



North of Boston

Robert Frost (1874 - 1963)

Read by:	Brad Bush	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case, jewel box, or paper sleeve
Length:	1 hour 49 minutes	Catalog:	DB-7002
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Genre:	Poetry		

North of Boston was Robert Frost's second book, a collection of seventeen poems published in 1914. It contains his famous classic poems such as "Mending Wall", "Death of the Hired Man", and "After Apple-Picking". Most of the poems are dialogues or short dramas that evoke the style of speech and concerns of rural Yankees and clearly position New England as the locus and inspiration of Frost's work. Frost's concept of poetry centered on what he called the "sentence-sound," the tonal sound of a sentence separate from the sound or meaning of its words. The sound of the simple, direct and often spoken language here conveys the feel of the subject and the speaker beyond the strict meaning of the words. Frost conjures the sense of time and loss associated with the seasons and the sense of isolation and contemplation inherent in the rural environment.

North of Boston was received well by critics and the reading public, and together with *A Boy's Will* established Frost's reputation. By the 1920's he had become the most celebrated poet in America and remained so for the rest of his life.

Robert Lee Frost (March 26, 1874 - January 29, 1963) was the best known and perhaps the most unusual American poet of the twentieth century. His work combines the pastoral imagery of Wordsworth, the introspection of Emily Dickinson, and the New England temperament of Ralph Waldo Emerson with the ambiguity, irony and honesty we associate with modernism. His concept of poetry centered on what he called the "sentence-sound," the tonal sound of a sentence separate from the sound or meaning of its words. He was unique at the time in adhering to strict rules of meter, rhyme and stanzas; he was clear in his rejection of free verse, claiming "I'd just as soon play tennis with the net down." Within the formal structures, however, he managed to utilize colloquial expressions and find a conversational tone that conveyed the character of New England and felt uniquely American.

Frost was born in California and moved to Massachusetts at age 11 following the death of his father. He graduated from Lawrence High School as valedictorian and went on to attend Dartmouth and Harvard before settling on a farm in Derry, New Hampshire. After publishing his first poems he became convinced of his destiny as a poet. In 1912 he sold his farm and moved to England, where he came to know Ezra Pound and Edward Thomas and published his first collection, *A Boy's Will*, in 1915. He won the Pulitzer prize for poetry four times and was awarded honorary degrees from Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, and Dartmouth, and was the first to serve in the position that came to be known as the Poet Laureate. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960.