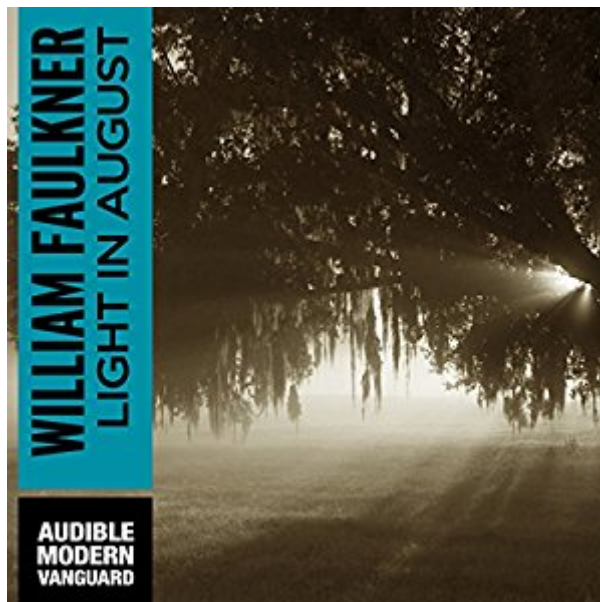


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Light In August



Synopsis

Earphones Award Winner (AudioFile Magazine) Audible is pleased to present *Light in August*, by Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner. An Oprah's Book Club Selection regarded as one of Faulkner's greatest and most accessible novels, *Light in August* is a timeless and riveting story of determination, tragedy, and hope. In Faulkner's iconic Yoknapatawpha County, race, sex, and religion collide around three memorable characters searching desperately for human connection and their own identities. Audie Award-winning narrator Will Patton lends his voice to *Light in August*. Patton has narrated works by Ernest Hemingway, Don DeLillo, Pat Conroy, Denis Johnson, Larry McMurtry, and James Lee Burke, and brings to this performance a keen understanding of Faulkner, an authentic feel for the South, and a virtuoso narrator's touch. As an added bonus, when you purchase our Audible Modern Vanguard production of William Faulkner's book, you'll also receive an exclusive Jim Atlas interview. This interview - where James Atlas interviews James Lee Burke about the life and work of William Faulkner - begins as soon as the audiobook ends.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Here are some notes I jotted down while reading "As I Lay Dying": 1. Faulkner sets down the thoughts and feelings of several people, mostly members of the Bundren family. The comments of the characters aren't hard to follow but they can make you think. 2. Faulkner was a natural story-teller. One expert on his work I recently encountered said that he took a lot from the oral tradition of the southern U. S. I found this comment useful, since I've recently been wondering how Faulkner's work came to be. He hadn't much post-secondary education, most northerners like me

don't think of the rural south as having a great literary tradition, and Faulkner seems more an individualist than a member of a literary group. Many came after him -- Carson McCullers, Tennessee Williams, Eudora Welty, and Flannery O'Connor. For now, I must be content to recognize Faulkner's stories as gifts. 3. "As I Lay Dying" is a good place to start if Faulkner's work is new to you. He has a way of bringing together humor, pathos, tragedy, and the nobility of human life. All of that is here. 4. To put the above point another way, Faulkner's explorations of his characters takes us along a range of expression -- from down-to-earth to reaching for words to describe our mistakes, our sharpest perplexities, and also our joys, our hopes, our resilience and our ability to keep on going. 5. I know that Faulkner's novels and stories have their detractors, but to me he had a remarkable gift for entering the lives and struggles of worldly people who don't tell their own stories and describing their situations with fairness, originality, and exquisite compassion.

Read for an English Lit class and really enjoyed taking the time to analyze the characters (who are all very unique and interesting!). Years ago I found this book boring and bleak but I am glad that I challenged myself and I gave it a second read under the guidance of a great professor. Thinking critically about this book helped me appreciate it. I recommend it, but it is dark so if you are looking for something uplifting this won't be of much help.

I haven't read this novel for 20 years, but what a discovery to read it again. It is very modern in its narration and view of life. As usual Faulkner has the knack of creating eccentric characters and excellent description. It makes places where lines are very poetic. Great to keep this book around to remind me that he is one of our best writers.

"Still the child didn't answer. He had never seen a home, so there was nothing for him to say about it. And he was not old enough to talk and say nothing at the same time." *Light in August*, page 144 Faulkner weaves his keen observations, penetrating character development, provocative phrasing, and fascinating plot development together with his singular familiarity with southern culture into a masterpiece of a book. If you are thinking about reading Faulkner for the first time, or re-reading *Light in August* for the umpteenth time, let this book transport you back to the rural south of a hundred years ago. If the inexcusable racism and ugly epithets are difficult for today's reader, imagine living in that time period where it was generally tolerated and appreciate how far we have come. My high school English teacher gave me a copy of this book when I graduated and I have spent a lifetime appreciating her choice. It's one of my favorite books.

"How often have I lain beneath rain on a strange roof, thinking of home." says Darl Bundren in William Faulkner's poetic novel *As I Lay Dying*. Darl in describing getting a drink of water at night signals us to the prose poetry to come in this narrative "the still surface of the water a round orifice in nothingness where before I stirred it awake with the dipper I could see maybe a star or two in the bucket and maybe in the dipper a star or two before I drank." The title of this novel comes from Homer's *Odyssey*. As I lay dying are words spoken by Agamemnon's shade in Hades as he recounts his homecoming murder by his wife. "As I lay dying the woman with the dog's eyes would not close my eyelids for me as I descended into Hades." While touching on the Greek classics I will mention that this novel reminds of Sophocles' tragedy *Antigone*, the story of a sisters repeated attempts to bury her brother. Leaving ancient Greece we find ourselves in late 1920s Mississippi as the Bundren family prepare to take their wife and mother Addie, who is about to die, to her home town of Jefferson for burial. When she dies, early in the novel, they take the coffin by wagon and must endure flooded rivers and fire among other obstacles to get her there nine days later. I like Cash Bundren the eldest Bundren child he is a skilled carpenter and a paragon of selflessness and patience at one point he alludes to the golden rule using his carpenter language "Folks seems to get away from the olden right teaching that says to drive the nails down and trim the edges well always like it was for your own use and comfort you were making it." The burden that the Bundrens carry in the wagon is mostly themselves, each self an onerous cargo. The story is told through multiple first person viewpoints of the family members, neighbors, and the people they meet along the way. Working the graveyard shift in a power plant Faulkner wrote this lyrical masterwork in about eight weeks scribing prose like this: "The sun, an hour above the horizon, is poised like a bloody egg upon a crest of thunderheads; the light has turned copper: in the eye portentous, in the nose sulphurous, smelling of lightning." Hunting horn in hand Faulkner sounds the note mort in this novel. The Bundrens form a kind of rolling wake around Addie's coffin as the wagon wheels whisper a dirge in the Mississippi mud and the sky above them wears black circles in mourning.

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