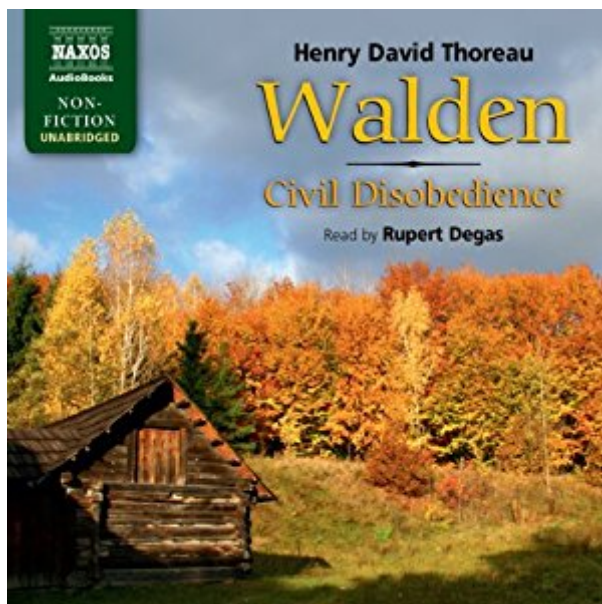


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Thoreau: Walden / Civil Disobedience



Synopsis

In 1845 Henry David Thoreau, one of the principal New England Transcendentalists, left the small town of Concord for the country. Beside the lake of Walden he built himself a log cabin and returned to nature, to observe and reflect - while surviving on eight dollars a year. From this experience emerged *Walden*, one of the great classics of American literature, and a deeply personal reaction against the commercialism and materialism that Thoreau saw as the main impulses of mid-19th-century America. Here also is *Civil Disobedience*, Thoreau's essay on just resistance to government, which not only challenged the establishment of his day but has been used as a flag for later campaigners from Mahatma Ghandi to Dr Martin Luther King.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours and 43 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Naxos AudioBooks

Audible.com Release Date: September 13, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B00435KZHG

Best Sellers Rank: #26 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Artists, Writers & Musicians #128 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors #2491 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

Customer Reviews

WALDEN has rarely been out-of-print since its first publication in 1854. Copies come in all sizes, shapes and price ranges. Today's Thoreauvians have three ANNOTATED versions of *WALDEN* to choose from. Each one provides same-page explanatory notes that help the reader interpret the sometimes esoteric references in Henry David Thoreau's original text. The three books are "The Annotated *Walden*" (edited by Philip Van Doren Stern, 1970), "*Walden: An Annotated Edition*" (edited by Walter Harding, 1995), and "*Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition*" (edited by Jeffrey S. Cramer, 2004). Each one has at least one map of Concord and/or Walden Pond. Each one has its strengths and weaknesses. Each one has appeal for a devoted audience. "*Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition*" by Jeffrey S. Cramer was released in August 2004, coinciding with the 150th anniversary of the original publication date. Cramer is the curator of collections for The Thoreau

Institute and therefore has access to some of the best primary and secondary source material available -- including Walter Harding's notes. In addition to the text of WALDEN, this volume includes a few "extras": an introduction to Thoreau's life but only as it applies to his cabin stay and WALDEN writing; a bibliography; notes on the text; and a detailed index. The explanatory notes -- the essence of an annotated edition -- are quite extensive. They are set off from the WALDEN text with page-within-a-page graphic detailing and are easy to read. Cramer did not merely merge Van Doren Stern's and Harding's previous notes with those from David Gorman Rohman's dissertation. His analysis at times echoes that of Harding, but when it does, Cramer often goes one step further with a definition or citation.

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