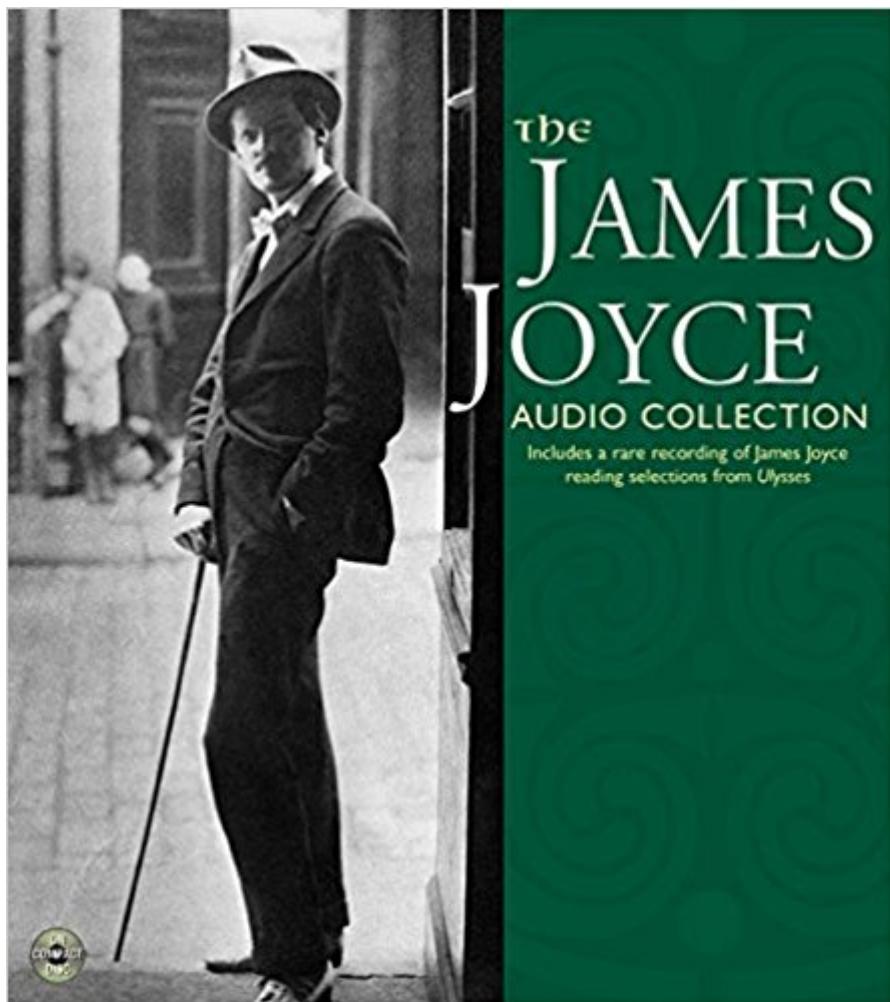


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# The James Joyce Audio Collection



## Synopsis

James Joyce's self-referential, allusive, and pun-filled works are widely recognized as the signature pieces of European modernist literature, and helped hasten the 20th Century break from traditionally recognized forms of prose. He repeatedly explored the themes of childhood and adulthood, and youth and maturity while simultaneously widening the boundaries of the novel. This collection includes selections from his most important works: *Ulysses*, *Finnegan's Wake*, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Dubliners*. The most fascinating treat here is the landmark recording of James Joyce reading selections from *Ulysses*. This rare recording was made in 1924, and Joyce's reading provides the singular experience of hearing the work as he intended it to be read. Also providing the unique insight of spoken-word to these wonderful works are the accomplished, sensitive and expressive performers Cyril Cusack, Siobhan McKenna, Jim Norton, Colm Meaney, and E.G. Marshall.

## Book Information

Audio CD

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,967,837 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( J ) > Joyce, James #1787 in Books > Books on CD > Biographies & Memoirs #4283 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

## Customer Reviews

"The only demand I make of my reader is that he should devote his whole life to reading my works."  
-- James Joyce --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

James Augustine Aloysius Joyce was born in Dublin in 1882. One of the most influential writers of the 20th Century, Joyce's life was punctuated by poverty, critical controversy and self-imposed exile. Joyce was one of the pioneering figures of modernism and counted W.B. Yeats and Ezra Pound amongst his earliest supporters. Before his death in 1941, Joyce had published *Ulysses*,

Finnegan's Wake, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man and Dubliners; works that today are recognized as amongst the greatest achievements in literature. James Augustine Aloysius Joyce was born in Dublin in 1882. One of the most influential writers of the 20th Century, Joyce's life was punctuated by poverty, critical controversy and self-imposed exile. Joyce was one of the pioneering figures of modernism and counted W.B. Yeats and Ezra Pound amongst his earliest supporters. Before his death in 1941, Joyce had published Ulysses, Finnegan's Wake, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man and Dubliners; works that today are recognized as amongst the greatest achievements in literature.

This CD is a must for anyone reading or teaching the works of James Joyce. In addition to Joyce, himself, the CD has superb actors reading major passages of Joyce's works. An illuminating and not-to-be-missed for CD.

There is no better choice when looking for authentic reading this wonderful poetry. It is a great compilation, absolutely worth listening to

The Siobhan McKenna reading of Molly Bloom's soliloquy is sublime. The vendor from whom I bought this through was prompt, professional, and courteous.

If you are a fan (student?) of Joyce, this set is indeed wonderful and, yes, indispensable. In the "Truth in Advertising" department, however, be advised that the recording of Joyce reading from Ulysses is very short (just a little over four minutes!). The outer package states, "The most fascinating treat here is the landmark recording of James Joyce reading selections from Ulysses. This rare recording was made in 1924, and Joyce's reading provides the singular experience of hearing the work as he intended it to be read." In truth, there is just one selection of Joyce reading from Ulysses; representing barely one-and-one-half pages from Chapter 7, Aeolus (pp. 142-43 in the 1990 Vintage International Edition). Another inconsistency concerns the recording date: There is a written quotation in the package attributed to Sylvia Beach that provides informative details about the process by which she recorded Joyce reading from Ulysses in 1924. She goes on to say that Joyce was adamant that "this would be his only reading from Ulysses." Yet the CD track listings indicate that the Ulysses excerpt was recorded "circa 1921." Which is it? Further, given the considerable logistics, negotiations and expense that Beach apparently invested in order to record Joyce, it seems inconceivable that they would have recorded for only four minutes; notwithstanding

the "primitive manner" of recording in the early 1920s. Where is the rest? Do other selections really exist? The set includes one other, somewhat longer selection of Joyce reading from the Anna Livia Plurabelle section of *Finnegan's Wake* (three pages at the end of Book One; pp. 213-16 in my ancient copy of the Viking Compass Edition). It was recorded "circa 1932," and lasts eight-and-a-half minutes. In both excerpts, there are some slight, inconsequential discrepancies between the recorded and written versions; often simply affecting word order. These do make one wonder which version Joyce intended. So here you have a total of fourteen-and-a-half minutes of Joyce's voice. Believe me, I am not complaining. But if you have read this far, it's a fair bet that you, too, would like to know how much (or how little) of Joyce's voice is actually contained in this 4-CD set. The sound quality is pretty good, considering the age, particularly if you follow along in the books while listening. And that is no doubt the best way to experience these recordings, in order to more fully appreciate Joyce's wonderful lilt, accent, pronunciation & emphasis; and to gain a much better understanding of his meaning. Would that we could hear Joyce reading all of *Ulysses*! But, this little bit is infinitely better than nothing! The selections recorded by other readers are excellent, too, but that would be the subject of another review. Best regards.

for my best friend, delivery on time receive it next day . very nice . nice, feel good. very sharp and nice feel in your hand. A nice company to deal with .Hope my product and I get many happy years together .Would for sure buy another product from them.

I am very satisfied of having opportunity to hear this work and Joyce reading it. Beautiful!

This just wasn't my cup of tea. Couldn't get through the CD. Found it difficult to understand, and when Joyce was actually reading, I couldn't understand a word. This CD was a waste of my money.

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