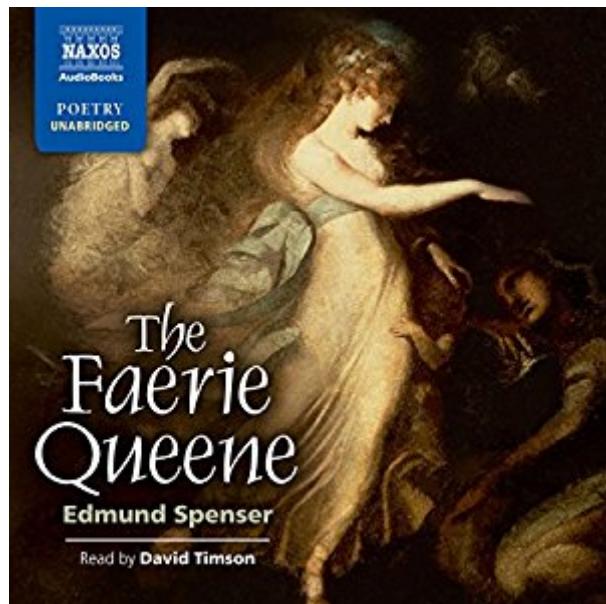


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The Faerie Queene



Synopsis

This remarkable poem, dedicated to Queen Elizabeth I, was Spenser's finest achievement. The first epic poem in modern English, *The Faerie Queene* combines dramatic narratives of chivalrous adventure with exquisite and picturesque episodes of pageantry. At the same time, Spenser is expounding a deeply felt allegory of the eternal struggle between Truth and Error....

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 33 hours and 10 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Naxos AudioBooks

Audible.com Release Date: September 25, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B015T4GNLQ

Best Sellers Rank: #54 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Poetry #103 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Classics & Allegories #224 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles > Epic

Customer Reviews

I tried reading the FQ many times. Hearing it while reading it finally helped me enjoy it! By the 3rd book I could read it without the audio. Must buy!

This is a review of the Kindle edition, viewed on a PC. I believe that for a less than \$3 book, the other two reviews were being unfair. The claim that there was but one line drawn illustration was plainly wrong. I paged through 40% of the book and found at least 8 pictures, all but one or two were color photographs. They weren't great, but they were color illustrations. At this point in the Book reader technology, you simply do not buy a book for high fidelity to its printed version. In many, many cases, lots of things are simply left out. For example, my printed copy of the Qu'ran has the Arabic and many comments. The Kindle version of the same edition has only the bare English translation. So, I have both. And if I need to search *The Fairy Queene* for the word "blatant" (which is why I bought it), I can do that with 100% accuracy, and find its contexts. So, for the same reason I have two copies of the *Iliad* (Lattimore and Fagles translations) and a copy of Fagles on CD (by Derek Jacoby) I have multiple copies of *The Fairy Queen* for different purposes.

Being from a rural community - I never heard of Spenser, much less The Fairie Queen. WOW ! It was a true - "don't put it down". Intrigue. Violent Love ! All the stuff of a thriller. IN OLDE ENGLSHE ! Yeah - pretty cool!

This definitive edition of Spenser's magnificent work -- the longest narrative poem in English literature -- is a peerless classic in and of itself, as attested by the fact that it has remained the most famous edition for thirty years or more. Edited by Professor Thomas P. Roche, perhaps the most renowned Spenserian in the world, this should be owned by anyone seriously dedicated to classical literature. This edition is considered so definitive, in fact, that it was recently selected to be the edition translated into Italian for the first time in 450 years. Spenser could not be blessed with a greater modern scholar or edition.

This is an impressive book. The mixture of older middle English with newer spellings can be a harder/messier read than either modernized English or the original middle English. But with that aside, the beauty of Spenser's description of natural items is unsurpassed. He enjoys rambling about his subjects ... creating an item that is longer than it could be (his Courtier instincts perhaps ?). These are ways to improve the Kindle version : 1. Page numbers please. I've seen other Kindle books with page numbers inserted. When the professor says ... on page x, I'm at a loss (without the paperback) as to where that might be. 2. Please link the end notes into where they are referenced. That is the main reason for e-book purchases - linked content - and was disheartened to not find that in this book.

For those who are looking for an older take on series fantasy, look no further. The Faerie Queene is often praised for its beautiful use of language and for the fact that it was the first great epic written in the English language, but don't let that high and lofty praise scare you away! Someone who goes into it looking to be entertained won't be disappointed, provided they're willing to work for it a little bit. At first, the archaic language can be a little difficult to understand, but I found that I very quickly adapted to it so that I was reading it nearly as quickly as I'd read a novel, and I wasn't having to look in the margins for the definitions of strange words. And then the story started to come alive! The Faerie Queene has it all -- knights, maidens in distress, maidens who kick butt (one of the hero knights, Britomart, is a woman and also a very capable warrior) evil wizards, dark temptresses, and monsters galore. Many villains recur throughout the books, tormenting one knight and then another,

so that when Duessa shows up for the upteenth time, you already know enough about her to be emotionally invested in seeing her defeated ;)
I was surprised by how much character development the various characters showed, from Redcrosse's slow journey into spirituality to Artegall's gradual temperance of cold justice with mercy. Britomart's unrequited love for Artegall was genuinely moving. But what Spenser does best is description. He very quickly establishes scenes that are so clear and vivid that you'll be able to smell the air and see even the quality of the sunlight. All in all, I highly recommend this book. I was pretty sad when I got to the end, because I'm going to miss my nightly forays into Spenser's arcadian world. This is an extremely good book.

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