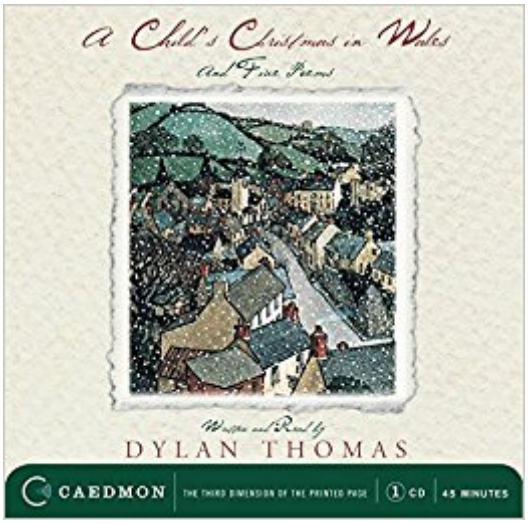
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A Child's Christmas In Wales And Five Poems



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Synopsis

First recorded in February of 1952, this remastered recording of Dylan Thomas reading A ChildÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Christmas in Wales recalls all of the sights, smells, and sounds of a long-ago Christmas.ThomasÃ¢â ¬â„¢s wonderful recollection of this holiday in the seaside town of his youth is captured in this vivid performance. Also included are five poems selected and read by Dylan Thomas, including arguably his most well-known Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night.Includes:A ChildÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Christmas in WalesFern HillDo Not Go Gentle IntoThat Good NightIn the White GiantÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ThighBallad of theLong-Legged BaitCeremony After a Fire Raid

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"December, in my memory, is as white as Lapland," Thomas recalls, reading a line from "A Child's Christmas in Wales." For the poet, December also bursts with "deadly snowballs," "blue knuckles" and snow that "grows overnight on the roofs of houses." Although phrases like these are beautiful on their own, hearing Thomas speak them adds a magnificent melancholy. He recorded these six pieces in New York City in 1952, and they've been remastered and collected into one wonderful package. In the title story, Thomas marvels at winter's quirky delights: presents and holiday sweets (including candy cigarettes), snow boots and footprints, aunts who lace their tea with rum, wind rustling through the trees, family music recitals and caroling (Thomas even sings a line or two of Good King Wenceslas). His Welsh-accented voice rises and falls as he reads the evocative tale of his own long-ago Christmas. Thomas performs the other selections-"Fern Hill," "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night," "In the White Giant's Thigh," "Ballad of the Long-Legged Bait" and

"Ceremony After a Fire Raid"-with an equally vibrant and powerful voice. While they don’t conjure up the same wintry images as the lead piece, they marvelously round out this lovely assemblage. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Ã¢â ¬Å“ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s always wonderful to hear an author read his own work - think Dylan Thomas reading A ChildÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Christmas in WalesÃ¢â ¬Â• (Denver Post)Ã¢â ¬Å“Thomas single-handedly revived poetry as a spoken word artÃ¢â ¬Â• (Talking Book Reviews) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Dylan Thomas’s "A Child’s Christmas in Wales" is a holiday tradition in our family. We read it every year. But it never sounds as good as when the author reads it. His accent adds to the nostalgic feel of the piece. A wonderful collection in the voice of Dylan Thomas, one of my favorites.

The story was boring to me and not suitable for a long car drive.

I had read excerpts of A Child’s Christmas in Wales and loved what I had read, but it wasn’t until I heard the entire tale in Dylan’s voice on NPR that I completely fell in love with it. Dylan’s voice is warm, deep, slightly wry, and rolling.If you haven’t read it or heard it, it’s a retelling of a Christmas past to a child. And it has the same questions and interruptions as you would expect from a small listener and has the same weight of an exaggerated epic that you might expect from a favorite uncle or father telling one of their "days of yore" stories.I’ve been told that Dylan’s largest fan base is in the U.S., and A Child’s Christmas in Wales has the same charming humor and nostalgia that Rockwell’s paintings and Garrison Keillor’s Lake Wobegon Days capture. An idealized notion of American middle class values, but a hint of self-mocking that keeps it grounded. I think he perfectly captures the expectations of Christmas and the feel of large family gatherings. A favorite bit in which he describes the Uncles who sit in the parlors and breath like dolphins and the pale little aunts that seem to accumulate at family holidays:"Some few large men sat in the front parlors, without their collars, Uncles almost certainly, trying their new cigars, holding them out judiciously at arms’ length, returning them to their mouths, coughing, then holding them out again as though waiting for the explosion; and some few small aunts, not wanted in the kitchen, nor anywhere else for that matter, sat on the very edge of their chairs, poised and brittle, afraid to break, like faded cups and saucers."Every time I read or hear it I get some deep-rooted domestic compulsion and feel the need run out and buy eggnog, knit something (nevermind the fact that I don’t know how to), or find a

rocking chair to sit on in front of a fire.

Any older person who grew up in a small town will likely recognise themselves and their family in Dylan Thomas' autobiographical story about Christmas celebrations from a child's perspective, even if, like me, you live in New South Wales (Australia) rather than old South Wales (UK). Adjectives come tumbling over each other as Thomas creates his unique verbal imagery.The CD is rounded-out by Thomas reading five of his own favourite poems. Unlike the stilted efforts of many poets, Dylan Thomas could read his verse with colour and conviction. Once again the imagery is dense, but well repays careful listening. Some people who are not familiar with the poems, or are unaccustomed to a fruity Welsh voice may find it helpful to sit with the text beside them during a first hearing, in order to fully appreciate the subtleties.Thoroughly recommended.

I bought this for my newly married son so that he could continue our family tradition of listening to this on Christmas Eve, even when he's far away. It's a 28 year tradition, and it wouldn't be Christmas without it. To hear the poet read his own material, and to know the story behind that recording enriches our appreciation of it. In fact, our son is named after this poet.

Hearing Dylan Thomas read his reminiscences has been a family tradition for over 40 years. Our children and grandchildren relish the escapades of early 20th century boys and their grownups in this poetic account. Particularly charming are the Welsh accent and deep resonance of the poet's voice. "A Child's Christmas" presents a snowglobe vision of life in small Welsh village. The cold of the snow, the warmth of the parlor after Christmas dinner, the sound of Auntie Hannah's singing live on in each of our minds until next Christmas. This past Christmas we replaced our old wax recording with a CD and gifted our children with a bit of nostalgia and poetry for a best friend.

We listen to this by candlelight every Christmas Eve. Dylan's poetic imagery is the very essense of Christmas in northern climates. And Dylan's voice provides the perfect deluvery of his glorious words.

Ship on time and in good condition and is a great Christmas story....makes you feel like you are there.

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