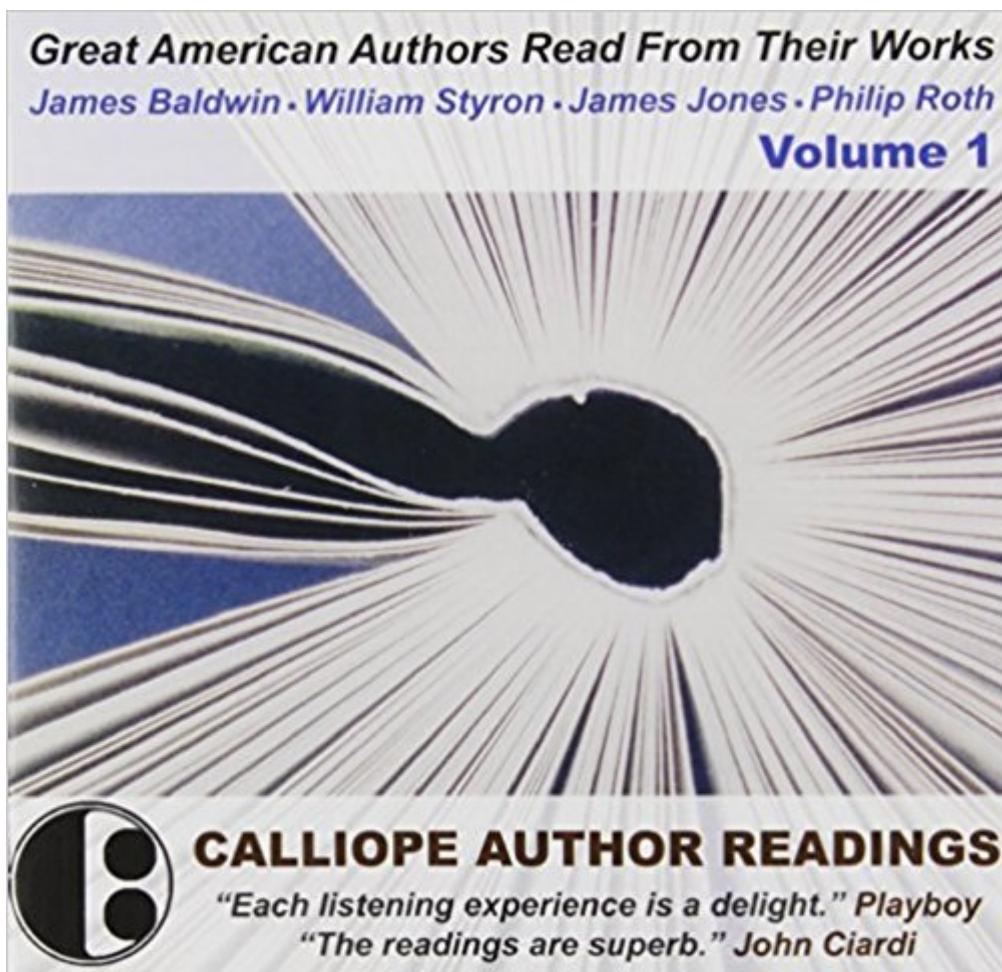


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Great American Authors Read From Their Works, Vol. 1



Synopsis

The readings by James Baldwin from *Another Country* and *Giovanni's Room* explore the dilemmas of being black and gay in mid-twentieth century America. William Styron reads about a disabled child finding joy in his novel about a troubled southern family, *Lie Down in Darkness*. James Jones reads the famous passage in *From Here to Eternity* where Pvt. Prewitt plays Taps. Philip Roth does a comic turn in a scene from his early book, *Letting Go*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up • James Baldwin, William Styron, James Jones, Nelson Algren, Bernard Malamud, and John Updike read their own works in these reissues, making the literature seem immediate and evocative. Baldwin's stories, "Another Country" and "Giovanni's Room," are intensely personal, with adult language, suicide, and sexuality. Styron's "Lie Down in Darkness" bears a strange portent of abandonment and death. "From Here to Eternity" and "The Thin Red Line" are Jones's war stories that reveal a poetic horror. Algren's "The Man With the Golden Arm" refers to a card shark and addict, while Malamud's "Mourners" is a view of decrepit old age at its most unbearable. "Lifeguard," as read by Updike, gives insight into a young man's arrogance and ego. The most skilled reader is undoubtedly Philip Roth, who believably creates three separate characters in "Letting Go." Liner notes will help listeners understand the time in which the writings take place as well as the context of each work. These masterpieces are all notable examples of 20th-century American short stories, and hearing the writers interpreting their own words is a rare treat. •Lonna Pierce, MacArthur

and Thomas Jefferson Elementary Schools, Binghamton, NY

Hearing these authors read their own work gave me a whole new level of understanding. I feel so lucky that these recordings were made. Volume 1: James Baldwin reading from Another Country and Giovanni's Room, William Styron reading from Lie Down in Darkness, James Jones reading From Here to Eternity, and Philip Roth reading from Letting Go.

Thank heavens there is an actual recording of James Baldwin. Gave this to my niece as a gift and she was thrilled. She is a big fan of Baldwin and couldn't believe I found this. Wonderful if you like to hear the voices of some of the world's greatest authors.

Great American Authors is a treat for the mind, the ear, and nostalgia for former standards of literature. Excellent disk.

We won't hear their like again because America does not want to read these author's works. Instead America wants to watch: Kardashians, Housewives, and Bachelors/Bachelorettes!

I'm really enjoying these readings on CD. It's wonderful to hear the authors read their own work. They read with such feeling and vigor. The CD packaging is beautifully done and the liner notes are astute and insightful. This is a great gift for the literature lovers in your life (or to keep for yourself).

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