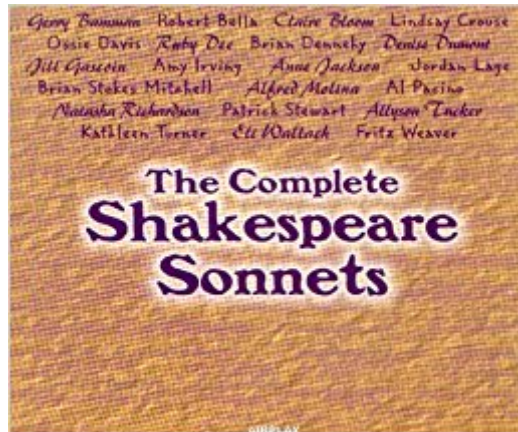


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The Complete Shakespeare Sonnets (Audio CD)



Synopsis

THE COMPLETE SHAKESPEARE SONNETS read by Patrick Stewart, Natasha Richardson, Ossie Davis, Al Pacino, Claire Bloom, Kathleen Turner, Alfred Molina, Lindsay Crouse, Ruby Dee, Brian Stokes Mitchell and more "The Sonnets are as important a part of Shakespeare's legacy as his Plays. They are filled with thoughts and emotions all of us can recognize: desire, disappointment, jealousy, love, and forgiveness. To speak his Sonnets, Shakespeare created a character, a Poet, who gives voice to the feelings and observations reflected in each poem. We thought it appropriate to gather together a group of actors who could bring this Poet to life. We have set out to read the Sonnets in Shakespeare's language, in such a manner that allows the relevancy and originality of each poem to shine through." From the Introduction to the Complete Shakespeare Sonnets, Kathleen Turner

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

i bought this CD years back, and over time have bought it again and again as gifts... yes, it includes a booklet that lists the sonnets and who recites which, but what i like about this recording is the broad range of celebrities/actors who breathe life into the words. When reading the sonnets, the archaic language can be a barrier, but listening to some of the best actors of recent years recite the words with passion, feeling and understanding, the language becomes a clear conversation... someone speaking to you, with lively wit and unique insights about life, love, and relationships. Really showcases the genius of Shakespeare.

The sonnet is one among the many forms of poetry. It is a difficult form of verse with a FIXED rhyme scheme. The other trivia about writing it is that the verse should be 14 lines long. 154 sonnets written by Shakespeare have been read/recorded in this collection. There are actually two cd's in the box - the first cd contains sonnets 1 through 75 and the second, sonnets 76 through 154. The accompanying book of sonnets is a plus - it saves our time spent in scurrying to locate the sonnet being read next, since all the sonnets are in one place, in the order that they are being read. The book also has two indexes of the sonnets: 1. Track number / First line of sonnet/ Artist and 2. First line of sonnet / Track number / Artist. Since the rhyming scheme is fixed (abab bcbb cddc ee), listening to them all at a time can sometimes make it sound monotonous, but that issue has been fixed in this audio book, by varying the tone, voice, and reader. When it comes to reading The Bard's works on an audio CD, who can do it better than experienced and well known thespians and theatre personalities who have made a mark in their own style? Here is the list of personalities who have read the sonnets for us: 1. Gerry Bammon 2. Roberta Bella 3. Claire Bloom 4. Lindsay Crouse 5. Ossie Davis 6. Ruby Dee 7. Brian Dennehy 8. Denise Dumont 9. Jill Gascoin 10. Amy Irving 11. Anne Jackson 12. Jordan Lage 13. Brian Stokes Mitchell 14. Alfred Molina 15. Al Pacino 16. Natasha Richardson 17. Patric Stewart 18. Allyson Tucker 19. Kathleen Turner (who, along with Charline Spektor, is also the producer for this audio-collection) 20. Eli Wallach 21. Fritz Weaver. Some of the sonnets have been rendered by more than one person, and both of them have been published in this cd, since both of them are good to listen. There was no point in time while I listened to the CD that I felt bored. In fact, some of them have been rendered so well that I wanted to listen to them again, just for the rendition. For those who are interested in Shakespeare, this is an important addition to their collection. Some of the sonnets therein are well known ("Let me not to the marriage of true minds/Admit impediments.../If this be error and upon me proved/I never writ, nor no man ever loved"), and there are so many others to be read for the first time. Some of them bring vivid imagery, even if they are unknown ("Thus in his cheek the map of days outworn"), whereas others have wonderful metaphors ("So are you to my thoughts as food to life,/or as sweet-season'd showers are to the ground;"). Almost all of them are treasure houses of wisdom (remember, Shakespeare was 45 when they were published, and he had lived life then). Now, coming to majors who have to read the sonnets for their academic purposes - it is well known that it helps if we can quote lines from the sonnets amidst our theory answers; to that end, listening to the cd before, after or while reading the sonnet in print helps memorizing the lesson easier - this is my experience. Here is a fantastic audio-book that reminds me why I was so entranced by literature while I was studying. A good gift for literature oriented people to add to their collection.

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