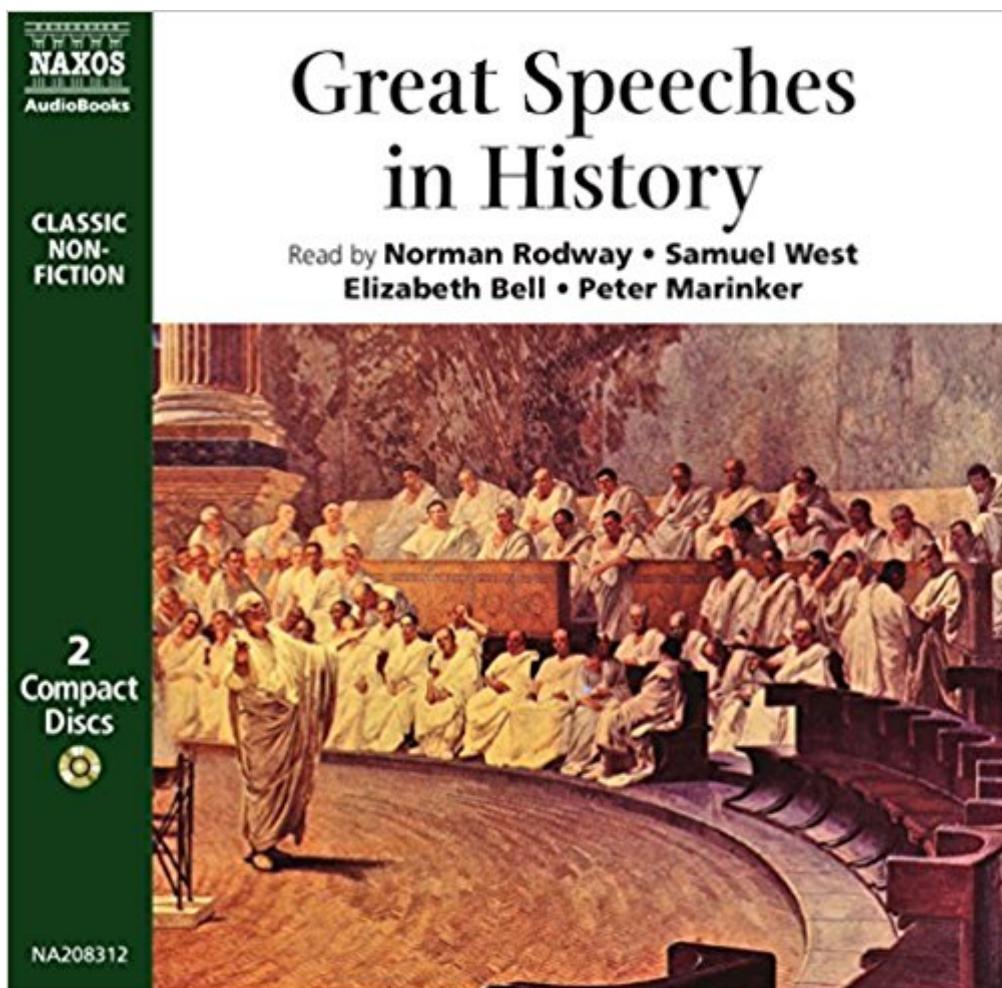


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Great Speeches In History (Classic Non-fiction)



Synopsis

From Socrates to Lincoln, this title includes some of history's most significant figures with their most important speeches. Fighting for justice, for freedom of speech and sometimes even for their own lives, these orators spoke on the most dramatic issues of their day. The readings are supplemented by music from Sibelius, Schumann and Nielsen.

Book Information

Series: Classic non-fiction

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

This is a delightful little collection of speeches: a portion of Socrates's defense before the Athenian jury, several English speeches during the Middle Ages, Luther before the Diet of Worms, Lincoln at Gettysburg. Each speech is briefly introduced, and this is necessary because some seem obscure. Despite having some references that need explanation, the speeches are, on the whole, quite understandable on their own. The actors read clearly and with the same passion that most likely characterized the original presentations. This collection would be excellent for classroom use. M.L.C. . (c)AudioFile, Portland, Maine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I ordered this CD hoping to satisfy my thirst for great rhetoric and lofty ideals contained in the great speeches of history. But be aware that unless you are an Anglophile, this may seem a bit England-obsessed. Well more than half of the speeches are out of English history, and many of these seem to be about somewhat obscure events. I realize that just being an American doesn't entitle me to some kind of monopoly on great speeches from my compatriots, I would be the first to

admit that England has a long and storied tradition of fine and noble oratory. But it seems like the producers of this CD spent a great deal of time representing people and periods of English history that one might be hard pressed to find analogous to anything contemporary, or discover "universal" themes recognizable to us in the rest of the world. In the 1700's and 1800's for example, there are 15 minutes devoted to three American speakers and 55 minutes to many, many speakers from the British Isles (and only 8 minutes for everywhere else). Oddly, there are no speeches by the likes of Churchill, Disraeli, or Gandhi (or even Wilberforce). If you're American and looking for the likes of Washington, Frederick Douglas, JFK, TR, FDR, Lou Gehrig, MacArthur, Martin Luther King Jr., (even Lincoln gets only 2 minutes for the Gettysburg address), I suggest you look for another label.

I guess I expected more. With speakers listed as Socrates to Lincoln I expected more than what did become those that spoke. Too much English for me, and too much emphasis made on accent or tone during delivery. By that I mean it was at times very loud and yet, at times way too quiet. To use as a modem for good thoughts during long commutes, too much was not understandable, overshadowed by road noise/vehicle noise, combined with an accent hard to understand. I won't give up on it or toss it, but did have to 'cut it short', wanting 'something more' and changed it out.

Product in good shape and in correct packaging. Orators speak with British accents so be prepared for that. Use it during 2 + hour commute on the way to work. One of those things I will need to listen to a dozen times or more to fully appreciate.

If you want to relive the great speeches from History, then you need to add this title to your collection.

good.

It is a gift for someone else.

Excellent, interesting speeches that I have listened to over and over already. These are classic speeches by Socrates, etc. Some lovely speeches by people I did not know about who were also given death sentences.

I am an collector and avid fan of Audio CD's. I do quite a bit of reading reviews (such as this one)

and observing ratings into all items before "click to buy". Sometimes, regardless of the perfect condition of the item, the fact I love history and this is "Great Speeches in History", I will buy a dud. I would assume that speeches from this generation of various media would provide the actual speaker giving their credited "Great Speech in History" not some C-list voice that you recognize but who cares, you bought it for the speech, the content in the speech, and the delivery. To me for instance, what makes Dr ML King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech SO AMAZING was his heartfelt delivery. (By the way, that particular speech was NOT included nor was it supposed to be - I thought it best to use for my example) .

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