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# Three Men In A Boat (To Say Nothing Of The Dog!) Classic Books On CD Collection UNABRIDGED



## **Three Men In A Boat**

(To Say Nothing of the Dog!)

By Jerome K. Jerome

Narrated By Richard Brown

6 CDs      Unabridged



## Synopsis

While pretending to be an account of an epic journey rowing a boat up the Thames, this hilarious book makes numerous side-trips into such matters as hypochondria, the charms of graves and epitaphs, being lost in a maze, and how to sing a comic song, all explored with wit and elegance. (Six CDs)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Jerome's classic British comedy is recounted by House's Hugh Laurie in a marvelously entertaining performance that will bring listeners to the banks of the Thames and carry them away into a world where three men and a dog named Montmorency venture from London to Oxford one sunny day. At just two and a half hours, the journey is short but sweet as Laurie captures the essence of Jerome's touching tale. With his classic witty tone, Laurie dives headfirst into each character, offering his own take on each colorful personality. There is a subtle theatrical aspect at work here as Laurie delivers a knockout one-man show that displays his wide-ranging talent. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

"I "highly recommend" Campfire's comics. They do what they are intended to do and do it in a way that excites kids about classic literature."-- Chris Wilson, The Graphic Classroom (a resource for teachers and librarians) --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

The question of why some books "date" while some remain relevant and readable is one that has long puzzled writers, critics, and readers. *THREE MEN IN A BOAT* was published in 1889, was an immediate hit, and has never been out of print. After hearing about it all my life, I finally got around to reading it several years ago and am so glad to have it on my Kindle. The author acquired his odd name from his father, who changed his own name from Jerome Clapp to Jerome Clapp Jerome and named his son after himself. At some stage the son changed his middle name to Klapa. The family was impoverished after the father's early death and the son received little education. At various times he worked for the railroad, as an actor, as a school teacher, and as a law clerk. He started writing humorous essays in the early 1880's and had several books of collected essays published. He hit the jackpot when he wrote *THREE MEN IN A BOAT* which (oddly enough) was actually based on his honeymoon on a small boat on the Thames River. Either Mrs. Jerome didn't care to be featured in a book or her husband figured that he could get more comic situations out of a stag party. Whatever the reason, the characters are the narrator, his friends Harris and George, and Montmorency - a fox terrier who thinks he's a Great Dane. The three young men are all suffering from a variety of imaginary ailments (Montmorency is in fine fettle) and decide that they will spend their holidays sailing up the Thames. It's difficult to say why the book is so entertaining, except that the humor is sly and yet very realistic. Although styles in clothing, food, and camping gear have changed dramatically, three guys setting out on such a trip today would have pretty much the same mix-ups, snafus, and snits as this trio. Human nature hasn't changed. This book was such a hit that the leisure activity of boating on the Thames became wildly popular and has been so ever since. Today, England has restored many of the canals that moved goods in past centuries and boating trips and even living permanently on boats is a huge industry. This author was never able to replicate his success in his later books, but he definitely left his mark. If you haven't read this one, you should.

Like a boat ride up the Thames, this is a leisurely book, from the leisure class of the Victorian era. It does use some of the language foibles of literature of its time, but just as often it plays on and jokes with those genteel turns of phrase. There is slapstick, lovingly told, and comedic contributions from all of the major players, including Montmorency (the dog). And then, from time to time, it waxes philosophical, and gives you viewpoints that you'll carry for the rest of your life.

If you have not yet experienced the delight of this book, you are doing yourself an injustice. I have

read it several times and listened to it twice, and although I am familiar with the humorous narration, I still surprise myself by laughing out loud--it is that good. Jerome's prose sparkles and dances, even when he describes boat mishaps. (I have no interest in water travel, so my unflagging attention and appreciation is solely--in spots--based on the clever writing.) The reader or listener soon becomes acquainted with the three men and with the dog, and the personality of each is deftly communicated. For those of you who are eager to know details of the plot, this review won't be helpful. Essentially, there IS no real plot. The book convinces even the most land-lubbing that, to paraphrase Kenneth Grahame's *"Wind in the Willows,"* there is nothing so worth doing as simply messing about in boats. The narrator is amazingly gifted. He sounds as if he is every character, since each is distinct. (And there is yet another voice in which he reads the exposition.) Don't be put off if you are not an Anglophile or don't care for the Victorian period . . . that won't matter. (The light-heartedness and engaging writing is such a relief after the tedium of, say, *"Moby Dick."*) As a testimony to the affection I've developed for the book and for this particular recording, I PURCHASED this version, although it (and many alternatives) is readily available for borrowing from my public library. Knowing how much tastes vary, I am wary of urging others to try my own literary favorites. In this case, I must make an exception. Taste a chapter or two and you are likely to crave more--making this the potato chip of literature. It is much more nourishing, though. The reader or listener just feels good after time with the narrative, even if mildly sorrowful that the book comes to an end.

Love the book, and I bought the audiobook based on the description that said Hugh Laurie was the reader. NOT! Nothing against the reader but I had great expectations for what Hugh Laurie could do with this material and I'm very disappointed ... Even more so because I started listening the day after the return period closed, so I didn't realize the problem until it was too late to get my money back. :(

I wonder what gives Digital Services LLC the right to think it can ruin a classic book by making this kindle version like a junk? Even though it now cost zero to buy this book, it is still something as readers we treasured so much to spend time with. Who gives you the right to treat the readers and the author in a way like we worth nothing of your time to do it right? I demand to revise this book, undo its mistake.

I enjoyed it, but the book has literally no plot except "we went sailing". Be warned. If you don't have

a lot of patience for circuitous tangents that go on and on like the eddies in a river, you might be annoyed. It's a good book for a vacation, which is when I read it.

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