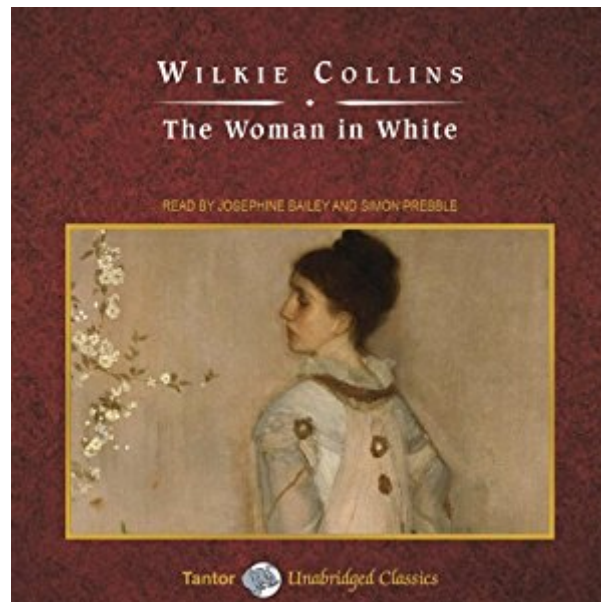




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The Woman In White



Synopsis

One of the greatest mystery thrillers ever written, Wilkie Collins's *The Woman in White* was a phenomenal best seller in the 1860s, achieving even greater success than works by Charles Dickens. Full of surprise, intrigue, and suspense, this vastly entertaining novel continues to enthrall audiences today. The story begins with an eerie midnight encounter between artist Walter Hartright and a ghostly woman dressed all in white who seems desperate to share a dark secret. The next day Hartright, engaged as a drawing master to the beautiful Laura Fairlie and her half sister, tells his pupils about the strange events of the previous evening. Determined to learn all they can about the mysterious woman in white, the three soon find themselves drawn into a chilling vortex of crime, poison, kidnapping, and international intrigue. Masterfully constructed, *The Woman in White* is dominated by two of the finest creations in all Victorian fiction: Marion Halcombe, dark, mannish, yet irresistibly fascinating, and Count Fosco, the sinister and flamboyant "Napoleon of Crime".

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 25 hours and 5 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: December 14, 2010

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

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in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers #29 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics

Customer Reviews

Wow! What an undertaking this book is! A detective story with multiple narrators, this 600 plus page tome keeps you guessing. Written in 1850, its thick, Victorian prose both amuses and frustrates, as one struggles to understand the treatment of women, the huge class differences, and the generally slow pace. The story, however, is a hum-dinger, if you can get through all the rest of the stuff. I will admit that I did not guess the "Secret", and that I suspected the parentage solution but was misled in another direction. Worth reading for several of its characters, its story, and to get a glimpse into

classic Victorian fiction. But you'd better have a lot of time...

Trying to review a book written in the mid-eighteen hundreds based on today's standards is difficult. Were I to see this today, I'd say it is far too slow and it rambles incessantly. The hero is in love with the wrong woman. I watched the 1948 film version and even there, the writers changed the love interest and simplified the relationships. Now, having said that, if you enjoy meandering through times past, this is a marvelous read. Put yourself in the era of no distractions, no quick-fix entertainments such as television, movies, or internet and imagine that you had all the time in the world to read. Every detail is described. The plot is intricate, as are the relationships. Even the morality of the times plays a significant role in the outcome of the story wherein a young woman is locked in an asylum primarily to keep her from revealing a family secret - except, she doesn't know the secret. Fascinating that in those days the male head of household could do that - lock a woman up on just his say-so. Definitely worth reading, however, I still say, he fell in love with the wrong woman.

The story was fabulous in the detail provided and in the atmosphere and scenery created. The characters are representative of the time during which it was written, I.e, women were prone to fainting and emotional outbursts, men were the power holders. For me, as a woman, I was frustrated with the inability of the female characters to effect changes in their lives. However, I also recognized that this was typical of the time. The one character that I thought the story should have done better by, was Marian, who is true and faithful throughout. I thought a better ending would have been for the protagonist to have ended up with her, having learned to love her because of her constant support, love, intellect, and assistance throughout the whole endeavor. (But, what is my quibble with the story line, to a book that refers to the character Marian as being too dark of countenance and strong willed and intelligent to be considered beautiful?)

I never expected to love this book as much as I did and I'm so happy I tried it. It's a long one, so be prepared for that. Be prepared, also, for twists and turns and that slam you feel when you thought you knew what was going on and had it all figured out and you got the rug pulled out from under you! This was written in that grand style English that you just don't find in modern literature. I adore reading it, and if you love the classics, and a good mystery, then this is for you. These people came from a different time, and what was considered a huge scandal years and years ago wouldn't raise an eyebrow today, so keep that in mind as you read. This is truly a different world. But, human

nature is fairly consistent, and you will recognize in these characters, people you have read in more modern tomes, or even people you know yourself. They are well developed, complex characters that I enjoyed immensely. I love the dramatic swooning...the formal language...and a time in history when restraint was a highly regarded quality. This Kindle edition was free...and won't cost you anything to give it a go. I'm sure you will be as engrossed as I was.

First of all, let me say that the story is a 5-star story in my opinion, but DO NOT BUY THIS DIGITAL VERSION. I'm giving the 1-star rating to this particular digital version that completely skips a PIVOTAL part of the story right in the middle! There is a section of narratives by three different people and the beginning of Walter Hartright's final narrative immediately following the narrative of Eliza Michelson that should be included in the book and that contains a MAJOR EVENT of the story, and it is completely omitted from this digital version. If I had not been jumping back and forth between a different audio version and this one, I wouldn't have known what had happened. The story itself is great, though. Well written and thought out and it keeps you reading to find out what is going to happen to the characters. Overall it was very enjoyable.

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