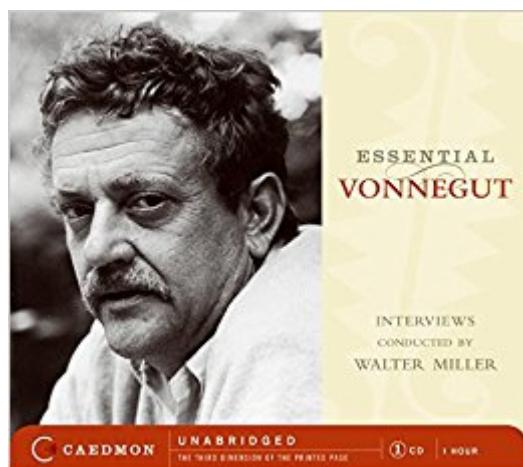


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# Essential Vonnegut Interviews CD (Caedmon Essentials)



## Synopsis

Over the course of Kurt Vonnegut's career as a writer, he sat down many times with radio host and interviewer Walter James Miller to conduct in-depth discussions of his work and the world. Now Caedmon has collected the best of these interviews on CD for the first time. This is the perfect audio collection for the Vonnegut fan who wants to understand the writer as he was, is, and will be.

## Book Information

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Audio CD

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## Customer Reviews

Kurt Vonnegut was a master of contemporary American Literature. His black humor, satiric voice, and incomparable imagination first captured America's attention in *The Sirens of Titan* in 1959 and established him as "a true artist" with *Cat's Cradle* in 1963. He was, as Graham Greene has declared, "one of the best living American writers." Kurt Vonnegut was a master of contemporary American Literature. His black humor, satiric voice, and incomparable imagination first captured America's attention in *The Sirens of Titan* in 1959 and established him as "a true artist" with *Cat's Cradle* in 1963. He was, as Graham Greene has declared, "one of the best living American writers."

In three interviews with author Kurt Vonnegut--taped in 1971, 1983, and 2006--writer/interviewer Miller probes Vonnegut on the themes and theories behind some of his most popular works. Books discussed include *THE SIRENS OF TITAN*, *SLAUGHTERHOUSE-FIVE*, *BETWEEN TIME AND TIMBUKTU*, *PALM SUNDAY*, and *A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY*. Miller, apparently a friend of the author and a devotee (at one point, he dubs Vonnegut "the white knight of postmodern literature"),

piles on the ponderous lit-crit queries and generally overreaches in an effort toward profundity. Vonnegut happily sidesteps the academic blather and, deft and plainspoken as always, delivers his unique brand of humor-laced cynicism with freshness and charm. M.G. © AudioFile 2007, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

Even though his latter books seemed to be re-workings of earlier material I bought and enjoyed most every one. This series of interviews provides some insight into changes in Vonnegut over time. Each interview is fairly short and has a focus specific to the year it was taped. Some relate to specific books, others to specific events. Each interview reveals a calm and humorous Vonnegut filled with political satire. The interviewer often provides Vonnegut with insight on the relationships between Vonnegut's fictional characters and other works and events. Worth the price.

It seems to me that Kurt Vonnegut's work is growing in popularity, and this CD allows us a peek at his point of view in writing some of it.

This CD comprises 3 interviews conducted by noted author, editor, translator, NYU English professor, and Vonnegut confidant Walter James Miller. Covered here are 33 years from 1973's discussion of *Slaughterhouse Five* to 1981's talk about Palm Sunday and ending with 2006's *Man Without A Country*. Each interview runs at about 25 minutes, giving the listener approximately 74 minutes of critical analysis and conversation. This CD is a joy, providing valuable insight into Vonnegut the man and the writer. Part of an intended series, future volumes are to cover other Vonnegut novels, interviews culled from the Walter James Miller Audio Archive.

Favorite author.

The interviews give priceless insight into the workings of Vonnegut's mind. As I listened, I kept hoping that the interviews would never end.

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