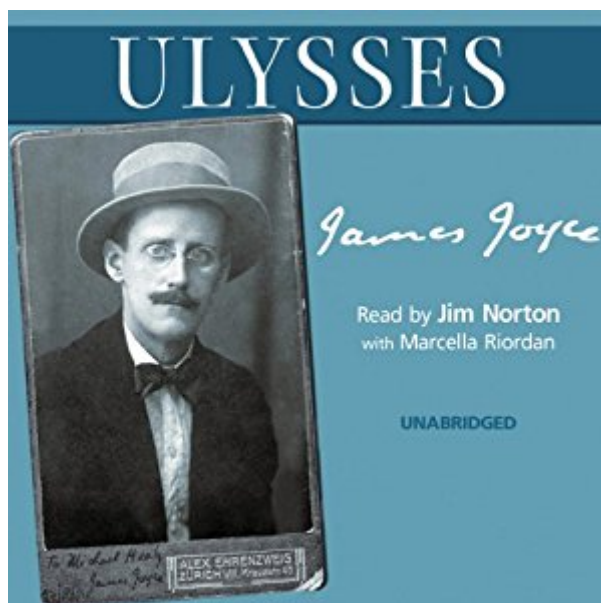


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Ulysses



Synopsis

This book is one of the classic book of all time.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 27 hours and 16 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Naxos AudioBooks

Audible.com Release Date: July 31, 2008

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

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Customer Reviews

Ulysses: the literary reader's favorite and the casual reader's frustration. It is a difficult book to read - if the experts are right, the difficulty is worth it. Nonetheless, it remains difficult, and for that, any judgement based on the usual "good story - well told" criterion will be less than fair to this masterpiece. My first attempt ended 43 years ago on page 38 (the bookmark was still there.) But the book can't be ignored it is on nearly every "100 greatest books ever written list: there are many 'bests' lists and Ulysses is usually in the leadoff, or #2 spot - that doesn't happen by chance! The difficulty with this read is that the reader is often simply listening to the protagonists thoughts presented in stream-of-consciousness style, while Joyce is constantly playing with the language; English, French, Latin even Italian, and he plays with the characters and other authors, even his own prior work, and philosophies are explored, and all-the-while the story is an allegory of Homer's (the Greek, not Simpson) "Odyssey". And yet, still in the back of the mind, you just can't help but wonder if the myopic little Jimmy J. was just having it

on with all of us. In fact, he said himself... "I've put in so many enigmas and puzzles that it will keep the professors busy for centuries arguing over what I meant, and that's the only way of insuring one's immortality." (Joyce's reply for a request for a plan of Ulysses, as quoted in James Joyce (1959) by Richard Ellmann.)Apropos the game of baseball, for which it has been said, "There's a whole lot of stuff going on out there (which the uninitiated is unable to see). I didn't see all that Joyce had to say (yep uninitiated!) but I saw enough to recognize the enormous importance of this book. If I may modify the definition of 4-stars from "I Like it" to "I Admire it", then I can make the rating system work for this read. If you are a reader, you will want to read this book someday - but wait until you are ready to concentrate on it: Joyce does not throw slow-pitch, its all curves, sliders and cutters and nasty sinkers! If you strike out, its your own fault, not his. The story line is a walk through Dublin on the day of June 16th 1904 where we follow the separate strolls of Stephen Dedalus, a budding poet and Leopold Bloom, an advertisement salesman, till they meet in the evening, go on a drunk together then separate onto their own paths again. Simple story? Sure, but you'd better pay attention because, "there's a whole lot of stuff going on out there!"

It is a classic, it is lengthy, it is written well. The content might not be everyone's cuppa tea. I use this more as a literary reference to style than for content. In that regard it is wonderfully done. Wiki for spoilerCliff notes for ease of digestion.

Reading this is work, but joyful work. My father loved this and bought print copies three times in his life, exhorting me to read it. I sat with the audio book in my ears and this copy in my eyes while regularly reading the web sites that discuss what is happening in each chapter. Some chapters are a joyful romp others are tedious. I think it helps a lot to read all kinds of supporting documents like annotations that translate the Latin, French, German and Italian. Or maybe you are fluent in all that and don't need any help. Well worth the work.

This is an almost 100 year old book that crosses some very important ground in literature. It has been one of the most iconic books of it's time and it is credited with being the 1st of it's kind. You can read more here: [...] where it summarizes each section with details enough to help you decide to read it and the importance it was to literature in it's time. It is a required reading for almost all high

school students. I think there are lots of great books but this is one that almost everyone has heard of in one form or another.

I am now of the opinion, since I've tried it both ways, that like the *Wake*, Joyce's magnum opus should be read in groups and discussed, because a room full of varied perspectives and differing contextual and textual knowledge is far superior to one person's frame of reference, however seemingly erudite you think you are. *Ulysses* explodes all monomaniacal concepts of time, history, and gender (male gender, anyway, my only criticism is that the female portrayals, even the great Molly Bloom, rely a little too heavily on stereotype). It stages postcolonial subjectivity almost a hundred years before Homi Bhabha coined the terminology. It riffs on every literary form imaginable and some previously unimagined. This hybrid text is sheer magic, lyrical like a poem, rich and allusive like an allegory, the power of Joyce's language at its zenith. It demands active reading, and I consider finishing it the greatest accomplishment of my intellectual life.

This is the best anti-epic ever written. A hero's epic, without a hero. The drama of an everyday man spending one of his every days. With all its intrigue and monotony. My favorite book, and I side with those that argue this is the greatest novel of the 21st century. A warning to all reading, this is not a night-stand book. Best to be read in longer intervals (1 hour at a time for example) so you can get into the writing style. The book also has one of the highest concentrations of English vocabulary so non-native speakers beware. Finally, everyone I have recommended this book to has struggled to get into the flow of the writing -- in most cases it takes the first 100 pages for people to really get into it but all native speakers I have recommended it to have loved it by the end. Read it. Enjoy it. Don't read footnotes, just let it pull you into the world the first time. You can read the references to the *Odyssey* afterwards when you want to read it a second time.

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