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Soldiers' Pay

William Faulkner (1877 – 1962)

Read by: czandra Language: English
 Length: 9 hours 33 minutes Style: Solo
 Genre(s): Fiction

Product Formats and Options				
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William Faulkner's novel *Soldiers' Pay* (1926) is a poignant exploration of the effects of war on individuals and society. The story is set in the aftermath of World War I and revolves around the return of Lieutenant Donald Mahon, a severely wounded soldier, to his hometown in Mississippi. Mahon is left physically and emotionally scarred, embodying the trauma and disillusionment experienced by many veterans.

The novel unfolds through the perspectives of various characters who intersect with Mahon's life. These include his fiancée, who struggles with her own conflicted emotions and societal expectations, and the residents of the town, who grapple with their perceptions of heroism and sacrifice. The narrative captures the stark contrast between Mahon's heroic image and the harsh reality of his

condition.

Faulkner's portrayal of Mahon's plight serves as a critique of the glorification of war and the shallow, often indifferent responses of society toward returning soldiers. The novel's exploration of personal and communal disintegration reflects Faulkner's broader themes of moral decay and existential despair. Through its richly textured narrative and complex characterizations, *Soldiers' Pay* offers a compelling examination of the personal costs of conflict and the often-painful journey of reintegration into civilian life.

William Faulkner (1897–1962) was an American writer renowned for his innovative narrative techniques and deep exploration of the human condition. Born in New Albany, Mississippi, Faulkner spent most of his life in the American South, which profoundly influenced his work. His writing is characterized by its complex, fragmented structure and rich, often experimental prose.

Faulkner's novels frequently delve into themes of history, memory, and social decay, reflecting the turbulent transformation of the South. His magnum opus, *The Sound and the Fury* (1929), is a seminal example of his stream-of-consciousness technique, capturing the disintegration of a Southern aristocratic family. Other significant works include *As I Lay Dying* (1930), which presents a multi-perspective narrative of a family's journey to bury their deceased matriarch, and *Light in August* (1932), exploring racial and existential themes.

Awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1949, Faulkner's impact on American literature is profound. He is celebrated for his ability to convey the complexities of the human psyche and the social fabric of the South. His influence extends beyond literature into film and popular culture, cementing his legacy as one of the great American novelists of the 20th century.