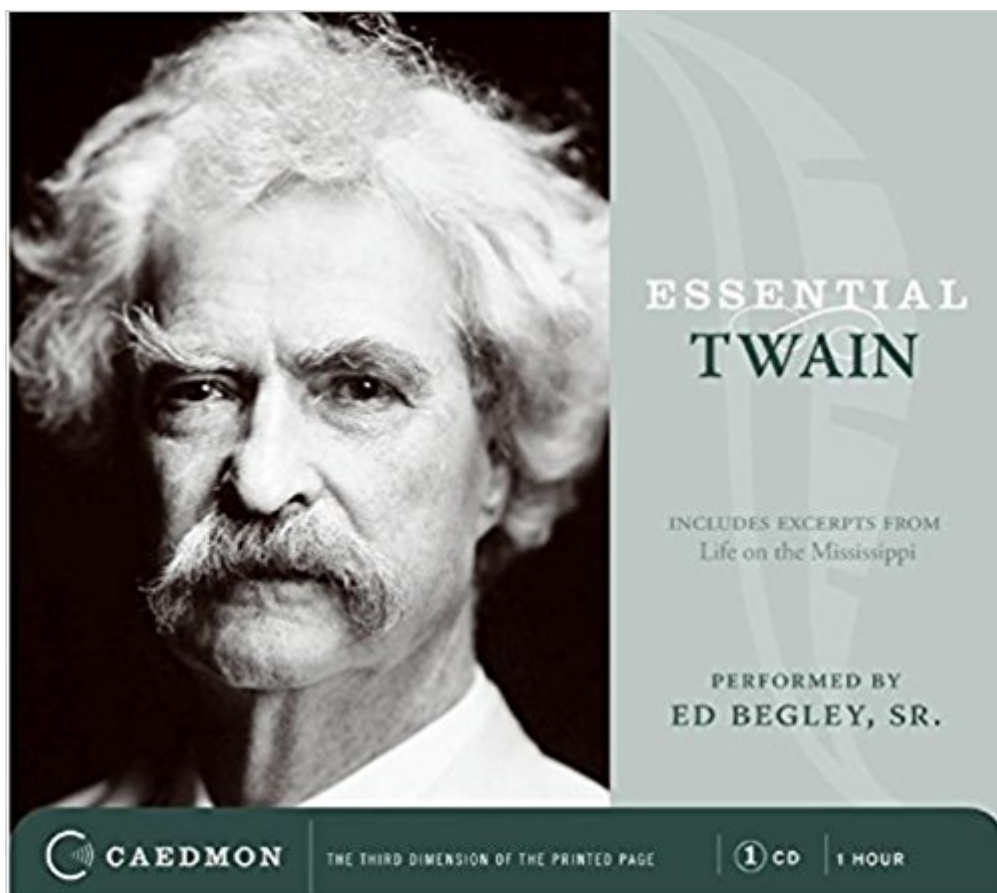




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Essential Twain CD: Excerpts From Life On The Mississippi: The Boy's Ambition & Speculations And Confusion (Caedmon Essentials)



Synopsis

Mark Twain's *LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI*, first published in 1883, is a pre-Civil War memoir of the steamboat era and describes the fulfillment of Twain's childhood dream to become a steamboat pilot. Twain records his observations during his many years of traveling the river from St. Louis to New Orleans and reflects on the people and places of his childhood, the way things looked and felt in the memorable locales of his growing up and his later return to them in maturity.

Book Information

Series: Caedmon Essentials

Audio CD

Publisher: Caedmon (February 27, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061232181

ISBN-13: 978-0061232183

Product Dimensions: 5 x 5.6 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces

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Customer Reviews

Mark Twain, who was born Samuel L. Clemens in Missouri in 1835, wrote some of the most enduring works of literature in the English language, including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc* was his last completed book—and, by his own estimate, his best. Its acquisition by Harper & Brothers allowed Twain to stave off bankruptcy. He died in 1910. Ed Begley, Sr. was a prolific radio actor and from 1944-1948 he played the title role in the radio version of *Charlie Chan*. In 1947, Begley created the role of benighted war profiteer Joe Keller in Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. He was a familiar figure in TV's "golden age" of the 1950s, and appeared 789 times as the William Jennings Bryan counterpart in the Broadway drama *Inherit the Wind*.

In this Caedmon reissue of a 1969 recording, Begley--whom older listeners will recall as a veteran character actor--reads a section of *LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI*, Twain's recollections of learning to

pilot a riverboat. Begley plays Twain as an old man reminiscing (though Twain was only 48 when the book was published), declaiming in a rhetorical manner and a moderate drawl. He gets at the humor of a man looking back on his callowness and his loss of innocent wonder. The sound, at the same time flat and hollow, is substandard, though not terribly off-putting. But while this is a moderately entertaining hour or so of Twain, there's nothing essential about it. W.M. Å Å© AudioFile 2007, Portland, Maine-- Copyright Å Å© AudioFile, Portland, Maine

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