

A Bibliography of Talking Books

Narrated By

Roy Avers



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INTRODUCTION

Biography of Roy Avers

Excerpt from: *The Braille Forum, October 1994*

“...Roy Avers, a talking book narrator at the American Printing House for the Blind, talked about his experiences as a narrator and his interaction with those who read books he's narrated. Those who read cassette books could immediately identify with Avers who upon taking the microphone simply said, "This book contains up to four sides per cassette." Once the laughter died down, he began his remarks in earnest.

He characterized his time at the microphone as "a conversation with you folks" rather than an address. "There is and has been one highlight of my career as a talking book narrator," Avers said. "For 25 years, I have been talking with talking book readers by whatever means possible. When I get a letter from one of you readers, ... when I get a phone call, that is a highlight."

He joked with his listeners about his appearance. "I think you probably have a vision of me -- an idea of me, and I think it wouldn't do to change that. However, I'm going to." He recalled one incident in which a female fan assured him, "I go to bed more with you than I do with my husband," referring, of course, to times when she left her talking book machine on while falling asleep.

Avers recalled how his career as a narrator began. It started while he was on business in Louisville, Ky., as a consultant. He happened to see a story about Recording for the Blind. "I said that sounds like something I'd be interested in doing. I talked to the people and began reading textbooks. That's a tremendous program and I was very happy to be part of it, but they weren't happy to have me as part of them. The reason is, I just couldn't leave well enough alone. I couldn't take a textbook and read it straight. I had to do something with it."

He said he once read an English literature textbook "and I had a lot of fun with it." RFB staff members encouraged him to go to the printing house to audition for its talking book program. "I auditioned, and I got in," he recalled.

Avers met his wife several years ago when she worked as a monitor for the talking book program at APH. He said one of the most boring books he's narrated is "The WordPerfect Bible." "The most difficult book I ever read was one by a very famous gentleman now dead named Thomas Jefferson," Avers recalled. "It was entitled 'The Complete Writings of Thomas Jefferson,' and that's exactly what it was. It was difficult because Thomas Jefferson ... wrote in five different languages, all of which appeared in this book --German, French, Spanish, English (which is a foreign language to me), Latin, and Greek. The Greek was written in the Greek alphabet. All of this had to be recorded in English; I found it to be extremely difficult."

He said these days he's mainly recording fiction; "that and 'Newsweek,' which may be fiction too sometimes."

Asked whether he found reading material which included explicit descriptions of sex difficult to narrate, he simply replied "I love it," an answer that brought him loud applause. While he found it difficult to name a favorite book, he said his favorite authors include Pat Conroy, author of "Prince of Tides."..."

BOOKS NARRATED BY ROY AVERS

Acuff, Roy	
Roy Acuff's Nashville	RC 21782
Alfred Hitchcock's tales to scare you stiff	RC 13823
Allingham, Margery	
The crime at Black Dudley	RC 16371
Bass, Ronald	
The emerald illusion	RC 20548
Beard, Henry	
Sailing	RC 17341
Bellow, Saul	
Ravelstein	RC 50448
Bester, Alfred	
The stars my destination	RC 18912
Bethancourt, T. Ernesto	
Dr. Doom, superstar	RC 14675
Bethancourt, T. Ernesto	
Nightmare town	RC 17170
Bierce, Ambrose	
An occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge	RC 26163
Bowman, Doug	
West to Comanche County	RC 52008
Boyle, Alistair	
Ship shapely	RC 51251
Bradbury, Ray	
Dandelion wine	RC 12385
Brown, Roy	
The swing of the gate	RC 13339
Bryant, Dorothy	
The kin of Ata are waiting for you	RC 16728
Carr, Roy	
Fleetwood Mac	RC 14704

Chretien, de Troyes	
Arthurian romances	RC 51087
Clarke, Arthur Charles	
Greetings, carbon-based bipeds!	RC 51039
Clarke, Arthur Charles	
The light of other days	RC 51432
Clive, John	
Barossa	RC 18914
Connelly, Michael	
A darkness more than night	RC 51468
Cramer, Richard Ben	
Joe DiMaggio	RC 50881
Dary, David	
True tales of the old-time plains	RC 15952
Dixon, Franklin W.	
Night of the werewolf	RC 16722
Doty, Roy	
Puns, gags, quips, and riddles	RC 16488
Fast, Howard	
The legacy	RC 17697
Frimmer, Steven	
Dead matter	RC 19097
Gallant, Roy A.	
Dance of the continents	RC 52541
Gallant, Roy A.	
Fires in the sky	RC 16056
Gardner, Erle Stanley	
The case of the golddigger's purse	RC 16370
Gardner, John E.	
The last trump	RC 18094
Gash, Jonathan	
Spend game	RC 17095
Godey, John	
Nella	RC 16822
Griffin, Michael	
Reaping the whirlwind	RC 52901

Griffin, W. E. B.	
The fighting agents	RC 50846
Hall, Parnell	
Actor	RC 52222
Hayden, Sterling	
Voyage	RC 50128
Hayden, Sterling	
Wanderer	RC 15974
Hayman, LeRoy	
Triumph!	RC 21100
Haywood, Gar Anthony	
All the lucky ones are dead	RC 51462
Herbert, Frank	
The Jesus incident	RC 14676
Higgins, George V.	
The rat on fire	RC 16830
Homewood, Harry	
Silent sea	RC 17377
Jones, Robert F.	
Slade's glacier	RC 17187
Jordan, Robert	
Winter's heart	RC 51203
Kahn, Roger	
The head game	RC 51995
Kaufman, Henry	
On money and markets	RC 52234
Kennedy, Adam	
Debt of honor	RC 17685
Kershaw, Ian	
Hitler, 1889-1936	RC 51683
Kienzle, William X.	
Mind over murder	RC 15840
Le Roy Ladurie, Emmanuel	
Montaillou	RC 15381
Leiber, Fritz	
Conjure wife	RC 17160

Lewis, Roy	
Dwell in danger	RC 20014
Long, William Stuart	
The imperialists	RC 51250
Long, William Stuart	
The traitors	RC 18570
MacLean, Alistair	
The black shrike	RC 18345
Mahan, Bill	
The boy who looked like Shirley Temple	RC 16727
Marcinko, Richard	
Rogue warrior--Echo Platoon	RC 51838
Martin, George R. R.	
A storm of swords	RC 51406
McBain, Ed	
Calypso	RC 14198
McDevitt, Jack	
Deepsix	RC 51893
Moore, Robin	
Compulsion	RC 18036
Moss, Robert	
Death beam	RC 18021
Murray, Williamson	
A war to be won	RC 50850
Niven, Larry	
Oath of fealty	RC 17894
Pinkwater, Daniel Manus	
Alan Mendelsohn, the boy from Mars	RC 16628
Porter, Katherine Anne	
Ship of fools	RC 21086
Portis, Charles	
The dog of the South	RC 14349
Prize stories, 1999	RC 52488
Prize stories, 2000	RC 52501
Roberts, Willo Davis	
The minden curse	RC 14585

Roberts, Willo Davis		
	More Minden curses	RC 17161
Rosen, Robert N.		
	The Jewish Confederates	RC 52237
Roth, Philip		
	The human stain	RC 50274
Roy, Jennifer Rozines		
	Romantic breakup	RC 51772
Roy, Ron		
	Nightmare Island	RC 19774
Shem, Samuel		
	The house of God	RC 14289
Shermer, Michael		
	How we believe	RC 52032
Silone, Ignazio		
	Fontamara	RC 20448
Simak, Clifford D.		
	Why call them back from heaven?	RC 19786
Simpson, Dorothy		
	Dead and gone	RC 52267
Simpson, Dorothy		
	The night she died	RC 52494
Smith, Charles Merrill		
	Reverend Randollph and the holy terror	RC 15878
Sondheim, Victor		
	Inheritors of the storm	RC 18627
Standiford, Les		
	Deal with the dead	RC 52517
Stein, Aaron Marc		
	Hangman's row	RC 19369
Stone, Lucy		
	Loving warriors	RC 19459
Thomas, B. J.		
	Home where I belong	RC 14755
Thompson, Gene		
	Murder mystery	RC 17686

Thompson, Hunter S.	The great shark hunt	RC 14590
Truscott, Lucian K.	Dress gray	RC 16136
Turtledove, Harry	Colonization	RC 51043
Ulyatt, Kenneth	Outlaws	RC 17150
Warfel, Diantha	The violin case case	RC 14363
Waugh, Hillary	The missing man	RC 18086
Wharton, William	Birdy	RC 13506
Williams, Christian	Lead, follow or get out of the way	RC 19255
Winik, Jay	April 1865	RC 52027
Wolfe, Gene	The claw of the conciliator	RC 18149
Wolfe, Gene	The shadow of the torturer	RC 17422