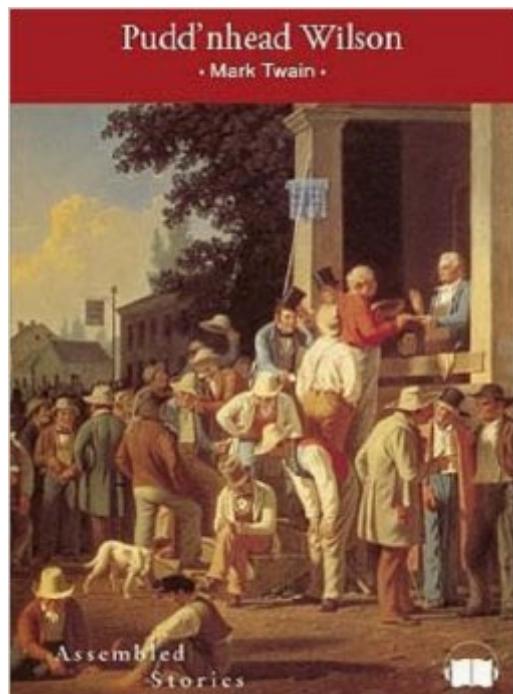


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# Pudd'nhead Wilson (American Collection)



## Synopsis

Mark Twain's novel of satirical wit aimed at the injustices in the southern states of America in the mid 19th century.

## Book Information

Series: American Collection

Audio CD: 6 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.7 x 5.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (238 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #8,455,728 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > ( T ) > Twain, Mark #2746 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction >

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## Customer Reviews

It seems like hardly anybody reads Mark Twain anymore, which is a shame, because he has so much to say about American society and human nature. "Pudd'nhead Wilson" is unquestionably one of his greatest books, maybe even his best. It's at least the equal of "Huckleberry Finn," which I had the good fortune to read with a superb high school English teacher in 1975, a year before her department banned it from the school's curriculum because of its supposedly racist portrayal of Jim. "Pudd'nhead Wilson" manages to be a social satire, a murder mystery, a compelling commentary on race and racism, a brief against slavery, a courtroom drama, and a lifelike portrait of a particular time and place in American history, all packed into a short novel of some 170 pages. The story moves along quickly, hilarious in places and appalling in others. It's hard to understand why this easy-to-follow, entertaining and instructive novel isn't more widely read and appreciated, especially given the importance of race as a topic for thought, discussion and historical inquiry in the United States. "Pudd'nhead Wilson" is set in a small Mississippi River town in the slave state of Missouri in 1830-1853. The critical event of the story occurs early on, when Roxy, a slave woman caring for two infant boys of exactly the same age, one her son and the other the son of one of the leading citizens of the town, secretly switches their identities. This deception is possible because

her son is only 1/32 African-American and appears white (his father is in fact another leading citizen), yet by custom if not by law, the boy is a slave.

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