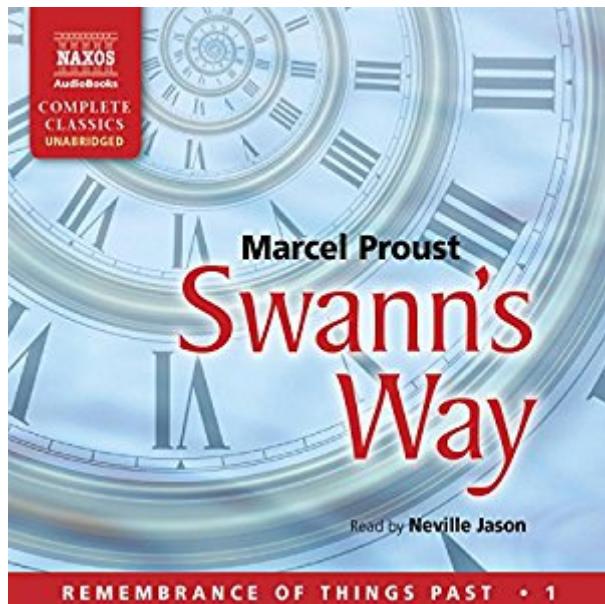


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# Swann's Way



## Synopsis

Remembrance of Things Past is one of the monuments of 20th-century literature. Neville Jason's widely praised abridged version has rightly become an audiobook landmark, and now, upon numerous requests, he is recording the whole work unabridged which, when complete, will run for some 140 hours. Swann's Way is the first of seven volumes and sets the scene with the narrator's memories being famously provoked by the taste of that little cake, the madeleine, accompanied by a cup of lime-flowered tea. It is an unmatched portrait of fin-de-siÈcle France.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 21 hours and 35 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Naxos AudioBooks

Audible.com Release Date: February 8, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0076W5HUS

Best Sellers Rank: #24 in Books > Science & Math > Reference #214 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science

## Customer Reviews

This is a book that wants to show the world through the eyes (and mind) of a child, and it's incredibly effective at it. Events as simple as waking up can take many pages and being put to bed can take a full chapter. It's hard to describe how much beauty can be stuffed into such simple events. However, most of the events in the book are -that- simple. The author probably thought that looking at the life of a common member of a common family living what was a common life at a specific place and time would be interesting and nostalgic to people of different places and times and he was right. The main character has enough innocence and wonder to drown an elephant and yet, he seems sincere and fair. He acknowledges where he probably saw things incorrectly as a kid. He lives in an adult world and the adults are imperfect; some are mentally ill, some are mean to each other, and some are disreputable. Yet, they are all looked at with love and kindness. I don't know if I'd ever feel the need to read the next volume but I do know I'm glad I got to experience this one.

Proust is as wonderful as everyone say ! You must only read to believe . Swann's Way is mostly dealing with his childhood and those who most influenced him . Monsouier Swann was definitely a man that made a big impression on him and the whole family . I really feel I must read more of the volumes in the set to make a clear judgement of the influence of this first book . I love his style of writing . Everything seems so dreamy and wonderful.

I have always wanted to read the entire unabridged 7 volumes of Proust "Remembrance of Things Past" (or "In Search of Lost Time" per other translations) but I just don't have the time to undertake that amount of reading with my schedule. I do drive a good bit and also try to get out to walk - so I have been listening to some of the great novels that I have wanted to get to. This new release of the unabridged reading of volume 1 (Swann's Way) comes just at the right time in my life. I considered getting the 39 CD abridged version which Neville Jason read previously. I listened to some of it through a library loan. He's a beautiful reader of Proust. I decided to be brave and buy this new unabridged series and I'm so glad I did. This masterpiece is an amazing journey for someone who really loves classics, philosophy, history, art, psychology. Proust's detailed descriptions can really trigger personal memories and transport his reader into incredibly rich, detailed unconscious memories of their own lives. Jason's abridged version is quite well received but, as good as it is, like most abridged books, it pales in comparison to the full work. This unabridged version is read in a noticeably older voice -- which only adds to the richness of this semi-fictionalized memoir. I have every intention of completing the entire series as it is released through 2012. I also bought the little book (\$10) of "Marcel Proust's Search for Lost Time: A Reader's Guide to the The Remembrances of Things Past" by Patrick Alexander. It provides brief overviews of the volumes narratives, themes and various versions. It also gives background info on historical events, places/maps, reference notes on 50 main characters, family trees, info and pics of Proust and his family. I highly recommend this to anyone interested in taking on 1 of the greatest literary masterpieces ever written but who doesn't have the time/energy to sit down and read a million and a half word novel.

Five stars for Proust. ONE STAR for book formatting: the text font microscopic. It is at least a tiny number 8. Even my younger daughter with good eyesight had a good laugh at the impossibly small text of this publication. We've never seen anything like it in a published book. Ridiculous.

This is a 1300 page book, so am only part way through. The first chapter is most interesting

because it has a wonderful description of life in the small town of Combray, France in the late 1800's. Marcel has the amazing ability to write paragraph long sentences, and an incredible ability to describe, in great detail, the town and people who lived in Combray. I will never see a church steeple, that I barely notice before, in the same way again. He found so much delight in seeing the town's steeples in the early morning, in the late afternoon, and in the evening as the sun was setting. Any one who is interested in learning about the strange customs of that period will enjoy reading Marcel's diary.

This book is on a "Lifetime Reading Plan." It is a wonderful list of books from various fields of writing from ancient times to the present. I have found the writings consistently worthwhile. In this case, Swann's Way is the first part of a series by Marcel Proust, Remembrance of Things Past. It deals with the ups and downs, twists and turns, of romantic love. It includes the initial attraction, the lack of response from the other, growing jealousy, and eventual breakup. It will get into same gender affection as well, although I will say that it does not treat it in the political manner that the contemporary reader likely has. I liked enough that I am going on to the next book in the series. June 2014

On my book shelf, interesting, long long sentences, a special author, I'm a novice

I have put off attempting the mighty Proust in favour of chic-lit and rom-coms lately. But I finally bit the bullet and was surprised to find it less challenging than I had imagined. It certainly goes on a bit and every few pages you have to remind yourself that it doesn't matter that there appears to be no plot because it is just so enjoyable to read. Still have two more volumes to go before I can don the 'I've read A la recherche du temps perdu' T-shirt.

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