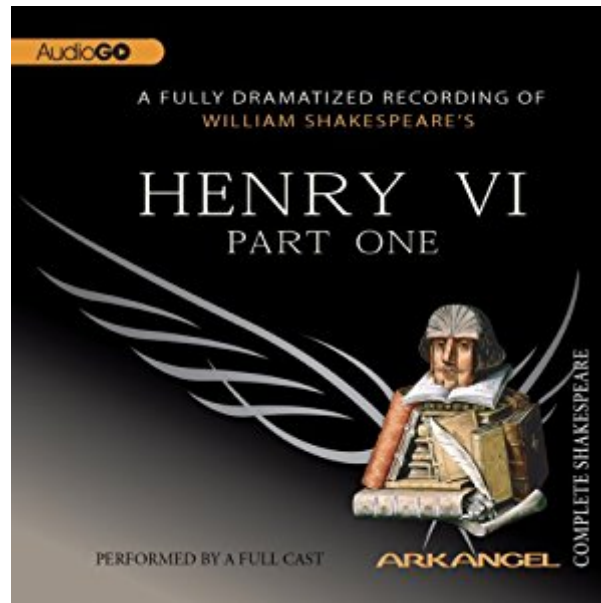




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Henry VI, Part 1: Arkangel Shakespeare



Synopsis

The all-conquering King Henry V is dead and the throne is occupied by his infant son, Henry VI. The good Duke Humphrey of Gloucester has been appointed protector, but a struggle for power soon develops between the young king's Lancastrian relatives and the powerful house of York under Richard Plantagenet. Meanwhile the French, led by Joan of Arc, the maid of Orleans, threaten to win back the territories lost to Henry V.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Story: No comments on the play but as always to read the play and notes on Wikipedia and Sparknotes
Performance: Excellent as always with Arkangel productions. Comment: Either the actors were more articulate than in the other plays, or I have learned to follow the dialect and cadence better. The music is very interesting as well and adds to the mood.
Technical: One criticism. For whatever reason, they do not announce the beginning and end of the disk. They have done this technique in the other plays but I have no idea why they do not in this play.

I didn't know what to think of the histories when I started going through the Arkangel audiobooks. I knew the greatest hits, but the histories? Little did I know that the histories were the big hits in Shakespeare's lifetime. The events in these plays were well known to his audience, so they liked seeing these events dramatized. Once you get beyond our sensibilities (i.e. that we have no clue who these people are) you can see them as they did, as the action-adventure-thriller of that time.
OK, so why start on the Henry VI/Richard III series? David Tennant. Full stop. He may not be

listed as narrator but the director of the Arkangel series used the same actors for the same character throughout the series so, although DT is not prominent in this play (despite the title) his character (Henry VI) is in it, so I listened to it. Whatever the reason, it got me interested so I listened to all four plays with him in it, and will go back and listen to the four that make up the Henry IV/Henry V series too. Do I like them? Yes. Will I be listening to/ buying more? Yes (the antidote to a long commute). Will I ever see this one on stage? well... I am delighted in the performances, in general, on the Arkangel series and now am starting to recognize some of the players as they appear in other things.

My twelve year old son has really enjoyed reading all of Shakespeare's plays... thank you.

Among others, this is an important part of the complete body. I can provide the names of the plays, like Living Shakespeare.

This book is very helpful. The footnotes are very plain, but it's good. I am very happy with the book!

This trio of plays recounts some years of the War of the Roses in 15th century England. It's only the second play (I'll count all 3 as 1) of Shakespeare's I've ever read (the first one was "Henry V") but it would not surprise me for a second to discover that this is one of the earlier ones. I'm not saying it's bad or that I didn't like it. If anything, I feel about it like Vorenus and Niobe think about marriage: it would be a strange thing to love your spouse at the beginning of the marriage, but when you live with them long enough you start loving them - I've read the play, seen the 1983 BBC production two times now and I really love it now (if only because once you get to know your partner, you can block out the more boring stuff they say - fast-forward them on the DVD player or skip in the book). The main problem with the play is not the (so very) boring and unnecessary bits in between the cool ones, or the (blatant) propaganda or the (in-your-face) misogyny and xenophobia, it's the utter lack of subtlety. For one example, the scene with the son killing his father and vice-versa had me rolling my eyes so hard I could hardly read to the end of it. Things I did like are everything having to do with politics and battles and the Yorks, especially since it became obvious that they're the same ones my childhood hero Dick Shelton was fighting for in "The Black Arrow" - turns out ignorance sometimes is a blessing for I know virtually nothing about that period of history. The chief York, the Duke, was my favorite character and I've kept coming back to his lines and it wasn't an inconvenience to have Bernard Hill (from the BBC production) in my head, saying them in a northern accent. I'll definitely

read this play again, as soon as I start reading the 9 of them in order.

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