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Von Mark Twain

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #1408183 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2015-12-23Erscheinungsdatum: 2015-12-23File Name: B019S5AIW2 | File size: 62.Mb

Von Mark Twain : Life on the Mississippi: By Mark Twain : Illustrated Unabridged (Free Bonus Audiobook) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life on the Mississippi: By Mark Twain : Illustrated Unabridged (Free Bonus Audiobook) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Steamboats and Tall TalesVon Monika SimonMark Twain wrote this book after the success of his earlier travel books, though 'Life on the Mississippi' is hardly what one may call a traditional travel book but then neither are his earlier ones like 'The Innocents Abroad'. A number of chapters had been previously published as a series of newspaper articles and describe Samuel Clemens's training as a Mississippi steamboat pilot before the Civil War. The other part of the book is largely based on Mark Twain's visit to the river in 1881, a trip he made expressly to gather material for this book and observe the changes time had brought to the Mississippi now sadly depleted of steamboats. Written with wry humour the book covers a whole variety of subjects in this book, not only what one may expect like a history of the river or Mark Twain's own experiences on it and tall tales told to him and by him. Sometimes it is difficult to decide how far to trust the author and his reminiscences. There are Indian legends and sarcastic observations and also some quite serious discussions on history, society or the question of why the recent war (known today mostly as the Civil War but also as the War between the States) was still so much on the mind of the people in the South. I particularly liked his theory that the war was caused by Sir Walter Scott's romances. It is an interesting, amusing and informative book, but I think the reader has to have a previous interest in either the Mississippi, steamboats, Mark Twain or history to appreciate the book. For those who are interested in one or several of these topics this is a book well worth reading.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Essential for any Twain fan. Von Margaret FioreMark Twain, the most globally recognised of the greatest American writers, comes closest to autobiography in this odd and fascinating book. This is the story of part of his life at least, and lays out much of his unique moral and political philosophy. As a book, Life on the Mississippi lacks a truly coherent story line after the half-way point; it tells the story of Twain's training as a Mississippi steamboat pilot, then, when he returns to the river years later as a successful writer, it drops off into anecdotes as Twain travels down the great river, and can be a deadly bore for some readers. But, oh, what a picture of Twain it draws! There are great tales of characters he meets along the river, told in his inimitably funny style, wonderful bits of his childhood - like the tale of his insomniac guilt and terror when the match he loans a drunk ends up causing the jail to burn down, killing the drunk - and insightful portraits of the towns and villages along the river. This is a characteristically American book, about progress and independence as well as the greatest American river, written by this most characteristically American writer. It is a true classic (a thing Twain despised! He said, "Classics are books that everybody praises, but nobody reads."), a book that will remain a delight for the foreseeable future.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Life on an untamed river Von Christiane In this book Mark Twain evokes the glory days of the Mississippi steamboats which started about 1812 and lasted less than 60 years, a "strangely short life for so majestic a creature". He brings to life the excitement, the adventure, the dangers, the beauty of working on a mighty, untamed river. He describes the life of the people living along its banks, their idiosyncracies, their manner of speech, their taste in decorating, their entertainment, their fight for survival. We get so many facts, so much information about life on and along the river that one feels what's not in this book is not worth knowing. There is much hilarity as when Mark Twain recalls his own training as a steamboat pilot (he had to learn by heart twelve or thirteen hundred miles of river) or remembers extraordinary characters he met. There is tragedy and heroism as well as it was not rare that steamboats blew up resulting in many deaths and terrible injuries (Mark Twain's beloved younger brother Henry lost his life after four boilers blew up on the "Pennsylvania"). He talks of the spectacular sunsets, pitchblack nights, raging storms, the wildness, loneliness and grandiose vastness of the Mississippi. When he returns about 20 years later the river was in the process of being tamed ("government has snatched out all the snags, and lit up the shores like Broadway), there were "great and strange" changes and the pilot's work was easier and less dangerous but some of the romance had gone out of it. He meets old friends, visits his home town Hannibal and marvels at the beautiful new cities springing up in the North. Having said all that, I feel the book would have benefitted from being shorter and concentrating on the subject. Especially in the second half Mark Twain goes off on a tangent more and more often, resulting in disconnected and boring chapters, and Appendix D should definitely have been left out.

KurzbeschreibungLife on the Mississippi by Mark TwainHow is this book unique? Illustrations IncludedFree AudiobookLife on the Mississippi (1883) is a memoir by Mark Twain of his days as a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River before the American Civil War, and also a travel book, recounting his trip along the Mississippi River from St. Louis to New Orleans many years after the War. The book begins with a brief history of the river as reported by Europeans and Americans, beginning with the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto in 1542. It continues with anecdotes of Twain's training as a steamboat pilot, as the 'cub' (apprentice) of an experienced pilot, Horace E. Bixby. He describes, with great affection, the science of navigating the ever-changing Mississippi River in a section that was first published in 1876, entitled "Old Times on the Mississippi". Although Twain was actually 21 when he began his training, he uses artistic license to make himself seem somewhat younger, referring to himself as a "fledgling" and a "boy" who "ran away from home" to seek his fortune on the river, and playing up his own callowness

and navet. In the second half, Twain narrates his trip many years later on a steamboat from St. Louis to New Orleans. He describes the competition from railroads, and the new, large cities, and adds his observations on greed, gullibility, tragedy, and bad architecture. He also tells some stories that are most likely tall tales. Simultaneously published in 1883 in the United States and Great Britain, the book is the first submitted to a publisher as a typewritten manuscript.

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**Synopsis** Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), better known by the pen name Mark Twain, was an American humorist, satirist, lecturer and writer. Twain is most noted for his novels *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885). He is also known for his quotations. His first important work, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, was published in 1865. His next publication was *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, which drew on his youth in Hannibal. The character of Tom Sawyer was modeled on Twain as a child, with traces of two schoolmates, John Briggs and Will Bowen. His next major published work, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, solidified him as a noteworthy American writer. Some have called it the first Great American Novel. *Finn* was an offshoot from *Tom Sawyer* and proved to have a more serious tone than its predecessor. The main premise behind *Huckleberry Finn* is the young boy's belief in the right thing to do even though the majority of society believes that it was wrong.