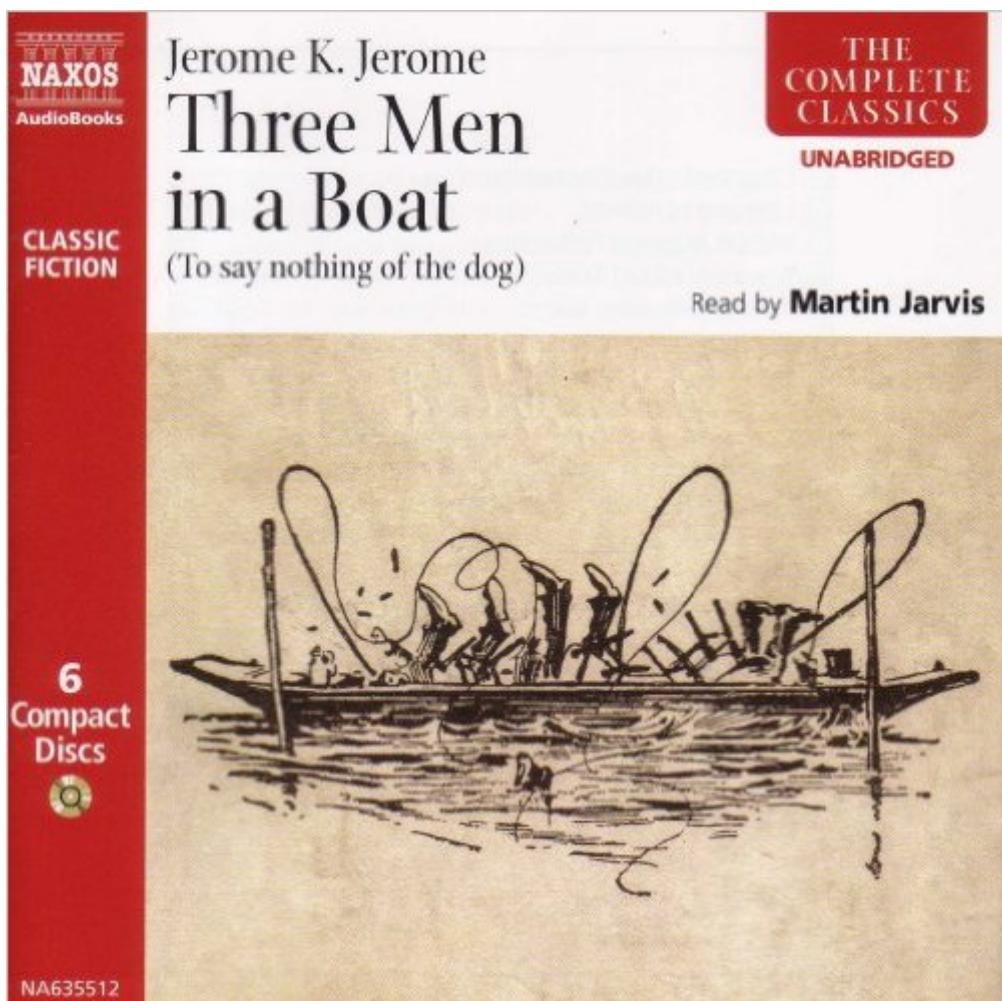


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Three Men In A Boat (Classic Fiction)



Synopsis

Three men, worried about their health and in search of different experiences, set off up the river in a boat. Jerome's delightful novel, dating from 1900 paints a vivid picture of innocent fun.

Book Information

Series: Classic Fiction

Audio CD

Publisher: Naxos Audiobooks; Unabridged edition (April 30, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9626343559

ISBN-13: 978-9626343555

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (321 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Imagine Bertie Wooster and two of his idiot friends out on a boat... with no Jeeves. That about describes "Three Men in a Boat : To Say Nothing of the Dog," Jerome K. Jerome's enchanting comic novel about three young men (to say nothing of the dog) who discover the "joys" of roughing it. The three men are George, Harris and the narrator, who are all massive hypochondriacs -- they find that they have symptoms of every disease in existence (except housemaid's knee). To prop up their failing health, they decide to take a cruise down the Thames in a rented boat, camping and enjoying nature's bounty. Along with Monty -- an angelic-looking, devilish terrier -- the three friends set off down the river. But they find that not everything is as easy as they expected. They get lost in hedge mazes, end up going downstream without a paddle, encounter monstrous cats and vicious swans, have picnics navigate locks, offend German professors, and generally get into every kind of trouble they possibly can... Even though it was published more than a century ago, "Three Men in a Boat" remains as freshly humorous as when it was first published. While editor/playwright/author Jerome K. Jerome wrote a lot of other books, this book remains his most famous. And once you've read it, you'll see why. Jerome's real talent is in finding humor in everyday things, like trying to erect a tent in the woods, getting seasick, or questioning whether it's safe to drink river water. Written in

Jerome's dry, goofy prose, these little occurrences become immensely funny. One of the funniest parts of the book is when the boys listen to a fishermen telling of his prowess, only to accidentally knock down his record-breaking stuffed fish.... and discover it's made out of plaster. Oops.

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.

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