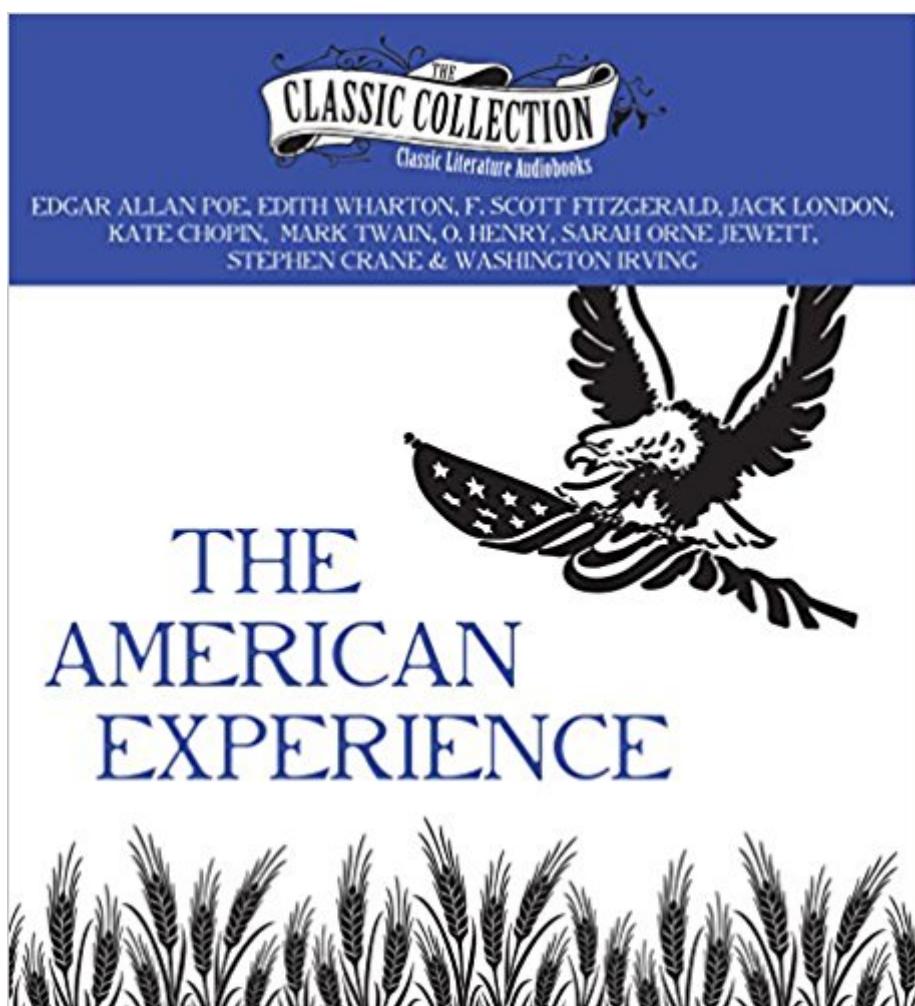


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The American Experience: A Collection Of Great American Stories (Classic Collection (Brilliance Audio))



Synopsis

Ten classic stories from authors who have masterfully captured the American experience.Irving's incredible and amusing tale of the archetypal "Rip Van Winkle" relates the story of a man who slept through history.Stephen Crane's "The Red Badge of Courage" tells of a young soldier who must struggle with his conscience no matter what the consequences."The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" is Mark Twain's hilarious story of a contest to end all contests in the rowdy days of the Forty-Niners.Edgar Allan Poe's "The Man of the Crowd" tells of one man's strange fascination with another."The Ransom of Red Chief" is O. Henry's tale of a kidnapping that goes horribly, horribly, wrong."Miss Tempy's Watchers" by Sarah Orne Jewett speaks of the power of friendship.Kate Chopin's lovely "Desiree's Baby" tells the poignant story of one woman's search for her past.Jack London's acclaimed "The Call of the Wild" is a thrilling adventure of nature and survival.Edith Wharton pens a chilling ghost story in the atmospheric "The Eyes."And "Bernice Bobs Her Hair" is F. Scott Fitzgerald's wry and amusing tale of a young lady's struggle for social success.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Edgar Allan Poe was born in January of 1809, the son of Boston actors. He was orphaned before he was three and was taken in by his godfather, John Allan, a merchant of Richmond, Virginia. After incurring gambling debts at the University of Virginia, he joined the army where, at eighteen, he published his first poems. He was dismissed from West Point, and then worked for various literary magazines. In 1836, while living in Baltimore, he married his fourteen-year-old cousin. He achieved

acclaim for the Raven in 1845; two years later his wife died. In October of 1849, shortly after his engagement to a love of his youth, Poe was found semiconscious in the streets of Baltimore. He died days later. Edith Wharton (1862-1937) was raised in New York City in a socially prominent family. She wrote the novels *The Age of Innocence*, *Ethan Frome*, *Old New York*, *The Old Maid*, and *The House of Mirth*. Francis Scott (Key) Fitzgerald's (1896-1940) posthumous literary reputation has remained consistently strong despite many highs and lows throughout his brief life. His best-known novel, *The Great Gatsby* (1925) remains a critical favorite along with *Tender is the Night* (1934). Most of Fitzgerald's works are loosely based on his life, including his wife Zelda's insanity and his appreciation for personal indulgence and self-destructive excess. Jack London (1876-1916) was an American writer who produced two hundred short stories, more than four hundred nonfiction pieces, twenty novels, and three full-length plays in less than two decades. His best-known works include *The Call of the Wild*, *The Sea Wolf*, and *White Fang*. Kate Chopin was an author of short stories and novels, mostly of a Louisiana Creole background. She is now considered to have been a forerunner of feminist authors of the 20th century. MARK TWAIN (1835-1910), was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens, was an American humorist, writer, and lecturer who is known and celebrated around the world. His many literary masterpieces include *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), *The Prince and the Pauper* (1882), *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885). O. Henry, the pseudonym of William Sydney Porter (1862-1910), was a prolific American short story writer who published over six hundred stories and ten collections, including *Cabbages and Kings*, *The Four Million*, *Whirligigs*, and *The Heart of the West*. Stephen Crane (1871 - 1900) was a war correspondent, novelist, short story writer and poet. He is the author of *Maggie*, *The Red Badge of Courage*, *George's Mother* and *The Black Riders*. Ernest Hemingway on *The Red Badge of Courage*: "One of the finest books of our literature." It is all as much of one piece as a great poem is." Washington Irving was an American author, essayist, biographer, and diplomat. He was born in 1783 in Manhattan, New York, to Scottish English immigrants and spent much of his adult life in Europe as the US ambassador to Spain. He is best known for his short stories "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle," and is widely considered America's first bestselling author. He died in 1859.

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