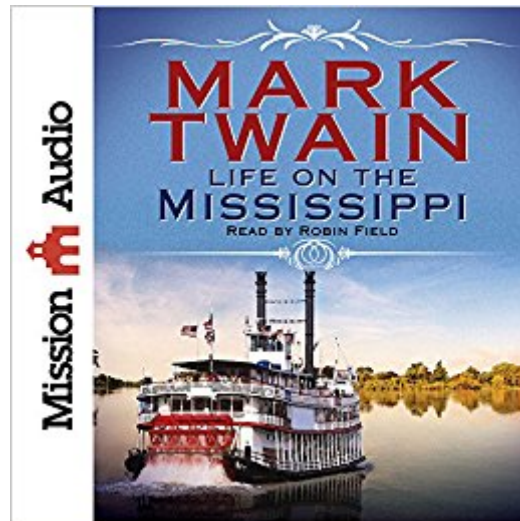




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Life On The Mississippi



Synopsis

In *Life on the Mississippi*, the great American humorist Mark Twain recounts his journeys on the mighty Mississippi river. Covering the beginnings of his career as steamboat pilot, Twain entertains us with his wit, anecdotes and wild stories of the myriad characters and adventures he encounters. From a brief history of the Mississippi we are taken on to a recollection of the river life with its rich history and engaging narrative, newcomers and fans of Twain alike.

Book Information

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[Authors, A-Z > \(T \) > Twain, Mark](#) #1247 in [Books > Books on CD > History > United States](#)

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Customer Reviews

Memoir of the steamboat era on the Mississippi River before the American Civil War by Mark Twain, published in 1883. The book begins with a brief history of the river from its discovery by Hernando de Soto in 1541. Chapters 4-22 describe Twain's career as a Mississippi steamboat pilot, the fulfillment of a childhood dream. The second half of *Life on the Mississippi* tells of Twain's return, many years after, to travel the river from St. Louis to New Orleans. By then the competition from railroads had made steamboats passe, in spite of improvements in navigation and boat construction. Twain sees new, large cities on the river, and records his observations on greed, gullibility, tragedy, and bad architecture. --The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature

8 1.5-hour cassettes --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The introductory chapters dealing with river facts and comparisons to world rivers as well as hilarious rendering of the history of the initial European contact and conquest of the native

Americans was the humorist at his best. Strokes of comic genius scatter the remainder of the work but a lot of the verbiage deals with learning the constantly changing aspects of the river required to be a river pilot. What I found amazing in the later part of the book were the vividly described scenery of the upper Mississippi. I did not remember these romantic and detailed scenic descriptions in his other works. A great book to read for a Twain fan. If you are just starting to explore the humorist's work I'd try some other titles. "Big wheel it keeps on turning...."

Great book, I just wish I had known it was for a 90 year old. It is double the size of any other book I have with 18pt font.

The book "Life on the Mississippi" has a good explanation of the skills required for a pilot to navigate the paddle steamers that used to extensively move people and freight before the railways were established. There are several good human personality stories included. There are only a few flat spots in the reading that personally didn't interest me, but all in all a good read.

There is a reason why you've heard so much more of Mark Twain's other works. This starts with the famous anecdotes of becoming a Mississippi River pilot, but too soon degenerates into a hodgepodge of stories about different Mississippi towns, often filled with statistics of population and assessed valuation- just as boring as they sound.

its mark twain at his best i don't know what else to say - its all over his stories poems etc in one book - great - you like him or you don't - i do like his stories but that's just me - but life on the mississippi and huck finn are just like i read in high school - fun and full of adventure around every turn of the page

This is probably Mark Twain's best nonfiction book. And what a delight to read. It made Robert McCrum's (of "The Guardian") list of the top 100 nonfiction books--ever. And it's a deserved addition. This edition is obviously scanned and is not perfect, but is readable even with the lack of paragraph indentation. And for the price: hard to beat.

A very descriptive historical novel of exploits on the Mississippi River by a former steamboat captain. Tall tales of men and legends dot the history of the region during the hey day of steamboat travel prior to the railroads. The story can drag at times but the story teller holds you close with his

incites into human nature and characters that serve up that truth is stranger than fiction. Enjoyable with a thorough look at the entire Mississippi River and all that lines its banks.

Twain writes of the riverboating on the Mississippi prior to the Civil War, during the golden age of paddle steamboats. Then, as a famous personage, he revisits the river 25 years later and documents, with wit, angst, sorrow and sarcasm, the changes which have taken place on the Mississippi. This is simultaneously a great piece of American literature and a significant historical tract. Especially notable is Twain's sarcasm and obvious disgust with the Federal Government's attempts to tame the Mississippi. Mark Twain presents an array of unforgettable characters drawn with his unsurpassed observations of the human scene. This monologue by Twain should be required reading in every high school or college in the land.

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