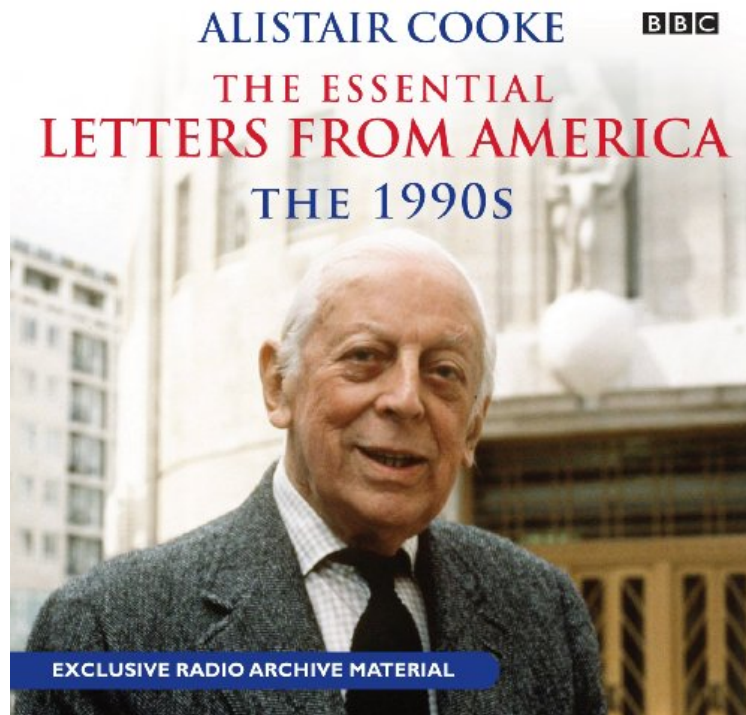


The Essential Letters From America: The 1990s

Alistair Cooke

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Alistair Cooke : The Essential Letters From America: The 1990s before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Essential Letters From America: The 1990s:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. All of Alistair Cooke's collected letters are wonderful. This is the first step. By Naushad Forbes All of Alistair Cooke's collected letters are wonderful. This is the first step, and has a reasonable amount of historical introduction too. Highly recommended. The hope is that the BBC will eventually publish a complete collection of every broadcast - which would be a fair number - 50 a year times 60 years! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Did anyone edit anything here? By Kris I have not yet purchased this CD; I had planned to but now am not so sure. I can only hope that what I would receive would truly be a compilation of Mr. Cooke's "oral letters" from the 1970s. The 3-plus minute taste of the CD is not from a CD of the 1970s but is the same example given for the 1960s CD. The narrator (not Mr. Cooke) talks (about the Kennedy-Nixon debate/campaign) the entire time; we never do hear Mr. Cooke. Why would I want to hear the narrator rather than Mr. Cooke? Thus, I am not sure if the narrator talks for just a while and then Mr. Cooke speaks, or if the narrator is reading what Mr. Cooke has written and we never do hear Mr. Cooke say anything. As I said, who in the heck edited the information on this page--anyone? It would be nice (1) to have heard a sample of the 1970s CD, not the 1960s CD, since what's being sold on this page is the 1970s CD, and (2) to have heard Mr. Cooke himself if he IS indeed speaking on the CD. If he is not, I think the description should make it clear that he is not, that someone else is reading Mr. Cooke's material. I guess I

will hold off buying any of the series until someone can tell me whether we actually hear Mr. Cooke himself on his tapes or only someone else reading what Mr. Cooke has written. I have *The Essential Letters From America: The 1990s*; Mr. Cooke himself does read his own material there, with short introductions by the same narrator as the one narrating the 1960s and 1970s CDs. That particular CD (the 1990s CD) is excellent.

Alistair Cooke was a radio legend, entertaining millions of listeners for more than 50 years in his weekly *Letter from America*. It was the longest-running one-man series in radio history, and every show was a virtuoso performance. Wise and witty, informed yet informal, Cooke was the doyen of foreign correspondents. This varied collection of *Letters* contains Cookes broadcasts on such landmark events as the Gulf War, the terrible race riots in LA, the O. J. Simpson trial, Bill Clintons election, and Clintons affair with Monica Lewinsky. Cooke addresses topics close to his heart, such as sportscelebrating Joe DiMaggio and lamenting the threat to golf posed by commercialism and ungentlemanly behaviorand muses on historic occasions such as the closure of the last American Woolworths store, the Commencement ceremony, and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles 80 years earlier. The *Letters* are set in their historical context with a specially commissioned script narrated by the BBCs award-winning American correspondent Matt Frei. Whether the topics he explores are serious or humorous, Cookes unique style of expression and analysis shines through in these classic broadcasts from one of the worlds most famous letter writers and radios greatest observer.4 CDs. 5 hrs.