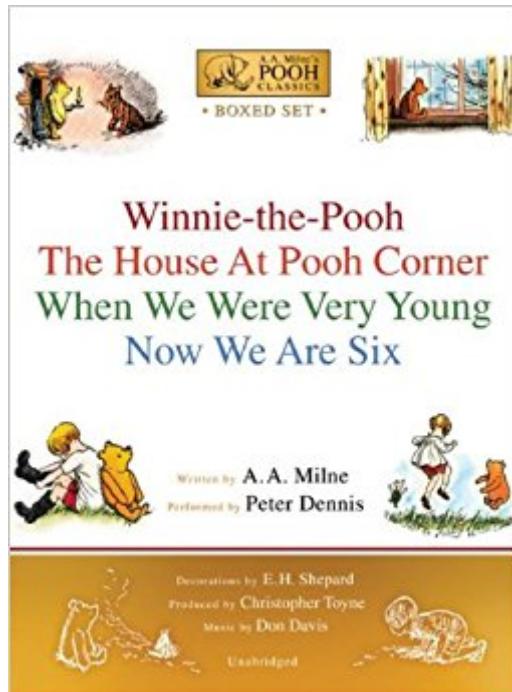


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A. A. Milne's Pooh Classics Boxed Set



Synopsis

Blackstone Audio presents, from the unabridged collection "A. A. Milne's Pooh Classics," the ten stories of Winnie-the-Pooh, performed by Peter Dennis. This is the only reading of these immortal stories authorized by A. A. Milne's son, Christopher Robin. This audio set includes the ten stories of Winnie-the-Pooh, the ten stories of The House at Pooh Corner, the forty-four poems of When We Were Very Young, and the thirty-five poems of Now We Are Six.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Blackstone Audio Inc.; Unabridged edition (November 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786170956

ISBN-13: 978-0786170951

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 1.1 x 6.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 40 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #75,405 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > Classics #2603 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics #17015 in Books > Children's Books

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

"Dennis expresses the multitude of emotions in a childlike tone which is key to the success of the program. All ages will enjoy this marvelous performance of Milne's words." --AudioFile

Alan Alexander Milne (1882-1956) was the son of a Scottish schoolmaster. Milne won a scholarship to Westminster School and later read mathematics at Cambridge. His real interest was in lighthearted writing; he edited the undergraduate magazine *Granta* and at twenty-four he became assistant editor of *Punch*. After serving as a signals officer in World War I he won additional acclaim as a playwright. His great success, however, came as a writer of children's literature after publishing a series of verses about his young son Christopher Robin (When We Were Very Young and Now We Are Six). Following the acclaim received for the Winnie-the-Pooh books, Milne published several novels as well as an autobiography, *It's Too Late Now* (1939).

A few years ago we inherited an audio cassette version of "The House on Pooh Corner" read by Charles Kuralt. My husband and I enjoyed it so much that I got onto and started researching audio versions of the complete Pooh collection. I finally settled on this set, read by Peter Dennis. I won't lie, after growing up with the Disney version of Pooh, these took some getting used to. However, now that we've been listening to them together (with our 4 and 2 year olds) for a few months, I can't stand Disney's Pooh! Peter Dennis captures all of the wit and humor of A.A. Milne's characters and stories that Disney has entirely left out. Even Charles Kuralt's rendition falls flat after listening to the rich, colorful voices performed by Dennis. We'll be listening to these CDs as a family for years to come so I consider this purchase a wise investment in our literary and driving pleasure.

Anyone who has ever tried to read the Pooh books aloud will know that the same style of writing that makes them so charming can also be very difficult to read aloud. Peter Dennis does a fabulous job of making the silly banter and childish story funny rather than completely nonsensical. He also uses different voices for each character and little "sound effects" as well (my children love to say, "Whorl, whorl!" now). The books last long enough to make them a very very good value. To be honest, we haven't even listened to the two poetry collections yet, though they ("When we were very young" and "Now We Are Six") are two of our favorites to snuggle up and read together. I imagine they are very good too, but even with just the two "chapter books", the price is right. I should note that the CDs come in two cardboard fold out sleeves within a cardboard slipcase; no jewel case or the like. This is not a problem for us as we don't move them between the car and the house much and only my husband and I handle them. If you intend for your kids to be handling these perhaps the storage would not be adequate. In any case, I highly recommend this set!

At first I hated this and wish I had a more gentle reading. The way the narrator voiced the characters is sooooo different than how I internalized the voices. Pooh sounds dopey, Piglet has a really annoying habit of oinking, and Eeyore is sooooooooooooo patronizing, boring, and annoying. Every time he starts to talk I just hate him. However, it grew on me, and it also occurred to me that this is probably much closer to Milne's vision than The Tao of Pooh or the Disney cute gloomy Eeyore. My 5 year old who hasn't seen the Disney version liked the stories and liked Pooh and Piglet, and hates Eeyore too. She didn't love it as much as some other faster paced audiobooks we have, of course, but it was enough to hold her attention and have her involved and asking questions. She especially loves the chapters with Roo -- which are totally adorable. And I like having not fast paced choices

available.

Our "dramatized" CD (with Stephen Frye et al) was worn out, and I replaced that with this, based on reviews here, and happy to report that Peter Dennis' version is a significant upgrade. First, it is unabridged, which the "acted" versions are definitely not (omitting some key information), is endorsed by Christopher Robin Milne, and Dennis is such a genius at switching voices that having actors play different characters is not missed for a moment: in fact, our five-year-old much prefers these voices (above all his hilarious snort at the end of most Piglet sentences). In addition to the voices, Dennis reads with a brilliant combination of, where needed, humor, gravitas, drama, and irony. The whole set is so captivating we all look forward to putting it into the CD player, parents and child alike. Bravo!

Saddened by Peter Dennis's passing, I'm moved to write this review of what are surely some of the finest readings of any books ever recorded. The humor, the love, the satire, the wisdom, all of these shine through Dennis's deeply felt readings. Please, please, if you've only encountered Pooh through Disney, listen to these recordings. As Nom de Guerre says, they will surprise you, but I think in a good way. They carry you away to the richer, smarter, deeper time and mind of A. A. Milne. If you still prefer Disney after that, so be it. And, really, you don't have to choose: my daughter has been listening to these stories since she was three. She loves them *and* she loves the Disney movies. Please listen to these: they are a revelation.

It took a little while for my boys to come around to this version of the stories only because they were used to hearing other narrations with a variety of voices and, of course, the Disney voices from the movies. Dennis does a lovely job, and he creates voices for the characters which are fun and engaging. I find that my kids have to listen a little harder to get the stories -- however, that is not a negative in my opinion! But for younger children or as an introductory experience it might be a consideration. **CONS:** My biggest complaint is that all of the CDs are mislabelled! This is a set of 8 discs with a ton of material on it and I have yet to figure out what is what. A weird issue to have...

Fourth generation to love Winnie the Pooh. this is great. We love the original versions.

I bought this because when I was a child I listen to it on cassette and wanted my own daughter to grow up and enjoy it as I did. I'm a fan of Disney's Pooh also. But somehow this Pooh is just a bit

more endearing. I love the voices of Pooh, Piglet (no stuttering just piggy pink noises) and all the rest of the gang. You will love it too.

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