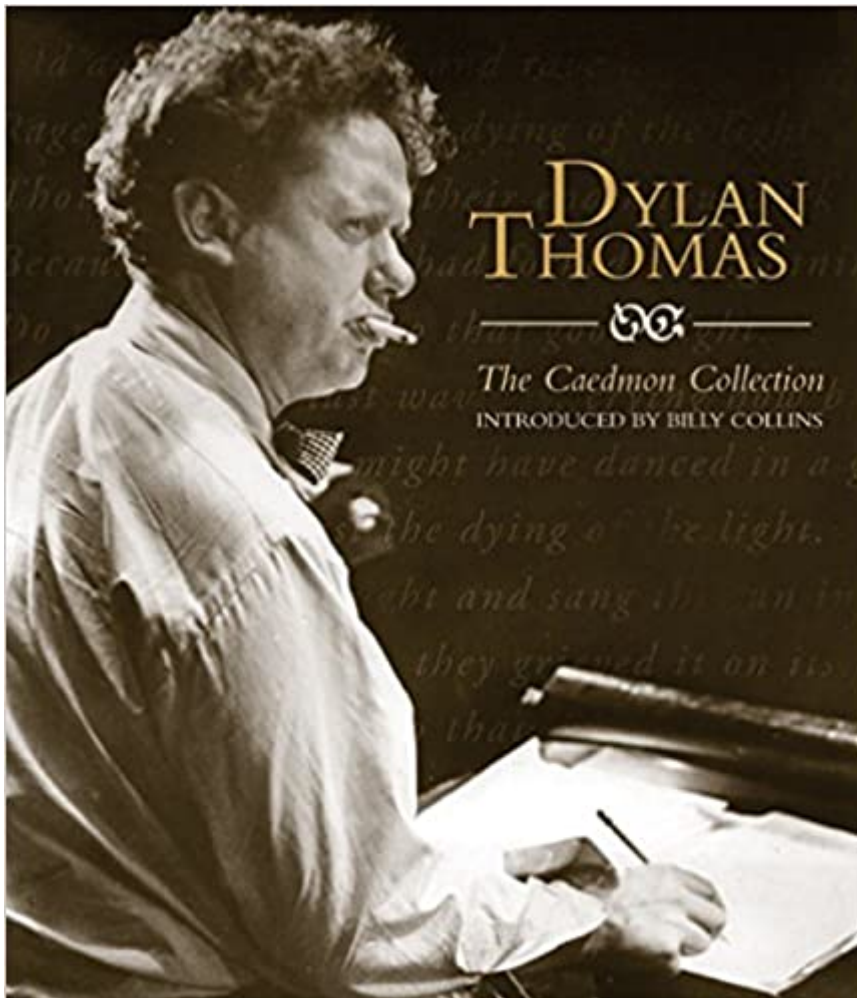




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# Dylan Thomas: The Caedmon Collection



## Synopsis

Beginning in February 1952, Dylan Thomas made a series of memorable and historic recordings for a new record label called Caedmon. In fact, Dylan Thomas was the first to record for this new label, started by two young women, Marianne Roney and Barbara Cohen. Little did they know that in addition to capturing a part of history they also launched an industry of spoken word recording. This collection not only contains the incredible Caedmon recording sessions, but also recordings from the BBC, CBC, and other archival material Caedmon originally published in the 1950s and 1960s. Highlights include: "A Child's Christmas in Wales" and "Five Poems"; "Do Not Go Gentle Into that Good Night", his prose: *Adventures in the Skin Trade* and *Quite Early One Morning*, and his final work *Under Milk Wood*, a play. With stunning original album cover art, and an introduction read by former poet laureate Billy Collins, this unique collection includes not only Dylan Thomas reading his finest works, but also rare recordings of Thomas reading his favorite writers, including W.H. Auden and William Shakespeare.

## Book Information

Audio CD: 11 pages

Publisher: Caedmon; Unabridged edition (November 9, 2004)

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Dylan Thomas, born in 1914, began his career as a journalist in his native Swansea, Wales. He then moved to London where he worked in broadcasting and wrote film scripts, prose and drama to earn enough money to enable him to write what he most wanted to—poetry. He lived colorfully, even recklessly, until his untimely death in New York City in 1953. One of the 20th century's most treasured writers, Dylan Thomas was a master craftsman of poetic complexity and richly obscure imagery. Thomas's genius is made clear in this landmark

recording through the everlasting gift he has given the world his voice. Dylan Thomas, born in 1914, began his career as a journalist in his native Swansea, Wales. He then moved to London where he worked in broadcasting and wrote film scripts, prose and drama to earn enough money to enable him to write what he most wanted to write: poetry. He lived colorfully, even recklessly, until his untimely death in New York City in 1953. One of the 20th century's most treasured writers, Dylan Thomas was a master craftsman of poetic complexity and richly obscure imagery. Thomas's genius is made clear in this landmark recording through the everlasting gift he has given the world his voice.

Like other great poets, Dylan Thomas has offered the world a body of work rooted in the living world, but he is different from the others in that he is more imaginative and reads in the greatest voice I have ever heard. This item also is as complete as anyone could hope for. I think almost any normally sensitive human would be thrilled to hear the Dylan Thomas voice, even if their interests deviate far from those of poetry buffs. What a bargain!

What a blessing to get this! The BBC archive collection is the only one larger. I trained myself for public performance using a couple of old Caedmon vinyls. It is extremely rare to have a poet of his stature who can present his work so well. If you are a trained singer, you might recognize that he is actually singing and with phenomenal technical skill. Anyway, this collection is great.

Dylan Thomas's readings of his own work is as much a part of his legacy as the words themselves. Many years ago I bought the complete Caedmon recorded poetry on two cassettes. Now there is this complete collection of \*everything\* Thomas recorded for Caedmon, not just his own work but works by other poets and authors. Most important of all is the only informal recording of Thomas and others performing 'Under Milk Wood'. A planned studio recording did not take place because of Thomas's death. God Bless whoever set that microphone on the stage of the Poetry Center! Thomas's insights into Life and Nature are timeless, and so are these recordings. No Thomas fan can be without this collection which is beautifully presented, the CD cases reproducing the album covers for the original releases (including my old cassettes!).

The reviewer who called this a bad value is completely wrong. This set includes the COMPLETE Caedmon recordings of Thomas' incredible voice. Though a few of these original LP's were fairly common (Child's Christmas in Wales), many of the LPs were rare. People were bidding \$50-\$100

and up for some of these single LPs only recently. Here you have MANY CDs for the price of one! It would be nice to have an extensive book with this set, but you can always buy Dylan's books separately. The set includes mini-LP cover sleeves for all of Thomas' original LP covers (though thin paper sleeves), another nice touch. Don't let this one get away. When it is out-of-print, it will probably go for \$200-\$300 and up!

Wonderful to hear him read his works. His intro to a lecture, "A few words of a kind", included here, is worth the price of the set. He was a born prince of the English language.

Printing Ink splattered on reading surface during mfg, blocking some of the recorded data.

Fantastic collection of Dylan Thomas, poems , and stories. Excellent quality recordings , particularly considering the time that has passed and the technology of 60+ years ago. An excellent body of work!

The distinctive voice of Dylan Thomas reading his amazing poems makes these recordings my favorite audio poetry collection hands down. Just as he labored over writing them, he worked as hard trying to get the sound of them perfect for these recordings.

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