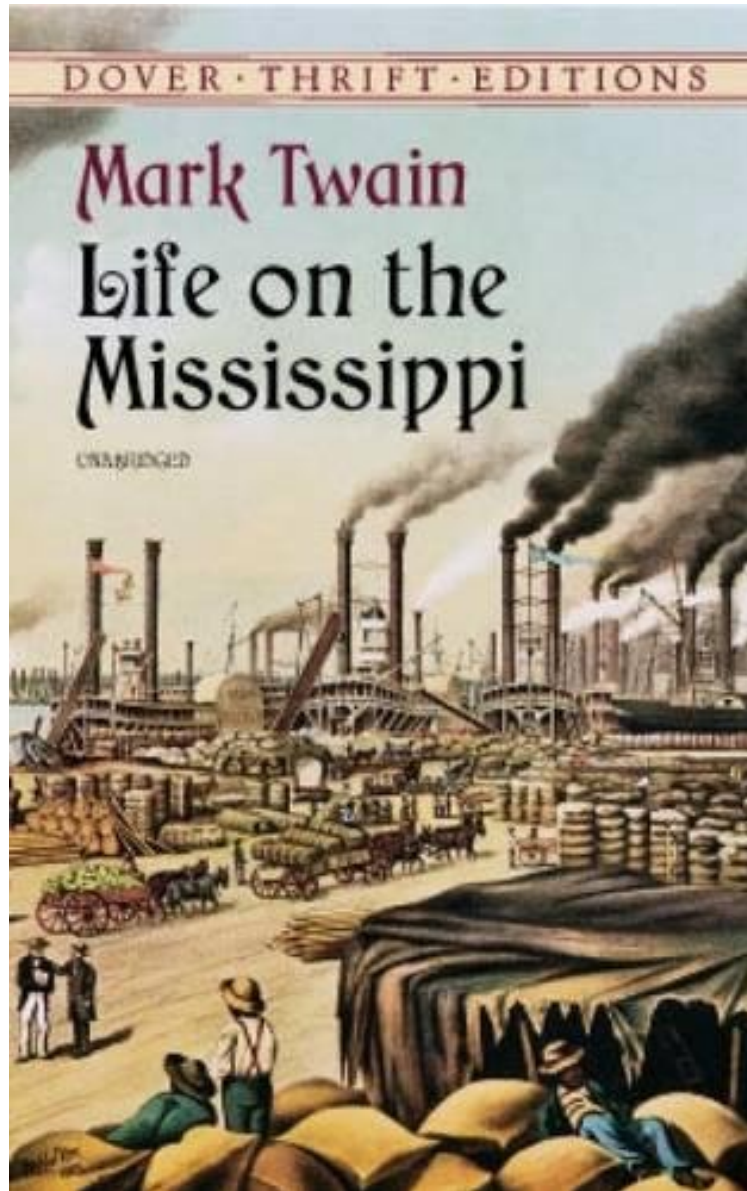


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Life on the Mississippi (Dover Thrift Editions)

Mark Twain

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#473674 in Books 2000-12-21 2000-12-21Format: UnabridgedOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.36 x .73 x 5.18l, .49 #File Name: 0486414264304 pages | File size: 68.Mb

Mark Twain : Life on the Mississippi (Dover Thrift Editions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life on the Mississippi (Dover Thrift Editions):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Life on the Mississippi, he told it like it was....By SusanMark Twain was an incredible character, a fine part of America's colorful past. He spent his youth on the Mississippi, from whence

came Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, two of our literary immortals Who among us doesn't recall the fence-painting episode in Tom Sawyer? I read it two generations ago and will teach the lesson to my grandchildren pretty soon. Twain (as Samuel L. Clemens) trained to be a riverboat pilot on the Big Muddy, and his stories of that time of his youth are captured in *Life on the Mississippi*. Piloting was dangerous and exacting work, and in its heyday was every bit as romantic as that of cowboys or test pilots or any other macho endeavor. Alas, with time, the profession died and the river was plied by ugly cousins of the riverboats, but Twain's memoir survives. Twain's folksy humor still ripples from the pages; we can picture the rough crowd he ran with, fellows who probably bathed once a month whether they needed it or not. Yes, there were times I laughed out loud at their antics. I certainly developed a respect for the men who knew every bend, every rock, and every tree along the river they plied with cargo and passengers; their tall tales only made the adventure more fun. Highly recommended for a satisfying read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Slow read...a little boring By CDKA little boring with all of the details of the Mississippi River. Don't know where many of the features are. I toughed through it, though. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful, Classic Twain !! By 5/0 "Life on the Mississippi" by Mark Twain (aka Samuel Clemens) is, in effect, a National Treasure just as surely as are Independence Hall or the battlefield at Gettysburg. Twain's amazing degree of perception of, and attunement with, the essence of Humanity is on ample display in "Life on the Mississippi" and readers even in this generation nearly 150 year hence will see and feel the almost eerie connection Twain achieved with the eternal Humanity in all of us. Add to that the fact that Twain's "Life on the Mississippi" is an exquisitely-crafted, often-poignant, oftener humorous panorama of a gorgeous part of our country during a truly wondrous and kaleidoscopic era of our national journey. Well before the reader finishes "Life on the Mississippi" they will know why Mark Twain is often spoken of as the "Voice of America itself" and considered among the very greatest storytellers in all of History. Selecting the "Best" or the "Most Enjoyable" of Mark Twain's many, many writings would be a task as hopeless as picking the prettiest photograph ever taken anywhere along the Mississippi River. But "Life on the Mississippi" would surely be among The Top Ten contenders.

He was Sam Clemens, steamboat pilot, before he was Mark Twain, famous author. His better-known name originated with the lingo of navigation, and much of his writing was informed by his shipboard adventures on one of the world's great rivers. In this classic of American literature, Twain offers lively recollections ranging from his salad days as a novice pilot to views from the passenger deck in the twilight of the river cultures heyday. Under the tutelage of the most celebrated pilot on the Mississippi, young Twain acquires the skills to navigate a constantly changing riverscape, avoiding potential collisions with other boats and traversing winding channels in the dead of night. The vivid and ever-engaging narrative encompasses tales of riverside town feuds, the professional vicissitudes of a riverboat gambler, dramatic accounts of life in Vicksburg as the city lay under siege during the Civil War, and many other scenes from a now-vanished way of life. These antebellum visions take on a bittersweet cast with the author's postwar return to the region, when railroad competition has largely doomed the commercial steamboat and the old ways of life are passing into history. A testimonial to Twain's repute as the most popular humorist of his day, these reminiscences crackle with comic anecdotes and energetic witticisms. Engrossing and entertaining, this volume will captivate devotees of Twain, steamboat buffs, lovers of Americana, and students of American literature.

"Mark Twain was the first truly American writer, and all of us since are his heirs." --William Faulkner
From the Publisher's 1.5-hour cassettes
From the Back Cover
Part travel book, part autobiography, and part social commentary, *Life on the Mississippi* is a memoir of the cub pilot's apprenticeship, a record of Twain's return to the river and to Hannibal as an adult, a meditation on the harsh vagaries of nature, and a study of the varied and sometimes violent activities engaged in by those who live on the river's shores.