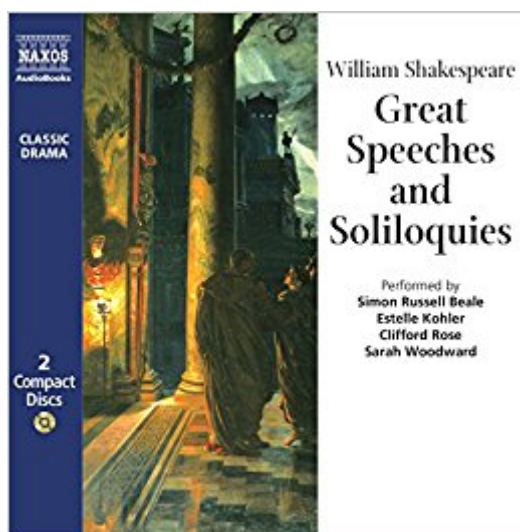


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Great Speeches And Soliloquies (Classic Literature With Classical Music)



Synopsis

This magnificent selection of key speeches from Shakespeare's plays including, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, and others remind the listener of his extraordinary gift for penetrating human nature.

Book Information

Series: Classic Literature with Classical Music

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

And the most enjoyable treat of all: Simon Russell Beale - a National Treasure in the making - reads Great Speeches and Soliloquies on ever-resourceful Naxos AudioBooks. - John Horder, Camden New Journal

Very good.

I recently rediscovered my Naxos Audio Book on CD, "Great Speeches and Soliloquies from the Plays of William Shakespeare." It's a wonderful set of recordings. I've listened to it so many times over the years. The Bard was truly masterful. "O for a Muse of Fire...." "Once more unto the breach dear friends...." "The quality of mercy is not strained...." "This sceptered isle...." Some of the recordings are by Simon Russell Beale, whom I saw in London in 1998, and who is one of my favourite actors. All actors and actresses are from the Royal Shakespeare Company. The musical interludes are excellent recordings of period pieces, especially Purcell but also other Renaissance pieces. One of the best recordings of literature I've ever owned. Worth three times the purchase

price.

Everyone knows that William Shakespeare wrote a great many speeches. Everyone knows that Hamlet had a soliloquy, that there was a big famous speech about a stage (or something) in ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, that Romeo and Juliet had a "balcony scene," but this is not enough to spread the genius of Shakespeare throughout the world! This book contains nearly all the speeches ever written by this "phantom of the stage" and when all you people who have not read very much Shakespeare and think it's boring, I assure you this will change your mind. You will most likely be memorizing all of the speeches and buying all Shakespeares plays or sonnets! Buy this book and am positive that you will not regret it!

Although I've never heard of these actors before, they all do a very nice job on the readings. They are all English (Americans cannot speak Shakespeare for some reason) and with the Royal Shakespeare Company which should explain why. As opposed to most Shakespeare collections, these readings are not scenes, but just individual speeches which stand well on their own as poetry. There is a very brief, one sentence introduction to every speech. My only quibble is that there's a musical interlude between every speech which gets a little tiring after a while.

DO NOT buy the audiobook download of this book. You will get a 2-hour audio file with no indexing of any kind. You will not even know what soliloquies are in the file, let alone where to find them.

I ordered the Great Speeches CD and got the CD for "Grimm's Fairy Tales" instead. There must have been a mix-up at the factory. I guess it's difficult to match-up sleeve and CD. So after this happened to me twice, I decided to download the title. The speeches are excellent and worth listening to. The 18th century Baroque music, however, is really overdoing it and doesn't fit in with early 17th century Shakespearean drama.

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