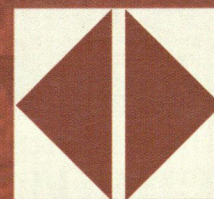


AudioFile®



Recording the Greats . . . from
Dylan Thomas to John Updike

50 Years of Caedmon Audio

"Texas Bound"
Behind the popular
story series

Author Highlights

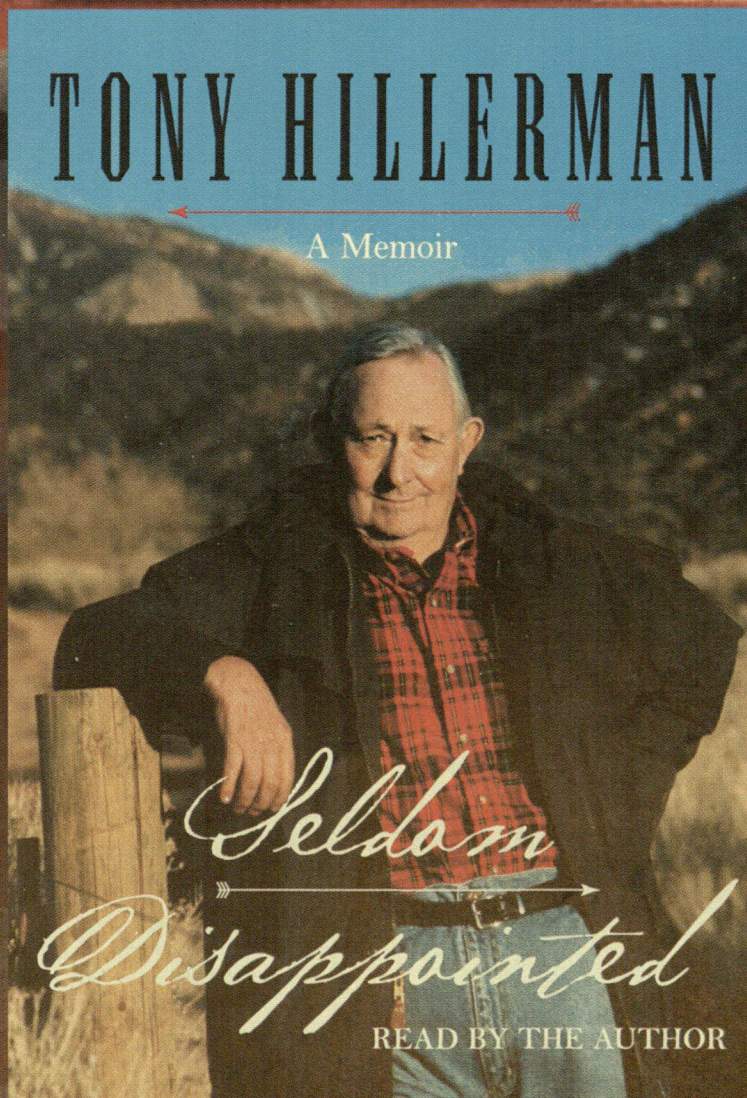
Paul Auster

Dean Koontz

Ursula Le Guin

TONY HILLERMAN

A Memoir



*Seldom
Disappointed*

READ BY THE AUTHOR

U N A B R I D G E D

www.audiofilemagazine.com



USA \$4.00 / Canada \$6.00

February/March 2002

NEW

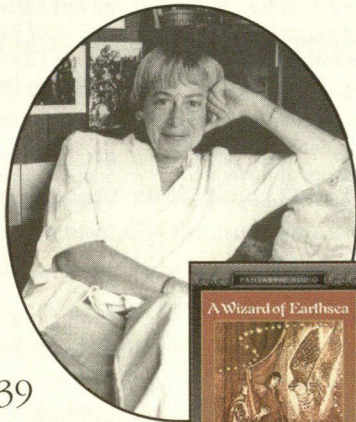
Spring
Audiobook
Releases

Table of Contents

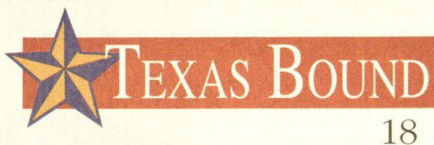
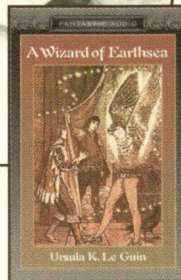
AudioFile®
February/March 2002
Vol. 10, No. 5



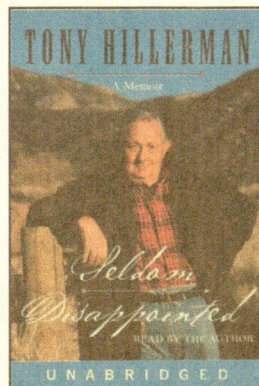
22



39



18



29

FEATURES

KAY CATTARULLA ■ 18

The founder of Texas Bound guides the Lone Star State to literature aloud. *by Elaine Davenport*

First There Was Caedmon ■ 22

The oldest name in audiobooks turns 50. *by David A. Walton*

Regulars

EDITOR'S NOTES ■ 5

HEAR HERE ■ 6

YURIKA! ■ 8

LETTERS ■ 10

NEW RELEASES ■ 12

Complete title announcements of audiobooks to be released in February/March 2002

NARRATOR SPOTLIGHT ■ 16

LISTENING LIBRARIANS ■ 56

LISTENING WITH . . . YOUR BELOVED

Ideas for romantic listening venues ■ 64

Reviews

Information Guide to Reviews, page 27

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR ■ 28-30

Highlight: Interview With Tony Hillerman

FICTION ■ 31-34

Highlight: Interview With Dean Koontz

MYSTERY & SUSPENSE ■ 35-37

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY ■ 38-39

Highlight: Interview With Ursula Le Guin

HISTORY ■ 40-41

Highlight: Interview With John Dean

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE ■ 42-43

Highlight: Interview With Paul Auster

ACHIEVEMENT & PERSONAL GROWTH ■ 44-47

Highlight: Interview With Brian Tracy

CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULT ■ 48-51

Resources

MISSION ■ 2

INDEX OF TITLES ■ 52

Includes all reviews printed in this issue and additional titles reviewed on the AudioFile Web site

ADVERTISER DIRECTORY ■ 61

RESOURCES ■ 62

Who, What, When, Where . . . and How to Find It

Talking With Tony Hillerman

The voice over the phone has a lilt and twinkle to it. “Can you take my Okie accent?” novelist Tony Hillerman asks, chuckling across the miles from his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he and his wife Marie were reveling in what he describes as “the most dazzling, colorful autumn” along the Rio Grande. Hillerman is, of course, the creator of the popular series of contemporary police procedurals rooted in Navajo society, legend, and customs, which features Officers Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee. Now he is both author of a new memoir, *Seldom Disappointed*, and narrator of the 12-hour audiobook version. “The reading experience is just a chore,” he reflects, pulling no punches, which, as the memoir reveals, is clearly his approach to life. “The audio guys make you stop, make you pronounce words the way they’re supposed to be pronounced. They want you to sound like an East Coast Yankee.” Actually, he adds, “It’s easy enough to do. You just sit there and read aloud. But the writing process is a brand new experience each time. Sometimes it’s like pulling teeth and practically impossible. But then you have your real good moments, when you think you’ve done a good job.”

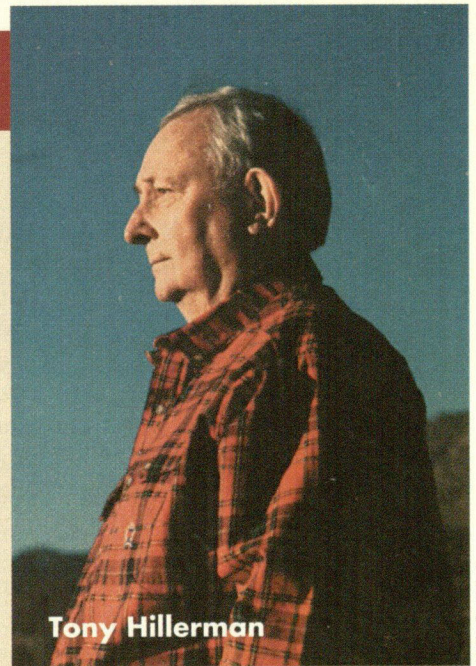
Hillerman, who is 76, read a few of his early novels in abridged form, in his trademark casual drawl. Then other narrators came along—including Jay O. Sanders, Gil Silverbird, Michael Ansara, and George Guidall. Guidall is the only one whose readings are familiar to him. “Boy, is Guidall good at it,” the writer remarked. “And everybody tells me that. But this time, the publisher said, ‘Well, it’s your story, and it would be a lot more valuable if you tell it in your own words.’ So I said, ‘Oh, all right.’”

Hillerman’s epic is a robust, rowdy, and romantic mosaic of reminiscences. It offers insightful word portraits of hard times on the farm during the Depression; perilous moments on the French and German fronts in WWII, where he was seriously wounded handling mortars; the vagaries of campus politics as he served as assistant to a university president; his years as a crime and political journalist; marriage to his wife Marie; and the sheer bliss of blending six natural-born and adopted kids into a fiercely faithful family. Only deep into the narrative does Hillerman turn to the most familiar aspect of his overflowing life—his mystery writing. And, at his editor’s behest (“he twisted my arm”), the tome ends with an appendix, in which the writer lists his works and tells aspects of how each came to be.

The title came from one of his mother’s aphorisms. “Blessed are those who expect little,” she would say. “They are seldom disappointed.”

“It wasn’t the title I wanted,” he observed. “My very first memory—and it’s the very first episode in the book—was my dad, on a hot August day, bringing a black diamond melon home for us. So my title was ‘Papa’s Watermelon, and What Happened Next.’ I thought that was a dandy, but they didn’t like it.”

His memoir is dappled with pieces of advice—such as this, another of his mom’s—“Better to have a skinned knee than to go through life afraid of falling.” The best, Hillerman suggests, isn’t in the book. “Kurt Vonnegut once said that the secret of writing is to leave out the parts the readers skip. But I don’t always follow it. If I want to describe something, I go ahead and do it, and then, hell, let ‘em skip it if they want to.”—*Michael J. Bandler*



Tony Hillerman

Kelly Campbell

Hillerman’s warm and avuncular voice gives just the right delivery to his subtle humor.

SELDOM DISAPPOINTED

Tony Hillerman
Read by Tony Hillerman

What a privilege to have one of the most popular American novelists read us his memoirs while offering a look into the sources from which characters such as Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee emerged. Tony Hillerman reads without haste, allowing us lots of time to savor memories we may not share with him, but feelings we do. His warm and avuncular voice gives just the right delivery to his subtle humor and reveals a side of his personality not found in his mystery novels. No anecdote is better than that of the first book agent, who told him, “Fine, but leave out the Indian stuff.”

Although this is highly recommended as a family book, young readers will underestimate the valuable wisdom being imparted. *J.A.H.*

Harper Audio 12 hrs. Unabridged
(CS) ISBN 0-694-52347-X \$39.95

