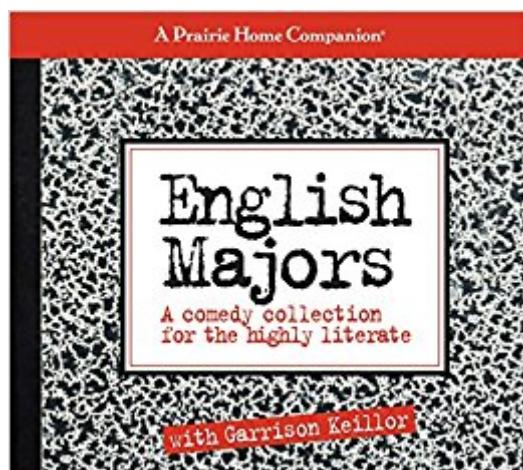


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# English Majors: A Comedy Collection For The Highly Literate (Prairie Home Companion (Audio))



## Synopsis

Includes the Six-Minute Hamlet, tributes to Hawthorne and Kerouac and Emily Dickinson, a Guy Noir adventure that exposes an M.F.A. scam, Garrison Keillor's recollection of growing up bookish in a football-loving town, and the Ballad of John Henry ('John Henry was an English major and poetry was his line. He sat by the window with his yellow legal pad and he wrote one sentence at a time.') With guest appearances by Billy Collins, Roy Blount Jr., Robert Bly, Donald Hall, and Calvin Trillin.

## Book Information

Series: Prairie Home Companion (Audio)

Audio CD

Publisher: HighBridge Audio; Unabridged,Original radio broadcast; 2.5 hours on 2 CDs edition (March 4, 2008)

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Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #762,127 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #150 in Books > Books on CD > Radio Shows #163 in Books > Books on CD > Music #367 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Radio > General Broadcasting

## Customer Reviews

Leave it to Keillor to satirize Guy Noir: Private Eye, by exposing the M.F.A. degree as a tool of organized crime. The parodies of American literature, however, including Dickinson, Frost and Hawthorne, are generally sophomoric. You know whose woods these are. The collection of vintage performances improves in a 10-minute rendition of Macbeth, with the lead character as Mr. Rogers and Lady Macbeth as Julia Child. There are two versions of Hamlet, both of which reduce Ophelia's madness to La, la, la. Yes, that's a quote. The Prairie Home Companion cast members fare better when they move away from parody. One of the best bits involves an English major (Keillor) working at a fast food job and correcting customers' misuse of who or whom. Billy Collins's satirical ode to The Lanyard is both hilarious and astute. There are some nice fillers, including Meryl Streep reading Mary Oliver and Allen Ginsberg's overblown recital of Whitman's Song of Myself. In the end,

listeners will feel that these two so-so CDs could have been reduced to one good one. (Feb.)

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You do not have to be a college graduate to enjoy *A Prairie Home Companion English Majors*; a taste for American poetry and a smattering of knowledge about American literature is enough. The Serious Comedy Site . . . this compilation will certainly evoke laughs from listeners. *AudioFile*

I should have paid more attention to the reviews... The thing that drew me to it was the idea that it would be full of specific references and jokes that your typical English major would understand. It's really more something I would have enjoyed in a high school English class. For a 30 year old professional in higher education with a master's in English, it was disappointing. I did listen to it on a long drive home and back, but I probably wouldn't pull it out again.

I am a huge Garrison Keillor fan - I buy everything I can get my hands on (on audio CD) and it makes my drive time so enjoyable. I stopped listening to this one only because it has so much inside humour that my little non English major brain didn't understand or didn't find humourous. I intend to give in to my brother who lives in Minnesota and has a PHD in English, loved Shakespeare and I know he'll enjoy it better than this music major did.

I enjoyed this compilation of English Major inside humor from Garrison Keillor, and I did laugh out loud a few times, but the previous reviewer is right in that the humor is very "inside" and esoteric. If you didn't just spend like four years as an undergrad and two years in grad school studying English, you probably won't find these jokes funny, or even get them. But for the nerdy bookworm English major out there, slaving over Tolstoy and rewriting that term paper, this is for you.

I chose the "English Majors: A Comedy Collection . . ." because I was an English major and I have liked *Prairie Home Companion* for many years. One especially good thing about the CD is that I've listened to it twice in the car and have not been bored for a minute. I keep finding more things to make me smile. I loved the Shakespeare plays in five or ten minutes. What fun!

As usual, Garrison doesn't disappoint.

nice

A mixed bag, some hilarious stuff in there for sure, some of the other stuff, meh...

If you like Prairie home companion you will like this. Essentially cuts from the show dealing with the subject of English....sort of.

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