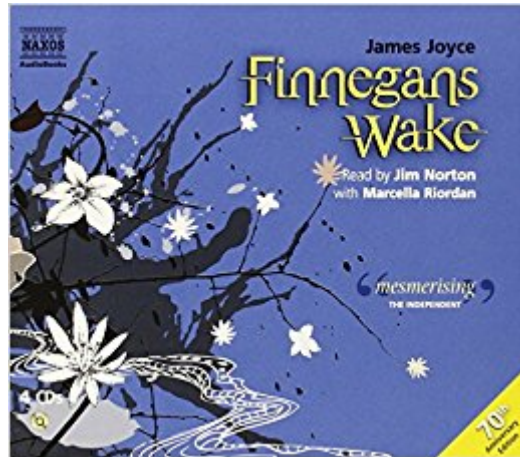




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Finnegans Wake (Modern Classics)



Synopsis

"Finnegans Wake", the greatest avant-garde novel of all time, was first published seventy years ago - and people are still trying to work out what it is about. There is Humphrey Chimpden Earwicker - aka HCE (Here Comes Everyone) - and Anna Livia Plurabelle, but also Finnegans the hod carrier (or was he a giant?), whose wake is the subject of the book. This masterly reading of the abridged version, with copious notes aiding comprehension, is republished with a new cover.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Listening to Jim Norton and Marcella Riordan is a lot easier than trying to read the book.' (The Guardian) 'It's estimated that a complete recording of this eccentric masterpiece would run to about 20 CDs, but Naxos has made an attractive abridgement in four, recorded with wit and clarity by Jim Norton and Marcella Riordan. I've never met anyone who has actually managed to read every page of this extraordinary book...and there can be little doubt that Joyce intended his work to be listened to as much as read. This brilliant recording is the perfect short cut for slackers, poseurs and insomniacs.' (Robert McCrum, The Observer)

James Joyce (1882-1941), an Irish poet and novelist, was one of the most celebrated writers of the twentieth century. His works include Ulysses, Finnegans Wake, and A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love *Finnegans Wake*, but I had to read it more than once before I felt that way about it. I read it the first time because I heard it was perhaps the most difficult book to read that had ever been written, and I wanted to see if I could do it. It took me more than two years to read it the first time. I read it with the help of the Ronald McHugh book which takes *Finnegans Wake* line by line and defines foreign and obscure words. I hoped that this would help me understand the book as a whole. It didn't. There were parts here and there I could make out and puns I could enjoy, but I felt hopelessly lost and decided to have nothing more to do with the book once I had finished it.

However, I could not get *Finnegans Wake* out of my mind and decided to tackle it again a few years later. Even though there was more that I understood then than I did the first time I read it, it was still a struggle and it appeared that it would take me as long to finish it the second time as it did the first. One night as I was reading it in a state between being awake and asleep, I started dreaming. As it usually happened, my dreams jumped around from one thing to another with no logic at all. I found myself talking with others in the dream but did not understand the gist of the conversation I was having. I understood the words, but they didn't seem to be connected to each other. As I went in and out of this half awake and half dream state, I thought that dreaming was a lot like reading *Finnegans Wake* and that reading *Finnegans Wake* was a lot like dreaming. At that point I completely woke up and realized that my approach to reading the book could not have been more wrong headed. Instead of trying to understand every word and paragraph, I needed to go with the flow and read steadily without stopping. If I understood something, I was happy. If I didn't understand, so what? I kept on going. I found myself laughing at the puns and enjoying the sounds of the words. I finished the last one hundred pages in only few days. In fact, it was hard for me to put the book down even when I had other things to do. It took me only a week and a half to read it the third time, but I got far more out of it that time than I did out of the other two times put together, mainly because I didn't try to get anything out of it! I am now reading it for the fifth time and will continue to read it off and on for the rest of my life. Do I now understand the whole book? No! I probably only understand between one fifth or one sixth of it, but that is enough to hold my interest as I read. Sometimes I encounter sentences made up of foreign words or made up words that I cannot understand at all. Then I will read a page that I can completely understand. My comprehension of what is said and what is going on fades in and out as I read just as it does when I dream, but every time I read it I pick up on things that I missed during previous readings. Instead of it being a struggle to read *Finnegans Wake* as it was the first time I tackled it, I now read it because I enjoy it.

We all bought this for the same reason, we heard it was the hardest book... lesson learned

this is the best classic edition, I bought it three times to take notes directly on the book pages, I read many times this novel in different editions and read almost 25 books who analyzed it and Ulysses and there is one Jack the Ripper James Joyce Stanley Kubrick, the real story and his identities whom I think make the biggest modern breakthrough in that novel by decrypting it as I have never seen before Jack the Ripper James Joyce Stanley Kubrick: the real story and his identities

Good book to look at occasionally for beauty of language, even if you don't get the details - there is online help if you really want to read it.

The conclusion of one level of consciousness, and an introduction to the next. But Joyce never got to do that book about the ocean.

Finnegan's Wake obviously demands a lifetime of study, of devotion, of patience, and above all else we must have patience.

Absolutely love it, meets all expectations. Now to try and figure out how exactly to read it...

[Kindle Edition] I originally gave the Kindle version a more favorable review, despite numerous scanning errors in the text (comparing it to an actual printed copy that I own). But when I reached the schoolbook episode, and found it horribly trashed, I decided it was high time to do some research on digital versions of this text. That was when I discovered that I probably never should have bought this in the first place. Finnegan's Wake is still under copyright in the USA. If this digital edition was not published in the USA, then it's probably legal in that country, but if you're a citizen of the USA you should seriously consider not buying it. Which leaves a conundrum: what is a Kindle reader to do? I ended up spending weeks creating my own carefully corrected and formatted version from texts available online, but I can't legally make it available to anyone else.

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