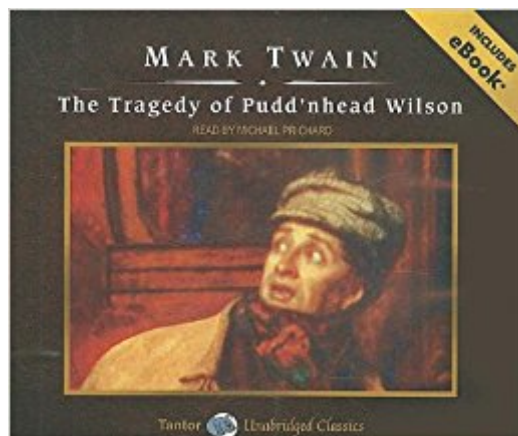




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The Tragedy Of Pudd'nhead Wilson, With EBook (Tantor Unabridged Classics)



Synopsis

Two half brothers look so similar as infants that no one can tell them apart. One, the legitimate son of a rich man, is destined for a life of comfort, while the other is condemned to be a slave because he is part black. The mother of the would-be slave is also the nurse of the other; to give her son the best life possible, she switches the babies. Soon the boy who is given every advantage becomes spoiled and cruel. He takes sadistic pleasure in tormenting his half brother. As they grow older, the townspeople no longer notice that the boys look similar, and they readily accept that each is born to his station. A local lawyer, David Wilson, has had a similar experience. On his first day in the village, he made an odd remark about a dog, and the townspeople gave him the condescending name "Pudd'nhead." Although he was a young, intelligent lawyer, he is unable to live down this name, so he toils in obscurity for over twenty years. Finally, he is presented with a complex murder trial-a chance to prove himself to the townspeople and shake this unjust label.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a review of the Tantor Media production of The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson AND a review of the book itself. As you will note below, I have read this work several times but never listen to it be read to me. I have a grandson, who in turn has a young friend (they both are very bright students about to graduate from high school), who I found were put off and quite leery of reading this work. Further investigation revealed that kids today are a bit put off, intimidated or just "turned off" and have difficulties reading book which use heavy regional, racial or historic dialect. What to do? Well, I

have had some success in understanding the Canterbury Tales and other old English works by first listening to the books on tape or CD and then reading the actual book. I thought that if it worked for me...why not this young man and woman. I tried it and it worked. I first had them listen to the CDs being reviewed here and then had them read the book. I think I made a breakthrough with both of them. Was I simply lucky? I don't know, I only know that I was able to open new doors for at least two young people and that is good enough for me. This CD presentation being reviewed here is read by Michael Prichard. The quality is great. The running time is 6 hours, 33 minutes with 3 minute tracks...there are 6 CDs in the package. The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson is not, I will admit, one of Twain's better works, yet when all is said and done, never the less one of my favorite. But that is of moot consideration for me personally as I am one of those individuals who admire everything that Twain ever wrote and would quite likely go into some sort of reading ecstasy if I were to lay my hands on even one of his grocery lists.

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