

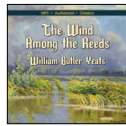
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The Wind Among the Reeds

By William Butler Yeats (1865 - 1939)

Read by: Multiple readers Language: English
 Length: 1 hour and 32 minutes Style: Collaborative
 Genre(s): Myths, Legends & Fairy Tales; Poetry

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1290	0701236970098	\$9.99
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Critics often divide the of W. B. Yeats into three periods. His return to Ireland in 1896 marked a major transition to his second period, characterized by a strong interest in Irish legends and myths. *The Wind Among the Reeds* (1899) was written at the peak of this period and is considered a watershed. Richard Ellman wrote that Yeats “set the tone for the modern movement” with this volume of 37 poems that Yeats described as “a book of short lyrics and personal”. Taken together the poems tell a tale of quest and loss, and feature a variety of personae: Aedh, a figure derived from from Aodh, a Celtic god of death; Michael Robartes; Red Hanrahan; and Mongan, a figure from Celtic literature. Scholar Virginia Hyde writes that the poems “sound keynotes of painful desire, world-weariness, and apocalyptic fantasy... In Yeats’s iconography, the reeds

represent all perishable mortal things while the wind signifies the uncanny immortal powers buffeting them and interacting with them; wind also suggests to Yeats the “vague desires” of humans who are forever unsatisfied by the transient and palpable.” Many are intense love poems, and can be seen as a quasi-biographical story of Yeats’ unrequited passion for revolutionary Maud Gonne. Stylistically the poems are, in Yeats’ words, “curiously elaborate”, and range from simple ballads to stately verse, lush in diction, with echoes of Spenser, Blake and Shelley. The volume closes with notes on the characters and subjects.

William Butler Yeats (June 13, 1865 – January 28, 1939) was an Irish poet and a leading figure in 20th century literature. He was born in County Dublin into a well-to-do and artistic family: his father abandoned law to study art, his mother came from a wealthy merchant family. The family settled in Sligo by the sea when Yeats was an infant. The young William studied poetry from an early age, with a fascination for Irish legends and occult subjects, which, along with Spenser, Shelley and the Pre-Raphaelites, influenced his early work. His work became more concrete and realistic over time but maintained a connection with the mystical throughout. He wrote in 1892 that “the mystical life is the centre of all that I do and all that I think and all that I write.” He is known for his long and difficult relationship with Irish heiress and Nationalist Maud Gonne, and for his friendship with Lady Gregory, an Irish dramatist and folklorist with whom he co-founded the Irish Literary Theatre and the Abbey Theatre and established the “Irish Literary Revival” movement. He married 25-year old Georgie Hyde-Lees happily at age 51 and fathered two children. His support of the Irish Nationalist movement led to his appointment as a Senator to the Irish Free State in 1922 and again in 1925. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923.