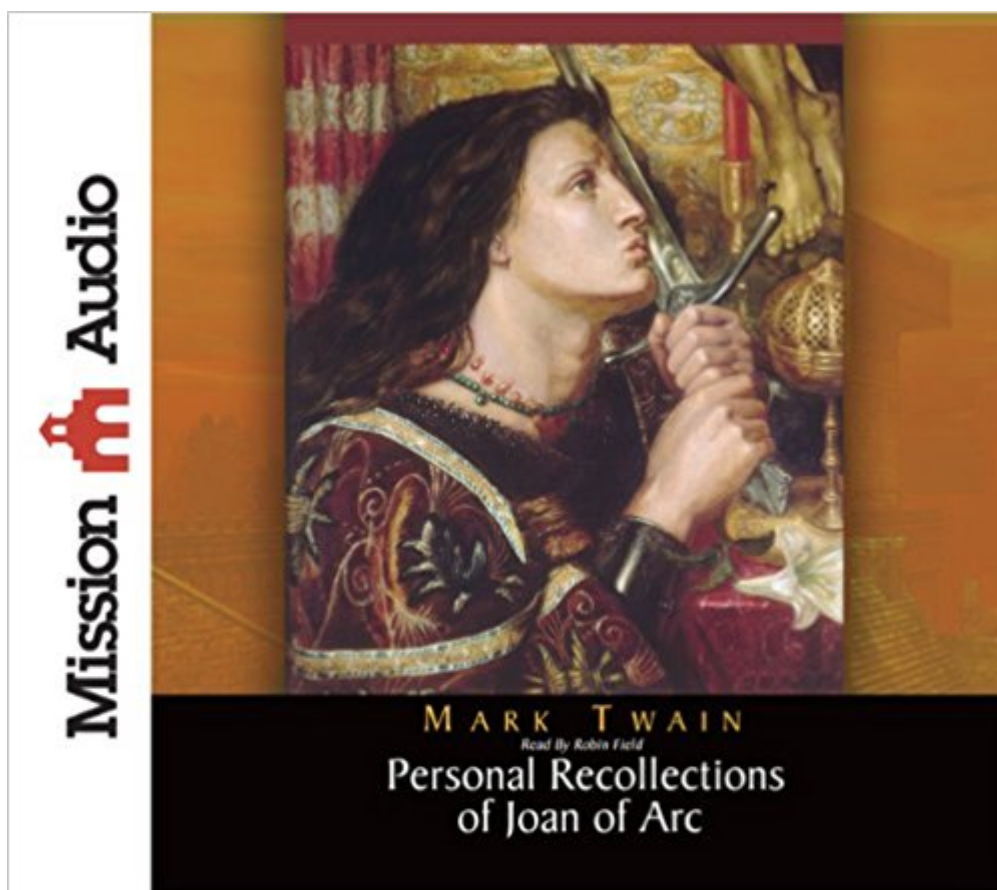


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Personal Recollections Of Joan Of Arc



Synopsis

Regarded by many as the most luminous example of Twain's work, this historical novel chronicles the French heroine's life, as purportedly told by her longtime friend--Sieur Louis de Conte. A panorama of stirring scenes recount Joan's childhood in Domremy, the story of her voices, the fight for Orleans, the splendid march to Rheims, and much more. An amazing record that disclosed Twain's unrestrained admiration for Joan's nobility of character, the book is matchless in its workmanship--one of Twain's lesser-known novels that will charm and delightfully surprise his admirers and devotees.

Book Information

Audio CD: 14 pages

Publisher: Mission Audio; Unabridged edition (December 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1610452372

ISBN-13: 978-1610452373

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.2 x 6.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 368 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #841,426 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(T \) > Twain, Mark](#) #148 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Classics](#) #573 in [Books > Books on CD > Biographies & Memoirs](#)

Customer Reviews

I like Joan of Arc best of all my books; and it is the best; I know it perfectly well. And besides, it furnished me seven times the pleasure afforded me by any of the others; twelve years of preparation, and two years of writing. The others needed no preparation and got none. --Mark Twain
Joan of Arc is the lone example that history affords of an actual, real embodiment of all the virtues demonstrated by Huck and Jim and of all that Twain felt to be noble in man, Joan is the ideal toward which mankind strives. Twain had to tell her story because she is the sole concrete argument against the pessimistic doctrines of his deterministic philosophy. --Robert Wiggins, Mark Twain: Jackleg Novelist

14 1.5-hour cassettes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Really enjoyed many aspects of this book. Did not expect it to be humorous as well; his writing reminded me of Alexander Dumas in the Three Musketeers. I thought the trial was going to be boring but Joan was such a pistol that it could have stood alone as a book itself. Even if this were all fabrication, which it's not, it would make an awesome novel. The phrase "you can't make this stuff up" comes to mind. You'll find yourself very quickly fact checking on the internet and your respect for her will only grow. Highly recommend, entertaining throughout.

My book club read this and although nobody remembered who recommended it or why, we all liked it. You will be one of very small club if you read it; none of most literate friends even knew about it. Turns out, Twain was obsessed all his life with Joan of Arc. Apparently the scathing critic and satirist thought her the most pure, most worthy person in history -- the only one who lived up to his ideals. This is not a satire, and it is wonderfully descriptive of the war scenes, without being violent.

I'm sure the book (story) itself is good. My only problem is that with the book being so large (abt. 8 1/2 by 11 inches), the margins being very narrow, and the print so small, reading the book is awkward & eye straining. For this size book, two columns per page and slightly larger font would be helpful. I returned it because of these things, but they may not bother someone else. Other reviewers said it was only half the book and / or was a photocopy. What I received contained the entire book and was definitely not a photocopy.

This was an interesting book, obviously researched & told from the viewpoint of a fictional friend in the inimical style of Mark Twain. That said, I found it rather wordy, perhaps because Twain's style of writing has become dated over the years, and I wished for footnotes or an appendix or SOMETHING that would separate researched facts from the fiction. It was worth reading, but I wouldn't read it again.

Until about a week ago, my favorite book by Mr Clemens had been 'A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court.' I'm pretty sure this fine work is now relegated second position on my personal listing of Mark Twain's several full-length works. 'Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc' is as fine a historical novel as I've read by anyone, save possibly Irving Stone and Taylor Caldwell. I must have seen the title listed here and there, and promptly dismissed it over the years. It was actually a post on Facebook by the Catholic imprint Ignatius Press that prompted me to load a copy to my Kindle; I lingered happily about for nine days. The main body of text purports to be the translated journal of

one of Joan's home-village play-fellows later turned page and official scribe. The writing is straightforward, engaging narrative that relies on this point of view to relate the latter part of the Hundred Years War from the French perspective, and to also focus more acutely on the character and development of our youthful visionary, hero-general and martyr. Tangents veer off here and there for personal discourse, critical and strategic analysis, and the infrequent but sometimes very necessary comic relief. This work is as different from anything I've ever read by this author. Twain affirms that he invested 12 years in legitimate historical research, attempting six somewhat stilted and varied drafts before he realized a document he (and his wife) considered successful. Twain respects the historical subject matter certainly, and treats even religious context and speculative matters with regard. Knowing the bit I do regarding his oft-spoken skepticism and general disdain for religion, I find myself all astonishment. Be sure to read Andrew Tadie's introduction for plausible analytical possibilities regarding this. As aside--and I'm apparently not the first to notice--it seems evident he was probably a little in love himself with our Maid of Orleans as well. If some period critics were put off because of their own pre-conceived expectations for ongoing distraction and ceaseless jocularity, I find I am not. Joan of Arc is an amazing bit of writing! Thanks, Ignatius Press, for bringing back this significant work to our attention. At the end of the novel is Twain's brilliant essay on Joan. I find this alone worth the price of the download. Five Stars. Russell de Ville 28 June 2013

I did not know much about the life of Joan of Arc before reading this book. Now I feel that I walked by her as did the scribe who Twain masterfully uses as a literary device to retell the life and martyrdom of the Maid of Orleans. It was painful to read the last pages. Tears welled in my eyes then as they do now, having just finished the book. As I read of the final treachery suffered by Joan through her persecutors and the horror of her death, I kept having to stop and wipe my eyes to finish the last paragraphs. Only Mark Twain could conjure such feelings with prose about a girl who became the general of generals over 600 years ago. His writing is crisp and pleasant to read, his dialogue flows easily, and his storytelling is flawless. This book is due a renaissance and Twain a posthumous Pulitzer.

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