



Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

Read by:	John Greenman	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	10 hours	Catalog:	DB-1027
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936257
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Fiction		

Huckleberry Finn captures the essence of a time when most Americans lived on farms and worked the land. We were on it, immersed in it, tied to it, and when we traversed it we did so on foot, on horseback, by carriage, and by way of great rivers. The land, or nature, was the element that gave us our sense of place and identity. This was nowhere more true than in the lives of young'uns like Huck Finn, a motherless boy with a violent drunkard for a father. Huck's a boy of the earth and its rivers. He's a survivor and nature sustains him. He thumbs his nose at respectability the way nature thumbs its nose at the affectations of city life. He's the noble savage Rousseau talked about. He's a boy's boy and, after he meets runaway slave, Jim, he becomes a man's man.

Considered by many to be the great American novel from which all American novels descend, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, which Twain described as a “hymn to boyhood”, is one of the rarest of literary accomplishments. It's a masterpiece wrapped in the folds of a good yarn, a story that's captivated young and old alike for over a hundred years. (Summary by Michael Hogan)

Mark Twain is the pen name of **Samuel Langhorne Clemens** (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910), an American novelist, essayist, and lecturer noted for his humor and biting satire. Born in Florida, Missouri to a poor family, his father failed in business repeatedly and died of pneumonia when Sam was eleven. He went to work as an apprentice typesetter and then for brother Orion's *Hannibal Journal*. He worked as a journeyman printer in the east and started writing humorous articles and sketches to fill space. He returned to Missouri and worked as riverboat pilot until the Civil War broke out in 1861. He avoided service in the Confederate Army by journeying to Nevada with his brother Orion, then secretary to the territorial governor. After a failed attempt to strike it rich as a miner he wrote for the paper in Virginia City, where he adopted the pen name Mark Twain. He began developed a specialty as a traveling correspondent, posting pieces from Hawaii for the *Sacramento Union* and then a journal from a six month excursion to Europe and the Holy Land that formed his first book in 1869, *The Innocents Abroad*, considered the most popular travel book ever written. He followed with *Roughing It* in 1872, a portrait of life on the American frontier, and *The Gilded Age* in that same year, a satirical treatise on the follies and foibles of the emerging elite in American culture.

Twain was happily married Olivia Langdon in 1870 and settled first in Buffalo and then Hartford. In spite of his success with *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), he experienced substantial financial losses as an entrepreneur with the Paige typesetting machine and then a venture established to publish the memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant. He closed shop in Connecticut and embarked on a long tour of lecturing and writing abroad, which enabled him to retire his debts and return a conquering hero in 1900. Twain was born after a visit by Halley's Comet in 1835 and predicted he would “go out with it, too”. True to his word, he died the day after its return in 1910.