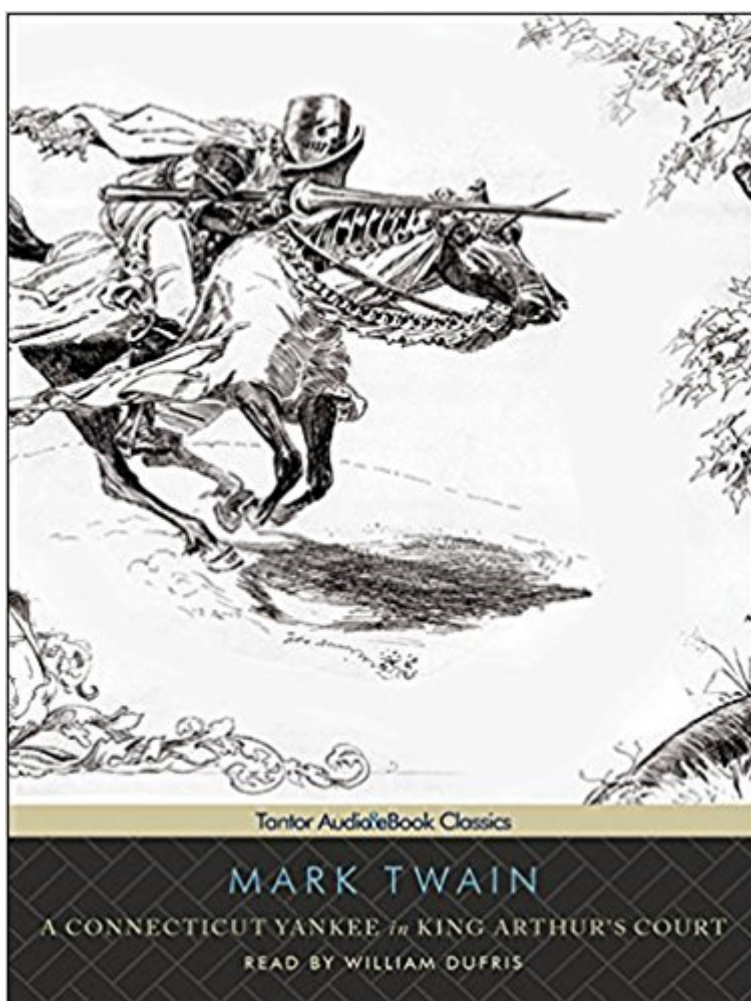


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A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court (Tantor Unabridged Classics)



Synopsis

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court is both a whimsical fantasy and a social satire chock-full of brilliant Twainisms. Hank Morgan, a nineteenth-century American—a Connecticut Yankee—by a stroke of fate is sent back into time to sixth-century England and ends up in Camelot and King Arthur's Court. Although of average intelligence, he finds himself with knowledge beyond any of those in the sixth century, and he uses it to become the king's right hand man and to challenge Merlin as the court magician. Astounded at the way of life in Camelot, Hank does the only thing he can think of to do: change them. In his attempt to civilize medieval Camelot, he experiences many challenges and misadventures.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up—While Mark Twain is most often identified with his childhood home on the Mississippi, he wrote many of his enduring classics during the years he lived in Hartford, Connecticut. He had come a long way from Hannibal when he focused his irreverent humor on medieval tales, and wrote *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. The hit on the head that sent protagonist Hank Morgan back through 13 centuries did not affect his natural resourcefulness. Using his knowledge of an upcoming eclipse, Hank escapes a death sentence, and secures an important position at court. Gradually, he introduces 19th century technology so the clever Morgan soon has an easy life. That does not stop him from making disparaging, tongue-in-cheek remarks about the inequalities and imperfections of life in Camelot. Twain weaves many of the well-known Arthurian characters into his

story, and he includes a pitched battle between Morgan's men and the nobility. Kenneth Jay's narration is a mix of good-natured bonhomie for Hank and more formal diction for the arcane Olde English speakers. Appropriate music is used throughout to indicate story breaks and add authenticity to scenes. This good quality recording is enhanced by useful liner notes and an attractive case. Younger listeners may need explanations of less familiar words, and some knowledge of the Knights of the Round Table will be helpful. Libraries completing an audiobook collection of Twain titles will enjoy this nice, but not necessary, abridgement. Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"Dufres's enthusiastic narration is perfect; the deep drawl he produces might very well be the voice of Twain himself, and his pacing and comedic timing will delight listeners." ---Publishers Weekly Starred Audio Review

This is not a complete copy of the book, and it is poorly formatted. It is missing the initial "A Note of Explanation", in which Twain tells his tale of meeting a stranger in Warwick Castle, who gives him a journal that recounts the body of the book. If you haven't read Connecticut Yankee before, you may have some difficulty picking up the thread of the narrative. And if you have read it, you will know something is missing. I don't recommend this copy of the book--there are free versions that are more complete and better formatted.

Four stars because it is a classic, but it's quite different from the old comic movie that was a poor reflection of the book. It's a bit hard to read in the original Nineteenth Century style, and the hero does some pretty unlikely things, but the biggest surprise is the enormous amount of death and killing that is treated matter-of-factly, with no fanfare and little horror. Unexpected from the author of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.

I have decided that Mark Twain is a master of the imagination and creativity. He has now become one of my favorite authors of all time. He has such a great wit and flair in his writing. This book is better than The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. I enjoyed the way he twisted the characters fates. It went back and forth between who was going to defeat who at any given moment. It was very interesting how the character of The Boss was able to put his 1800's knowhow to be able to use it to his advantage. He became a great magician because he had the advantage of knowing what was

going to happen in King Arthur's time. He also had started making it more like his own century. It is a fascinating story.

Even though this book was written over one hundred years ago Twain's observations on human nature and his comparisons on civilization continue to be meaningful today. Particularly I found the discussion on the relevance of real purchasing power regarding the significance of higher wages to be particularly interesting considering our present day economic political discourse. Of course with Mark Twain there is always a good deal of humor interspersed in the storyline, so the image of the Knights of the Round Table riding to the rescue of King Arthur and Yankee Hank, "Sir Boss" on newly minted bicycles provided a mental image that will remain with me for some time and provide a laugh in recollection.

Interesting story, about a man from the 19th century displaced in 6th century England. There were some humorous moments, although they were mostly near the beginning. The story/reflection of events get more somber and dramatic the further you read in the book. The problems "Hank" (our time-traveling protagonist) encounters in 6th century society, are comparable to certain political and religious issues of Mark Twain's day, which oddly, are somewhat applicable to 2015 as well. I guess history continues to repeat itself.

I read this book for school, and it was certainly the most entertaining of them all. I enjoyed the plot despite it being utterly ridiculous. The characters were fun, if flat. I think my strongest conflict with the book isn't any of this, which I found entertaining, but the cynicism of the narration. Don't expect a positive outlook on the human condition, do expect a lot of "I'm so much smarter than this lot hahaha SCIENCE." I mean, it is satire. But still. It comes off as self-serving.

So much has already been written concerning Twain's "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" that any further review, especially by an unsophisticated critic such as myself, will only detract or confuse those that have not yet experienced it. As such, I will limit myself to criticism of the Kindle version and of the Critical Edition. I was a bit disappointed in this e-edition, although for 99 cents, one can't be too upset. The most troubling issue is the fact that certain portions of text, specifically the ones that are heavily indented and formatted, such as the section "How Lancelot Slew Two Giants and Made Castle Free", are unreadable and cut off from viewing control. In order to see the rest of the text (turning the page is useless) one has to reformat and re-size the font over

and over again. Even so, most of this text is unreachable. The other disappointment was the lack of footnotes and annotations. I recall perhaps two or three in the entire work--most of what counts as "critical" in the Critical Edition are the two essay monstrosities that sandwich the work. The first is a brief bio of Twain; the second is a rhapsodic account of the "genius" of Twain. Neither are exactly relative to "A Connecticut Yankee", other than the fact that they are about Mark Twain. I would have liked to see essays more focused on the Twain and the writing of this particular work, or an interpretation or explanation of "A Connecticut Yankee" and details and feedback after its release. Unfortunately, none of this is present except that which is inserted into several small sentences amongst the generic Twain essays. Overall, for less than a dollar, not a bad edition. However, for sheer pleasure of reading, one would be better off dispensing with the "Critical Edition" and utilizing a free copy.

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