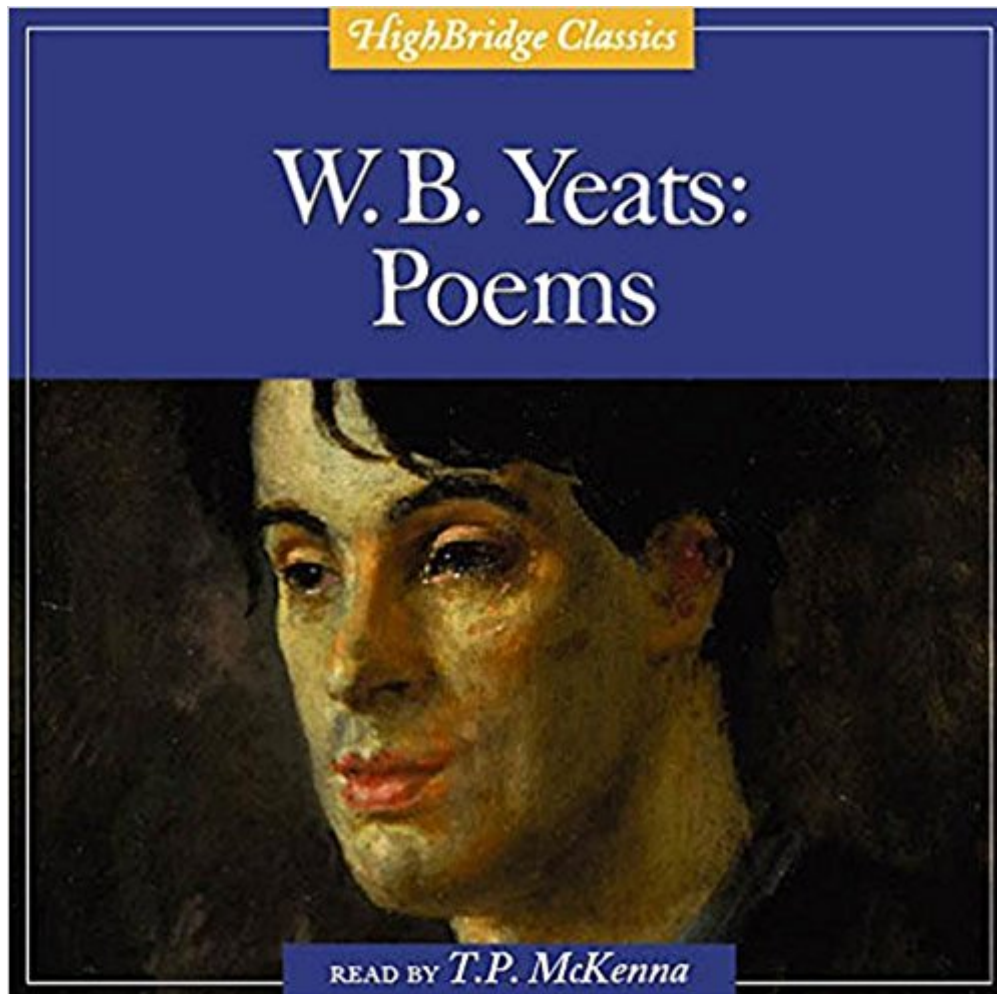


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W. B. Yeats: Poems (Highbridge Classics)



Synopsis

This compelling collection spans Yeats's career: from the poems of his early years, which display his interest in Irish myths and his hopeless passion for Irish patriot Maud Gonne, to the soaring, majestic poems of his old age. Works of precision, economy and sensuous, lyrical beauty, they include "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," "The Wild Swans at Coole," "Byzantium," and "Leda and the Swan."

Book Information

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Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Coming soon...Coming soon...

These 52 pieces span the poet's entire career but predominately invoke the image of a man looking back with resolve at circumstances altered by time's passage. The overriding mood is a stoic, mild melancholy. One notable exception is "The Fiddler of Dooney." T.P. McKenna matches its energy with a brighter, less formal character voice than any he employs for the other selections. The remainder he delivers in variations of a refined yet unadorned straightforward style that reflects the inner voice of Yeats quite well. McKenna's dulcet tones are authentically Irish, entirely intelligible to American ears, and absolutely worthy to this task. D.J.  AudioFile 2007, Portland, Maine--
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Yeats is a master poet. I have listened to this CD at least 5 times and each time I pick up more in

Yeats poetry. Okay, I am addicted to Yeats. I drive more than 4,000 miles a month as a medical courier, so I have a lot of CDs and listen to a lot of classic books and poetry. Listening to books and poetry on CDs is far and away better than anything broadcast on the radio.

This is a single cassette in one of those tall boxes that could hold two. The notes are sparse - just a listing of the poems and a capsule bio of Mr. McKenna. The package also claims 80 minutes worth of poetry, but the timings printed on the tape itself for each side (35:29 for side A, 34:04 for B) leave us more than 10 minutes shy of that. I myself have not done the requisite timing, but tend to believe the (spurious?) precision of the tape's numbers. The readings are workmanlike, and the selections are good. All the famous poems are there, and a good deal more. (Offhand, the only other one I would really like included is "Lapis Lazuli".) Unfortunately, the old recording by Siobhan McKenna (related?) and Cyril Cusack is no longer available. It was truly magical. My gripe with this is the fact that you need to keep this oversize box around to hold your tape, and to preserve what scanty documentation there is. A regular cassette package with an included info sheet would have been better.

I was somewhat unhappy with this CD, because it didn't have Yeats reading some of his better-known poems, for example, "The Second Coming."

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