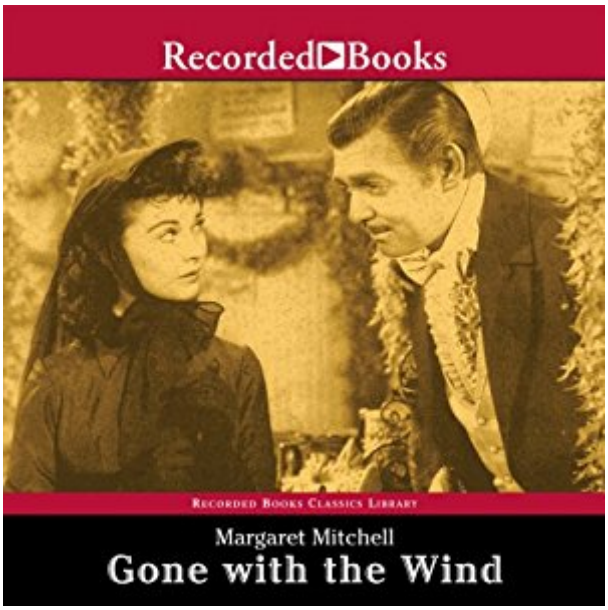
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# Gone With The Wind




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## Synopsis

An anniversary edition of Margaret Mitchell’s timeless classic. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 49 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 7 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Recorded Books
Audible.com Release Date: October 1, 2009
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
Language: English
ASIN: B002RSRPS8
Best Sellers Rank: #49 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Classics #52 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction #225 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book after reading a politically correct rant in a magazine by someone who thought it was high time that the book should be shunned or even banned. In general, I tend to think that anything that people want to ban should be immediately and strongly supported for free speech reasons, if nothing else, but I did not necessarily have high expectations for the book. I assumed it would be a low/middlebrow, well written historical romance, but not much more than that. I was way wrong. Its a great novel on many levels: plot, characterization, narrative flow, and effective advocacy and support for a vanquished way of life (Mitchell does not pretend to be objective; she is fighting a rear guard action to defend the South she loved against the judgment of history; the reason she infuriated liberal critics from the moment the book was published to the present day was because she fought that action so effectively in this book.). Of course, her view of the institution of slavery was disingenuous (at best), but, on the other hand, her bitter attacks on the carpetbaggers and speculators during the reconstruction era certainly ring true. But the politics of the book are not the elements that make it great; it is the portrayal of an era and the way she makes you care about the events, characters, and land that make up Scarlett O’Hara’s worldThis novel is the second greatest selling book of all time (the Bible is first), and I can now see why it has maintained its

extraordinary popularity for 75 years. That popularity was, and is, well deserved.

As with all great classics, I am hard-pressed to say anything original about Gone With the Wind. This is my second reading and I still love the book. If you have seen the movie, but have not read the book, read the book. There is a great deal more that will only add to your enjoyment of the storyline.Some things I did not know about Margaret Mitchell made re-reading the book all the more interesting (thank you Wikipedia). Mitchell's maternal great-grandfather was from Ireland and settled on a slaveholding plantation in Georgia. Her grandfather fought in the Civil War and made a lot of money in the lumber business after the war (just like Scarlett!). As a young girl, Mitchell heard a lot of Civil War stories from her relatives and visited the ruined plantations in Georgia. And, most interesting to me was that her mother was a women's rights activist.I think these points are important because they give you a better understanding of the characters in GWTW. And I think the most interesting point is Mitchell's portrayal of Scarlett as a shrewd and independent businesswoman during a time when no women ran businesses or even played a role in commerce, except maybe in selling pies like Mrs. Merriwether and taking in sewing and boarders like Mrs. Elsing. (Or Belle Watling's business. Belle's character is also quite modern, profession aside.) Mitchell also portrays Ellen, Scarlett's mother, as the true head of the plantation, with Gerald as a figurehead.Although I love this book, it is difficult to read the sections about slavery and the slaves on the O'Hara plantation. The O'Haras take pride in their kind treatment of their slaves, yet the O'Haras and other plantation owners come off as very condescending. And who knows whether kind treatment was common on all southern plantations. It's a bad part of American history and all accounts of this time-period make you cringe. But I think it's important to note that some of Mitchell's slave characters (Mammy, Pork, Uncle Peter) are smarter and wiser than their owners.I think Mitchell's description of the post-war period is very good and it shows what a mess Atlanta was and how the Southern way of life known and loved by its people was forever lost. I like how the characters, particularly Melanie and her followers cling to their committees and old customs, even when the Northerners take over the city.There are certainly many, many other points to add about the characters and the book, Melanie's goodness, Ashley's displacement in the new South, and Scarlett's inability to understand and appreciate the people around her until it is too late.I like Rhett Butler the best. He is very modern, thinking it ridiculous never to mention pregnancy and birth control. He loves children and these things make him even more appealing. You want to forget how he makes his money, his drinking and what he does over at Belle's house because he is so likeable and smooth. His flirtatious conversations with Scarlett are so fun to read, but my favorite parts are

when Rhett shows his true feelings to Melanie, and sadly to Scarlett at the end.

A friend of mine, for whom I have great respect, suggested that I read this book. He said it was one of the greats. I had my doubts. Then, when I opened the book (electronically), I saw that it was over 1400 pages long. Right!!!! I said. But I can say that this is one of the greats. It's a wonderful historical novel bringing the social mores of the Southern aristocracy to life in the characters who populate the book, while being a history lesson on the Civil War from the point of view of the slave owning citizens south of the Mason Dixon line. Margaret Mitchell wrote a masterpiece, and that, perhaps rightfully, rested on her Laurels. Rhett Butler is a lovable scoundrel with a good heart, and Scarlett O'hara is a narcissistic, selfish and self absorbed woman who accidentally does the right thing for the people in her life. I was actually sorry to reach the end of the book. It is poignant, tragic, and uplifting all at the same time. You can't go wrong reading this book.

I love Scarlet and Rhett, even though they are extreme characters, and frustrating at times. The storyline is good and the settings are great too. Where the book falls down is in including too much of the politics and history of the era. It gets bogged down in details, which are boring for the modern reader. The tendency to extremism in characterisation means that the plot is not always believable. How could Scarlet be so blind to reality for so long? How could Rhett not convince her to see reason? In spite of this, it is a great read and you have to keep turning the pages to find out what happens in the end.I'd recommend it to any romantics around the place, and to those of you who want to learn about the Deep South during the American Civil War.

I've been reading this book to my mother who loves the movie. I read the book many years ago and had forgotten (or never realized) what a fine novel it is, and how very well written.

I am certain that this is a great story, but I was not expecting the books to arrive with Japanese footnotes. For the most part, I think it can be read in english, but very strange. The product description didnt mention japanese, but upon closer inspection of the image, there is some japanese on the cover. Not sure if I will return it, but certainly unexpected. 2 stars for the way it was marketed. Probably a 5 star story.

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