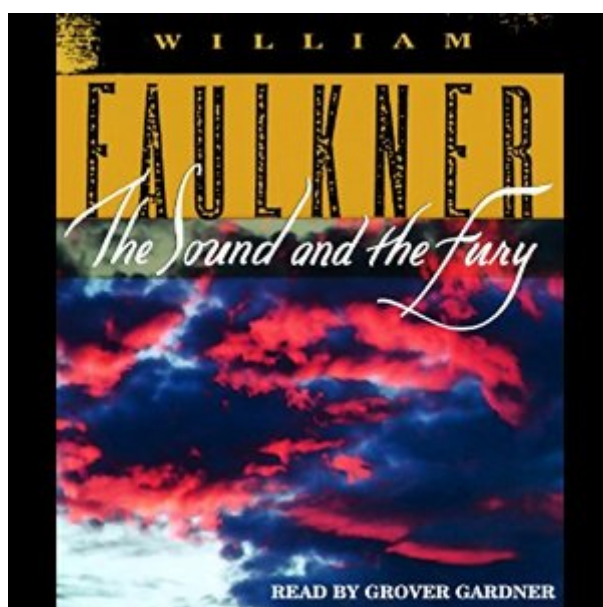


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# The Sound And The Fury



## Synopsis

First published in 1929, Faulkner created his "heart's darling," the beautiful and tragic Caddy Compson, whose story Faulkner told through separate monologues by her three brothers--the idiot Benjy, the neurotic suicidal Quentin and the monstrous Jason. From the Trade Paperback edition.  
--This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours and 57 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: July 8, 2005

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B000A7KJ8Q

Best Sellers Rank: #104 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Classics #586  
in Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics #1912 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

## Customer Reviews

The first chapter is what puts people off this classic. Here is a simple way to understand that chapter. By following who is caring for Benji you will know when things are taking place. It becomes a very easy chapter to read once you get used to this. Versh - 1900-ish when Benji is 3-5 T.P.  
1905-1912 when Benji is 15-ish Luster - Present when Benji is 33. Each time italics are incorporated Benji is changing his train of thought. I find this book moving and very rewarding.

In case you are one of the unlucky few that has not read *THE SOUND AND THE FURY*, let me tell you that you are missing one of literature's most prized works. As an English major, I have come across many "famous" novels that left me wondering what the author had to do (wink, wink) to get his/her novel well known. However, this novel is definitely not one of those. In short, Faulkner's novel is about the Compson family, composed of a mentally disabled son (Benji), a sexual daughter (Caddy) and granddaughter (Quentin), a suicidal son (Quentin--yes, 2 Quentins!), an uncaring and greedy son (Jason), a drunken father, a nutty mother, and a caring servant (Dilsey) and her family. The book itself is divided into four sections--one written by Benji, one written by Quentin (the son),

one by Jason, and one by Dilsey. Faulkner incorporates a HUGE amount of symbolism in this novel (something I love). However, what makes this novel famous are Faulkner's writing techniques. The first section by Benjy is pretty darn confusing, for Benjy is mentally retarded. Benjy's thoughts cover many time lengths and flash back and forth between times without any notice or any indication. The reader must figure out when something occurs. Often, only one paragraph may take place in time A, then it will switch to time B for a page, time C for a sentence, time B for 3 pages, and so on. Mostly what triggers these time changes are words. For example, Benjy is outside and hears a golfer call to his caddie (this occurs in time A). The word "caddie" triggers a thought about Caddy, his sister, and he thinks about a time in time G when somebody called out "Caddy" and so on. It sounds pretty confusing; that's because it is. Quentin's section is composed of stream-of-consciousness, something Faulkner is famous for using. Here, you are given Quentin's thoughts only. It's pretty intense to read. The last two sections are written more normally. This book is pretty hard, I will admit. I wouldn't read it as my first Faulkner. I'd try *AS I LAY DYING* or *SANCTUARY*. I suggest getting a buddy to read it, too, so you can sort things out together or (if you must....) pick up the Cliffs Notes on it. However, don't not read this novel just because it's tough. I assure you that this book is filled with so much character depth and fascinating storyline that you won't be sorry. : )

What could I possibly say besides this might very well be my all-time favorite book? This story of the fall of the Compson family, an aristocratic Southern family, mirrors the fall of the Old South after the Civil War. Faulkner is one of my favorite authors, and the way he changes the narrative viewpoint in this book is amazing. The first section of this book is told through the eyes of Benjy Compson, a thirty-three year old mentally retarded man. Only Faulkner could tell a story from this viewpoint. This section is incredibly difficult to read because it has no chronology: Benjy has no concept of time so he jumps from event to event as the story progresses. Often, he will make a jump of thirty years with little or no warning to the reader. The reader should not be discouraged from reading because of this; the reading gets progressively easier through the book, and future sections will also explain what happened in Benjy's section. The second section is told by Quentin Compson on the day of his suicide. It may very well be the best use of stream of consciousness narration ever. It is filled with long, flowing thoughts, and there are even two sections where Faulkner disregards ALL punctuation to simulate the frantic pace of Quentin's obsessive thoughts. The third section, told by Jason Compson, the "evil" brother, is my favorite; it is a darkly humorous masterpiece. Read it yourself to see what I mean. The fourth section is told by an omniscient third-person narrator, and this section contains Faulkner's trademark flowing prose. I can't say enough good things about this book. It is an

awesome book, rich in symbolism and imagery, and it contains many well-developed characters and themes. For this and for its groundbreaking experiments in narration, I consider *The Sound and the Fury* to be my favorite book of all time.

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