Beach apparently invested in order to record Joyce, it seems inconceivable that they would have recorded for only four minutes; notwithstanding the "primitive manner" of recording in the early 1920s. Where is the rest? Do other selections really exist? The set includes one other, somewhat longer selection of Joyce reading from the Anna Livia Plurabelle section of Finnegans Wake (three pages at the end of Book One; pp. 213-16 in my ancient copy of the Viking Compass Edition). It was recorded "circa 1932," and lasts eight-and-a-half minutes.

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