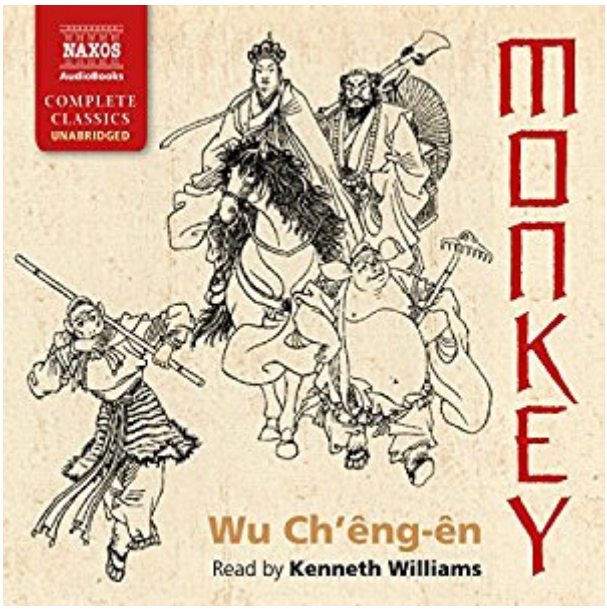
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Monkey



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Synopsis

Considered one of China’s great classical novels, Wu Ch’ÃƒÆ’Ã Â²ng-ÃƒÆ’Ã Â²n’s Journey to the West was translated by Arthur Waley in abridged form as Monkey in 1942 and has delighted English readers ever since. It is a riveting adventure story about a priest’s quest to obtain holy Buddhist scriptures for the Tang emperor; joining him on this rollicking journey: Sandy, Pigsy, and the mischievous monkey king, Sun Wukong, whose flying cloud and magic cudgel are never far from his infamous deeds. Waley’s accessible rendition of Wu Ch’ÃƒÆ’Ã Â²ng-ÃƒÆ’Ã Â²n’s novel has become a classic in its own right: Gods, demons, and disobedient monkey spirits all come alive in this entertaining work.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 13 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 43 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Naxos AudioBooks
Audible.com Release Date: October 2, 2015
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
Language: English
ASIN: B0162SWL4G
Best Sellers Rank: #68 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Poetry #932 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Classics #2619 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Customer Reviews

This is the full audio version of Arthur Waley’s book "Monkey", itself an abridgement of "Journey to the West". Enjoy one of the pillars of Chinese culture, the story that permeates the fabric of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese film, literature, and manga, from "Monkey Monkey" to Dragonball, as rendered by a brilliant Sinologist, while stuck in your car.Kenneth Williams, the voice actor, wasn’t ever given a Wade-Giles pronunciation chart, and so butchers Xuanzang’s name, but luckily Waley renders it as "Tripitaka" for most of the novel, which Williams can’t get wrong. Williams has a thick Received Pronunciation accent (that’s the Queen’s English for you non-Brits) which many will find hilarious, and which some will find unbearable.The story itself is quite funny in many places, even if it does drag (and if you think Waley’s abridgement is long, wait till you see Anthony

Yu’s four volume complete English translation). It was written down some 400 years ago, and was a popular and widespread folk tale for at least 400 years before then, so don’t expect the pacing of a 21st century novel.Monkey masters Daoist magic and after making a name for himself on earth, gets invited to Heaven, where they can keep an eye on him. He makes a mess of things there, then flees back to earth, and fights off the Heavenly Court’s greatest warriors trying to take him back for punishment. After another stint in Heaven, he runs amok and, crime of crimes, eats the Jade Emperor’s favorite peaches. Oh boy. For wreaking havoc in Heaven, the Buddha himself finally throws Monkey down to earth, puts a mountain on top of him, and tells him to think about what he’s done.Five hundred years later, the Buddha takes pity on the barbarians living in China and directs Guanyin, the goddess of mercy, to order a holy man from China to travel to India to get authentic Buddhist scriptures. She picks Xuanzang of course. The merciful goddess offers Monkey absolution and enlightenment if he lays aside his vile Daosit magicks, takes up the one true path of Buddhism, and serves Xuanzang on his journey to the west. Monkey has "help" from a pleasure-seeking pig, a quiet water spirit, and a dragon prince who transforms into a horse, all of whom are to be Xuanzang’s disciples. Let’s just say that priests will do what priests will do, and between naughty shenanigans, mighty battles, and a coup d’etat, the scriptures are fetched from India and conveyed back to China, this time by a magic cloud, before the whole party is taken back to Buddha’s Shangri-la to live forever, rescued from the wheel of karma and reincarnation.(Also available as an MP3 CD:Ã Â Monkey. This review is from my review there.)

Monkey’s (audiobook) audio is hard to listen to. The transition to digital did not work. Kenneth Williams does a great job narrating, and there’s a nifty "echo" effect that adds to the story, but... but... the audio quality makes it very hard to listen to on modern devices.

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