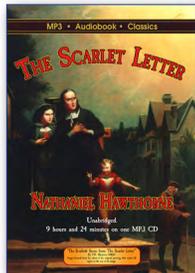


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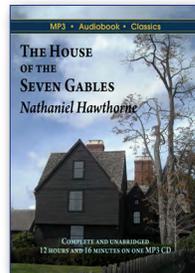


The Scarlet Letter

Author: Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804 - 1864)
 Read by: Cori Samuel
 Length: 9 hours and 24 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: General Fiction, Romance

The Scarlet Letter is considered Hawthorne's finest novel. Set in Puritan Boston, the story examines the psychological turmoil resulting from the sin of adultery committed by Hester Prynne and an unnamed lover. Hester is publicly shamed, forced to wear a scarlet letter "A" on her dress to symbolize her adultery. The father, Reverend Dimmesdale, is consumed with guilt, reflected in his failing health. Her husband, Roger Chillingworth, insists she keep their relationship secret and seeks revenge. The pressures of secrecy, guilt, and revenge intensify until Hester forces a resolution, which leads to a dramatic conclusion. In a final irony, although her crime has been largely forgotten, she continues to wear the letter, while Dimmesdale's dying confession is largely ignored. One of the first mass-produced books in America, *The Scarlet Letter* became an instant best-seller. The depth of its treatment of universal themes assures it will remain a classic for as long as mankind struggles with sin and redemption.

Catalog: DB-1089
 UPC: 0684758936677
 MSLP: \$11.99

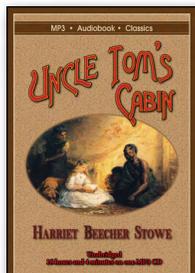


The House of the Seven Gables

Author: Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804 - 1864)
 Read by: Mark F. Smith
 Length: 12 hours and 16 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: General Fiction, Horror & Supernatural

Set in Salem, Massachusetts in the mid-19th century, *The House of the Seven Gables* traces the history of a haunted mansion belonging to the Pyncheon family built on land seized from Matthew Maule in the 1600's after Colonel Pyncheon accused and convicted Maule of witchcraft. Maule laid a curse on the family at his execution, resulting first in the untimely death of the Colonel at the housewarming festivities. Over the long years events follow a fate set by character, the evil are punished, and the righteous are rewarded and released from the curse. *The House of the Seven Gables* was the follow up to Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* and sold out four printings in its first year. His treatment of generational guilt, retribution, and atonement has been an inspiration for many over the years.

Catalog: DB-1090
 UPC: 0684758936684
 MSLP: \$12.99

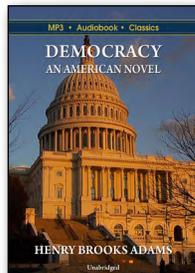


Uncle Tom's Cabin

Author: Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811 - 1894)
 Read by: John Greenman
 Length: 17 hours 55 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Fiction

"So, this is the little lady who started this great war" Abraham Lincoln reportedly said on meeting Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the most popular and best-selling novel of the 19th Century. When Stowe's novel was published in 1852, the North and the South stood at loggerheads; the institution of slavery provoked extreme reactions on both sides. Uncle Tom's Cabin made an abstract concept very real for millions of readers. As readers delved into the lives of Uncle Tom, Eliza and Eva, the grave sin of slavery ceased to be an abstract concept. The characters, the crime, the suffering and the call to action became more than a story. In the minds of millions, slaves ceased to be property and became people, fully human, created and loved by God. Slavery became an institution to be abhorred and banned. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* might not have started the Civil War, but it certainly gave many a reason and the courage to fight.

Catalog: DB-1033
 UPC: 0683422134142
 MSLP: \$12.99

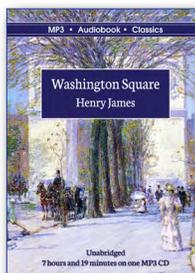


Democracy: An American Novel

Author: Henry Brooks Adams
 Read by: Maria Kaspar
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 5 hours and 28 minutes
 Genre: History, Journalism

Democracy: An American Novel is one of the first novels about political power. Published anonymously in 1880, it was only after Henry Adams' passing in 1918 that the public learned he was the author. The book centers on Madeleine Lee, a wealthy New York widow attracted to power who moves to Washington and establishes a popular salon. She is courted by two suitors, one an honorable gentleman, the other an ambitious and conniving politician who ends up in the president's cabinet. The president, a figure from the era of Grant and Hayes, is naive, incompetent and corrupt. Intrigues, machinations, and deceit abound, posing conundrums of political necessity, compromise and corruption. We hear witty conversations expounding the prevailing views on the topics of the times – suffrage, communism, Darwinism, and the destiny of the republic. The book was the source for *Democracy: An American Comedy*, an opera which premiered in 2005, is easily seen as an influence on the Empire series of political novels by Gore Vidal, and seems surprisingly contemporary in the present day.

Catalog: DB-1197
 UPC: 0701236991538
 MSLP: \$10.99

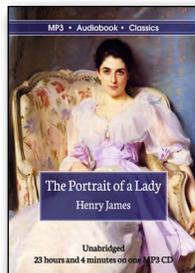


Washington Square

Author: Henry James (1844 - 1916)
 Read by: Dawn Murphy
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 7 hours and 19 minutes
 Genre: Fiction

Washington Square tells the story of the conflict of Dr. Austin Sloper, a brilliant but unemotional physician, with his good-natured but ordinary daughter Catherine over her plans to marry Morris Townsend, a suitor that Sloper fears is after her money. He threatens to disinherit her, but she persists, while Townsend senses a bluff and maintains the engagement while repeatedly deferring its fulfillment. The doctor takes Catherine on a grand European tour for a year in hopes of weakening her relationship with Townsend. The matter is discussed only twice, and when Catherine remains resolute her father displays a contempt that cuts deep and alienates Catherine for good. Upon their return Catherine informs Townsend of her father's views and he at last withdraws, leaving Catherine disillusioned and destined for spinsterhood. The story is based on a real life situation and was serialized before release in book form in 1880. The novel is structurally simple and comparatively short, and is compared with Jane Austen in its clear, graceful style and focus on family relationships. It remains one of the most popular titles in the James oeuvre.

Catalog: DB-1060
 UPC: 0683422134609
 MSLP: \$10.99



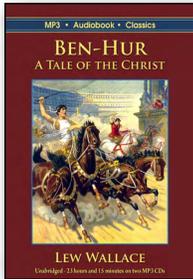
The Portrait of a Lady

Author: Henry James (1844 - 1916)
 Read by: Elizabeth Klett
 Length: 23 hours and 4 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Fiction

The heroine of Henry James' masterpiece *The Portrait of a Lady* is Isabel Archer, a young American heiress seeking her future among the upper classes of European society. She visits her maternal aunt at the family estate near London after the death of her father. Lord Warburton, a neighbor, proposes marriage, as does Caspar Goodwood, heir to a Boston fortune. When her invalid uncle dies and leaves her a small fortune, she rejects both suitors and travels the Continent. In Florence she meets and marries American expatriate and widower Gilbert Osmond, a match that proves to be disagreeable. Isabel leaves for England to comfort her dying cousin Ralph over the objections of Ormond. Goodwood again courts her, but she chooses instead to return to Italy. The reader is left to wonder whether she will suffer her tragic marriage or eventually make other plans. The book was serialized in America and England in 1880-1881 before publication as a book in 1881. It was acclaimed for its deep analysis of human consciousness and motivation, and did much to raise the awareness of the limited options available to Victorian women as they dealt with the lure of freedom and the tug of responsibility.

Catalog: DB-1061
 UPC: 0683422134593
 MSLP: \$14.99

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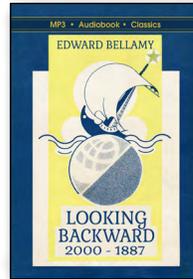


Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ

Author: Lew Wallace
Read by: Mark F. Smith
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 22 hours and 27 minutes
Genre: Historical Fiction, Religion

Published in 1880, *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* became the best-selling American novel of all time until surpassed by *Gone with the Wind* in 1936. Set at the time Christ, the story's eight books tell the life story of Judah Ben-Hur, a Jewish prince from Jerusalem. His story intersects with that of Jesus, who is about the same age and from the same area. As we begin Judah is falsely accused of a crime and enslaved on a Roman galley. In battle Judah saves the life of the vessel's commander, who adopts and frees him. He trains to be a soldier and becomes a charioteer. The centerpiece of the book is a chariot race between Judah and Massala, a childhood friend and rival. After his victory, Judah returns to Jerusalem and becomes a devoted follower of Christ. *Ben-Hur* has been called "the most influential Christian book of the 19th century." The 1959 film starring Charlton Heston was the most expensive film ever made at the time and one of the most successful, winning 11 Academy Awards.

Catalog: DB-1213
UPC: 0701236969115
MSLP: \$14.99

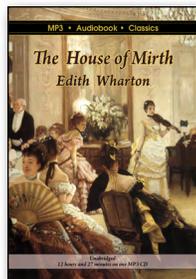


Looking Backward: 2000 - 1887

Author: Edward Bellamy
Read by: progressingamerica
Length: 10 hours and 39 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Political Science, Media Studies, Journalism

Catalog: DB-1212
UPC: 0701236969184
MSLP: \$12.99

During the upheavals of the late 1800's the notion of a better social order found expression in utopian novels. By far the most popular was *Looking Backward: 2000 - 1887*, which gained enormous popularity in 1888. Julian West, a young Bostonian, enters a deep sleep in 1887 and awakens in the year 2000 to a radically changed world. He finds a guide who explains the rationale behind such realities as collective property, equal income distribution, fewer hours for harder jobs, retirement at age 45 and free food. Certain innovations have occurred that we readily recognize: consumer cooperatives, credit cards, and a "cable telephone". Civil litigation has all but disappeared and crime is treated as a primarily medical issue. The popularity of the book spawned a movement called "nationalism" and 162 "Bellamy Clubs" organized to discuss and spread the ideas. The book was the third largest best-seller of its time, surpassed only by *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *Ben-Hur*.



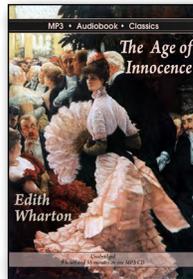
The House of Mirth

Author: Edith Wharton (1862 - 1937)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Length: 12 hours 27 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Fiction

The House of Mirth (1905) is a novel of manners set in the milieu of the New York upper class in the 1890's, described as a "hot-house of traditions and conventions". The title is taken from Ecclesiastes 7:4: "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth." It is the story of an unmarried woman, Lily Bart, who faces pressure marry well to maintain her social status despite her feelings for another, less wealthy suitor. She is deceived and betrayed

Catalog: DB-1096
UPC: 0684758936745
MSLP: \$12.99

by seeming friends, who gossip and spread rumors that cause her to fall from grace. Written while Edith Wharton lived at The Mount, her home in Lenox, Massachusetts, *The House of Mirth* sold 140,000 copies between October and the end of December. The favorable review in the *New York Times* described it as "a novel of remarkable power". It has been adapted for the stage and film numerous times, most recently in 2000 by director Terence Davies.

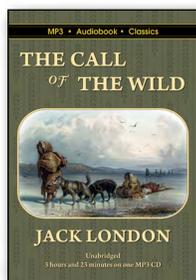


The Age of Innocence

Author: Edith Wharton (1862 - 1937)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Length: 9 hours 55 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Fiction

Catalog: DB-1095
UPC: 0684758936738
MSLP: \$11.99

Newton Archer is the man who has everything. Heir to one of New York's prominent families, a gentleman lawyer, popular and successful, he is engaged to the beautiful but conventional May Welland when May's cousin, the exotic and worldly Countess Ellen Olenska, arrives from Poland after separating from her husband. Newland is smitten by the countess and helplessly trapped by the conventions and judgments of his time and place. *The Age of Innocence* (1920) proceeds to entangle the three in a tale of passion pitted against the constraints of New York society in the 1870's, with outcomes that show that even those who seem to have everything don't always get what they want. *The Age of Innocence* was serialized by the Pictorial Review before publication in book form. It won the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the first ever awarded to a woman. It ranks 59th on the Modern Library of the Top 100 Works of Fiction. The book has been adapted for stage and film five times, most recently by Martin Scorsese in 1993.

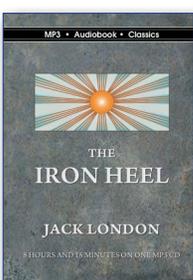


The Call of the Wild

Author: Jack London (1876 - 1916)
Read by: Mark F. Smith
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 3 hours and 23 minutes
Genre: Action & Adventure Fiction

The hero of *The Call of the Wild* is a large St. Bernard-Scotch Collie named Buck, who is stolen from his home in California and shipped first to Seattle, then to the Klondike region of Canada. He learns to survive the cold winter nights and the vagaries of the pack society of dogs. He suffers a series of abusive owners before being adopted by outdoorsman John Thornton. The two become inseparable, with Buck saving Thornton from drowning, winning tests of strength and courage, and eventually avenging Thornton's death. Told in the simplest manner, the tale combines a chronicle of a reversion to the primitive struggle of the survival of the fittest with a theme of love and redemption. The story is set in the Klondike during the Gold Rush of the 1890's and was enormously popular when it was released in 1903, first serialized in *The Saturday Evening Post* and then in book form a month later.

Catalog: DB-1054
UPC: 0684758936462
MSLP: \$10.99



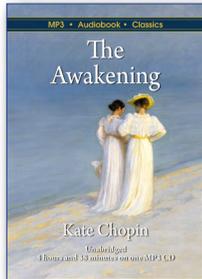
The Iron Heel

Author: Jack London
Read by:
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 8 hours and 15 minutes
Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Dystopian Fiction

Catalog: DB-1216
UPC: 0701236969351
MSLP: \$10.99

The Iron Heel (1908) is considered the first modern dystopian novel. Set in the distant future, the book is based on a fictional first person narrative of the rise of an oligarchic tyranny in the United States in the early twentieth century. The "Iron Heel" monopoly corporations have forced smaller businesses into bankruptcy and farmers and the middle class into poverty and serfdom. A privileged class of laborers in essential industries arises along with a military caste. It lasts for three centuries until overthrown by the "Revolution." The "Everhard Manuscript" was written during the First Revolt and tells of Avis Everhard's privileged childhood, her marriage to socialist revolutionary Ernest Everhard, the fall of the Iron Heel and years of underground resistance. An introduction and footnotes by scholar Anthony Meredith add depth. The *Iron Heel* was a forerunner of later soft science fiction novels and an important influence on George Orwell and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

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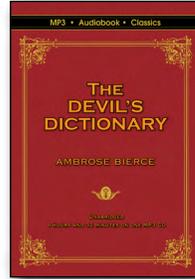
The Awakening

Author: Kate Chopin (1850 - 1904)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 4 hours and 38 minutes
Genre: Fiction

One of the first American novels that focused on women's issues, *The Awakening* is now seen as a landmark feminist work. Set in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast at the end of the 19th century, it is the story of Edna Pontelier, wife of a New Orleans businessman and mother of two sons who struggles to manage her family duties with her desire to be true to her emotions, which lead her fall in love outside her marriage and live apart from her family for a time. The

Catalog: DB-1151
UPC: 0683422134487
MSLP: \$10.99

book met with a mixed response due to its ruthlessly honest treatment of issues usually swept under the rug. The psychological insight, social commentary and realistic narrative now mark it as an important link the development of American modernism. Critics rank the book alongside her contemporaries Edith Wharton and Henry James and among the first of the works in the Southern tradition of William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor, and Tennessee Williams.

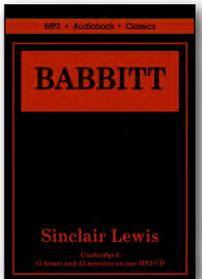


The Devil's Dictionary

Author: Ambrose Bierce (1842 - 1914)
Read by: Multiple readers
Length: 8 hours and 32 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Satire

Catalog: DB-1146
UPC: 0683422134630
MSLP: \$11.99

The Devil's Dictionary by Ambrose Bierce is a satirical dictionary that contains witty and ironic definitions of common English words. Published in 1906, it was originally titled *The Cynic's Word Book*. The book evolved over thirty years and was inspired in part by Webster's *Unabridged Dictionary*, which Bierce thought had comic opportunities. It had its origins in 1875 in an article in the *San Francisco News Letter* which contained comic definitions of 48 words. He continued the practice in *The Argonaut* in 1877-78 and then *The Wasp* during 1881-86, using "The Devil's Dictionary" as its title. The series continued sporadically during his term as editor of the *San Francisco Examiner* from 1887-1906. The initial edition published in 1906 contained 500 words (A-L). A second edition appeared as "The Devil's Dictionary" in his collected works and contained an additional 500 words (M-Z). This is the version used in these recordings.



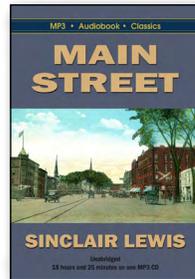
Babbitt

Author: Sinclair Lewis (1885 - 1951)
Read by: Mike Vendetti
Length: 13 hours and 22 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Fiction

The controversial 1922 bestseller *Babbitt* by Sinclair Lewis satirized the middle-class conformity and boosterism of American society. George Babbitt is a realtor in the fictional mid-sized industrial city of Zenith in the Midwestern state of Winnemac. The 1930 Nobel Prize committee described Babbitt as "the ideal of an American popular hero of the middle-class. The relativity of business morals as well as private rules of conduct is for him an accepted article of faith, and without hesitation he considers it God's purpose that man

Catalog: DB-1134
UPC: 0683422134555
MSLP: \$12.99

should work, increase his income, and enjoy modern improvements." The book does not have a plot; it is simply a chronological sequence of scenes that unfold over a two year period during which the solid citizen and Booster club member becomes disillusioned by unexpected events, attempts to find meaning in unconventional and rebellious behavior, but returns to the fold when he faces ostracism and his wife becomes ill. He gives in but never completely forgets the unrealized dreams.

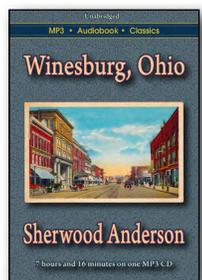


Main Street

Author: Sinclair Lewis (1885 - 1951)
Read by: Multiple readers
Length: 18 hours and 16 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Fiction

Catalog: DB-1147
UPC: 0683422134647
MSLP: \$13.99

Main Street is Sinclair Lewis' most significant work and established him as the premier satirist of small town America in the early 20th century. Spanning the First World War and the onset of Prohibition, the story centers on the frustrations of Carol Milford, a liberal free spirit from St. Paul, Minnesota, who marries Will Kennicott, a doctor from Gopher Prairie, who persuades her to settle there. Stunned by the town's conservative ways and lack of beauty, she gamely tries to bring about progressive change, only to meet with derision from the "in" crowd. She finds companionship outside her class, but these connections are gradually broken. Reaching bottom, she leaves her husband and moves to Washington, DC, but eventually returns, disappointed but undefeated. Not surprisingly, the book created a backlash when it was published. Some thought it exceptionally bleak and humorless. Today it is listed number 68 by the Modern Library on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century.



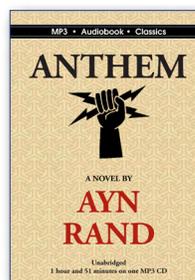
Winesburg, Ohio

Author: Sherwood Anderson (1876 - 1941)
Read by: Multiple readers
Length: 7 hours 14 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Fiction

Winesburg, Ohio, a collection of short stories, most written between 1915 and 1916, with a few others written closer to publication in 1919 is an exacting look at and dissection of life in a fictional small town in Ohio. Each story presents George Willard, a protagonist who grows in age and wisdom throughout the short story cycle. Not unlike the feelings attendant to the waves of modernism percolating in Paris and filtering back to the states, the themes invariably deal with Willard's isolation, inability to communicate, alienation from present surroundings and the need and desire to break the bonds

Catalog: DB-1046
UPC: 0684758936400
MSLP: \$10.99

of small town conventions, to move away, to engage the world that was then known to be vast, new and no longer inaccessible. It is accepted that Winesburg, the fictional town, is based on Anderson's hometown, Clyde, Ohio. In the book's composition Anderson became a loyal and meaningful correspondent with Gertrude Stein, who was living in Paris. Stein is credited not with forcing her style on Anderson, but with freeing him to find his authentic voice and style. Anderson is also known for his kind mentoring of the young and callow William Faulkner when both lived for a time New Orleans, a kindness that Faulkner failed to acknowledge or repay.



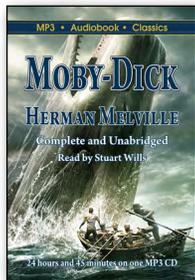
Anthem

Author: Ayn Rand (1905 - 1982)
Read by: Caden Vaughan Clegg
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 1 hour 51 minutes
Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Political Philosophy

Catalog: DB-1149
UPC: 0683422134791
MSLP: \$9.99

Anthem is set in a dystopian future Dark Age in which totalitarianism has imposed a strict order based on technology and collectivism. The main character is Equality 7-252, who is raised in a collective home and was born with a "curse" that enables him to learn quickly and ask probing questions. He discovers a tunnel in a work area containing metal tracks, a remnant from the Unmentionable Times. He finds sanctuary, and soon steals some paper and begins a journal. He meets a Peasant girl, Liberty 5-3000 and falls for her, dubbing her "The Golden One". He rediscovers electricity and presents it to the World Council of Scholars, who seek to destroy the invention. Equality escapes to the Uncharted Forest. The Golden One joins him a day later. They settle in a house in the mountains and spend their time reading books discovered in the library. They rediscover the word "I", grapple with love, rename themselves Prometheus and Gaea, and make plans for a future in which individuality is regained. Published in England in 1938, *Anthem* was re-released in 1946 after the spectacular success of *The Fountainhead* and has since sold more than 3.5 million copies.

American Fiction Classics



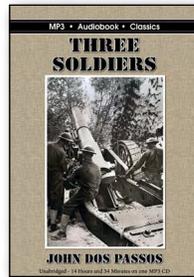
Moby Dick, or, The Whale

Author: Herman Melville
 Read by: Stewart Wills
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 24 hours and 45 minutes
 Genre: Action & Adventure Fiction

Moby-Dick is an epic sea adventure told by Ishmael, the sole survivor of the Pequod, a sunken whaling ship driven to ruin by its captain's monomaniacal obsession to hunt and destroy a white sperm whale, Moby Dick. Ahab is driven to seek revenge on the ferocious whale that destroyed his ship and severed his leg on a previous voyage. The opening line, "Call me Ishmael" is among the most famous in all literature. The narrative was radical at the time for its use of a variety of

Catalog: DB-1001
 UPC: 0684758935816
 MSLP: \$14.99

styles, topics and techniques that prefigured Modernism with its enormous scope and kaleidoscope of forms. Topics range from the techniques of whaling to life aboard ship to explorations of class and status, good and evil, and the nature of God. It is now regarded as a seminal work on the American themes of religion, fate, and economic growth and opportunity as well as a radical experiment.



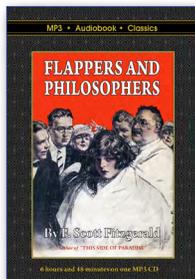
Three Soldiers

Author: John Dos Passos
 Read by: mb
 Length: 14 hours and 39 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Fiction, Historical Fiction, Fiction-War & Military

Like many young men at the time of the outbreak of the First World War, John Dos Passos was driven by idealism to serve and joined the Ambulance Corps. His experience there led to a rapid and profound disillusionment that eventually found expression in his second novel, *Three Soldiers*, which brought him some recognition when published in 1921. In this tale of three soldiers, each from different geographic regions and social milieus, Dos Passos found his satirical voice and crafted a searing denunciation of the military and its

Catalog: DB-1227
 UPC: 0701236969467
 MSLP: \$12.99

shameless exploitation of naïve young men. His soldiers endure the anxiety of long waits in sodden trenches that suddenly give way to battles that combine the timeless practice of frontal assault with the mechanized efficiency of modern weapons, airplanes, and mustard gas. H. L. Mencken wrote, "until *Three Soldiers* is forgotten and fancy achieves its inevitable victory over fact, no war story can be written in the United States without challenging comparison with it—and no story that is less meticulously true will stand up to it.



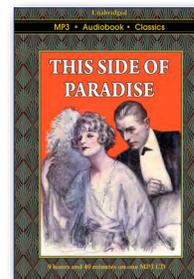
Flappers and Philosophers

Author: F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896 - 1940)
 Read by: Multiple readers
 Length: 6 hours 50 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Short Fiction

When *The Great Gatsby* failed to garner the success of his earlier novels, F. Scott Fitzgerald was thrown back on his considerable talents as a short story writer for the weekly magazines that were a staple of life in America in the 1920s. Fitzgerald said that he labored over his novels, but the short stories came whole and complete in a kind of automatic transcription with minimal revisions needed. *The Saturday Evening Post* paid mightily for Fitzgerald's output, and this income

Catalog: DB-1058
 UPC: 0684758936363
 MSLP: \$10.99

kept him and Zelda solvent during their high profile march through the Roaring 20s. *Flappers and Philosophers* was Fitzgerald's first collection of short stories, written before his first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, and they deal with many of the same themes of that bright era, complete with its darker shadows born of that generation's overt, rebellious pursuit of pleasure, and the bad seeds of greed and the hyper-consciousness of social status in a stratified post-war America.



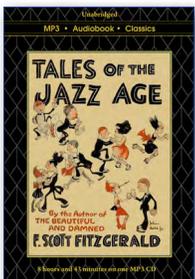
This Side of Paradise

Author: F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896 - 1940)
 Read by: Musician volunteer readers
 Length: 9 hours 46 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Fiction

This Side of Paradise, F. Scott Fitzgerald's first novel, broke the wave of youthful energy pent-up and ready to explode in the United States after the First World War. In the 1920s America was victorious, wealthy, confident and young, and *This Side of Paradise* focuses its considerable energy and style on the victorious, the wealthy, the confident and the young. The story explores the life of Amory Blaine, Princeton University student, a literary

Catalog: DB-1056
 UPC: 0684758936387
 MSLP: \$11.99

young man in love with beauty and the women with family money and last names who descend to conquer those handsome, talented young men who aspire to lives in the reaches of America's invisible though very real class system. The tragedy inherent in Amory Blaine's quest is the illusion of ascent. His initially innocent and well-intentioned efforts at love are damaged by the underside of his worldly ambitions: greed and the acquisition of social superiority.



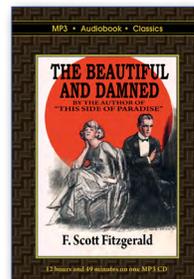
Tales of the Jazz Age

Author: F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896 - 1940)
 Read by: Multiple readers
 Length: 8 hours 41 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Short Fiction

In 1922 the publication of *Tales of the Jazz Age* confirmed that F. Scott Fitzgerald was the most popular author in the United States. Fitzgerald's publisher capitalized on the demand for the author's work by publishing the collection of eleven stories written during Fitzgerald's undergraduate days at Princeton. The difference between *Tales of the Jazz Age* and other examples of "rush-to-print" product by artists of lesser stature is that F. Scott Fitzgerald

Catalog: DB-1059
 UPC: 0684758936370
 MSLP: \$10.99

was and remains one of America's greatest writers and the eleven stories that comprise *Tales of the Jazz Age* evidence that fact. Sometimes writers compare writing with breathing: the quick exhalation is a poem; the deep breath is a short story, and breathing in the steady rhythm of life is akin to a novel. In his twenties, Fitzgerald breathed deeply, and these short stories exhibit his genius.



The Beautiful and Damned

Author: F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896 - 1940)
 Read by: Multiple readers
 Length: 12 hours 51 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Fiction

The Beautiful and Damned, F. Scott Fitzgerald's second novel, is a great work and important step in the development of his genius, fully realized three years later in *The Great Gatsby*. Where his first novel was a look at how a young swell might make his mark in the world, here Anthony Patch, heir to a fortune, has all but arrived, waiting for his considerable inheritance. He courts Gloria, whose sole purpose in life is to look beautiful and marry well. The book asks: what does one do when doesn't have to do anything? The answer is a sad descent into those activities that too often darken America's upper class, where food, clothing, shelter and society's acceptance are a given, while the characters go begging for something as banal as purpose and meaning. The result for Anthony and his wife is a slide down the gradient of glitter to the gray regions of alcoholism, ennui and tragedy.

Catalog: DB-1057
 UPC: 0684758936356
 MSLP: \$12.99

one do when doesn't have to do anything? The answer is a sad descent into those activities that too often darken America's upper class, where food, clothing, shelter and society's acceptance are a given, while the characters go begging for something as banal as purpose and meaning. The result for Anthony and his wife is a slide down the gradient of glitter to the gray regions of alcoholism, ennui and tragedy.