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Mark Twain's The Prince And The Pauper: A Radio Dramatization



Synopsis

In this faithful adaptation of Mark Twain's immortal classic, two boys, one a pauper and the other a prince, discover that they share an incredible likeness and accidentally find their roles in life reversed. The young prince must now contend with London's criminals, vagabonds and lunatics, while the pauper finds that he has a country to run, and internal plots to thwart. Can the real prince reclaim his right before an imposter is crowned in his place? And will his look-alike give up his regal position and return to a life of poverty? An adventure for the young and young at heart, bursting with non-stop excitement, wit and warmth, as the spirit of Twain's beloved classic comes to life with a full cast, music score, and thousands of sound effects.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Having never read *The Prince and the Pauper*, I was expecting a lighthearted, funny story in the vein of Mark Twain's other works. Set 16th century England, the story is about Henry VIII's son Prince Edward and a pauper boy Tom Canti born on the exact same day who also happens to look exactly like the prince. Their paths happen to cross one day when the prince witnesses the pauper being mistreated and he takes him back to the palace. Intrigued by the fact that they look so much alike, and thinking that Tom's life sounds like carefree fun, the prince decides they should switch clothes. They are both amazed by how indistinguishable they are. Then suddenly the prince decides to punish a servant who has mistreated Tom and runs out of the room still wearing Tom's tattered clothes. Thus he sets in motion a chain of events that traps each boy into the other's role..The story was as lighthearted as one would expect from Mark Twain, but the adventures each boy faced were

more intriguing than I expected and made the story better than I expected. This is great family entertainment, well-done by the Colonial Radio Players. I do wish the ending hadn't tied up so nice and pat -- after all the conflicts each boy was entwined in, to have it all end so neatly was somewhat of a letdown. But that's Twain, I suppose. And younger listeners should be satisfied with it.

This is a wonderfully done performance of *The Prince and the Pauper*. I have enjoyed listening to this very much.

Good dramatization.

Mark Twain's *The Prince and The Pauper* is a classic book. The role reversal story of a royal aristocrat and a penniless, poor waif have been done many times in films and television in many incarnations...including such a film gem as the film *Trading Places* (Special Collector's Edition). Now in the hands of The Colonial Radio Theatre, this classic seems like a movie for the ears as its transfers to cd and download with ease. This audio presentation brings you back to the 1600's with a simple sound designs and a great cast of hard-working actors who know their way around a microphone. The one thing I enjoy about their productions is they do not overdose the listener with too many special audio foley effects that over shadow the actors' vocals. That is the most important thing in dramatized audio presentation. The CRT has never done that, the words are the thing, after 400 audio presentations, the rep of the CRT should be wowed and not kicked like some others have done as of late. Director Jerry Robbins and company give life to this story. I hate to use the old adage, but I am going to . . . "They make the classics come to life." (Oh God, I cant believe I said that!). Robbins does double duty, as director and as actor playing Miles Hendon. It a hard task to do one of those duties, but to do both is a feat of skill. This throwback to classic radio drama is similar to Orson Welles and his classic Mercury Theatre of The Air. I do not know how the CRT brings the quality to most of their productions, including this one . . . but they do it, time after time. Brilliance Audio should be glad to have such craftsmen in their stable that includes Nora Roberts and audio versions of Cliff Notes. The family oriented production does not talk down to adults and nor over the heads of children. It has the fine air of a family presentation. I do not know about you... BUT one of the complaints parents tell me when I do appearances in book stores is there are no audio the whole family can listen to together. This one is one of the best for that task. Worth getting and trasuring. Bennet Pomerantz AUDIOWORLD

I am a fan of Colonial Radio Theatre and I think this is one of their very best productions. The music is just incredible and the entire production moves along at a rapid and entertaining pace that should hold the attention of the youngsters (but it's fun for adults, too). As always with CRT the sound effects and editing are 1st class.

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