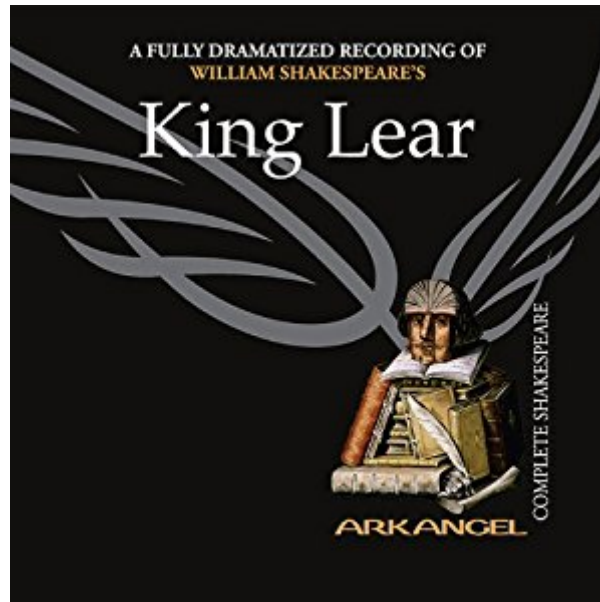




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# King Lear: Arkangel Shakespeare



## Synopsis

This shattering drama of isolation and loss is one of the greatest tragedies in world literature. King Lear of Britain has three daughters: the hard-hearted Goneril and Regan, and the good and gentle Cordelia. He determines to divide his kingdom between them, giving the largest share to she who can say she loves him the best. Lear's tragic lack of judgment and self-knowledge is paralleled by the blindness of the loyal Gloucester who is persuaded to reject his virtuous son, Edgar, in favor of the villainous Edmund. Lear is played by Trevor Peacock and Gloucester by Clive Merrison. Penny Downie is Goneril, Samantha Bond is Regan, and Julia Ford is Cordelia. Edgar is played by David Tennant, Edmund by Gerard Murphy, and the Fool by John Rogan.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hours and 8 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Arkangel

Audible.com Release Date: May 19, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00KFO7JPA

Best Sellers Rank: #16 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Drama #144 in Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Shakespeare > Works #509 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays

## Customer Reviews

Arkangel CDs are a wonderful learning tool. As an English teacher, having my students listen to the play as they read it, especially with Shakespeare helps with their comprehension and to build their excitement levels. Arkangel hires actors to portray the play in the highest of literary forms, the sound effects and the background music only add to the experience. They stay true to the play, never going off script, the interpretation is on point, they are my go to. I have the Arkangel CDs for Othello, Hamlet, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Taming of the Shrew, all are wonderful and King Lear helps maintain the winning streak. I use them with all levels from Freshmen to AP Literature and Composition students. When building my different Shakespeare units, these are a must have to enhance my student's love and connection to Shakespeare, most students (and some teachers) are leery of Shakespeare, not my students, they

leave my classroom with a zest and yearning for more (many students have told me, that they now love Shakespeare and prefer his work to more modern works) I truly believe that the Arkangel CDs have made the biggest difference, I cannot rave about them enough!

I have been looking for an accurate , unabridged audiobook for one of my favorite Shakespeare plays, King Lear. I did not like the Naxos Audiobook version. Its unabridged claim is false advertising. (The sound effects were good, though.)I have listened to other audiobooks from Arkangel Shakespeare (Macbeth; Romeo and Juliet;Hamlet) and liked them, so I purchased their King Lear audiobook with confidence. It was worth it.The sound effects (sword fighting, chains, etc.) were good. They did not overwhelm at all. Some of the music played in between scenes was weird, though.The pacing was just fine with me. The performers didn't say their lines too fast nor too slow. It is only a problem if you aren't paying attention.The performances were top notch with feeling and not over-wrought. I think some lines could have been said with more emotion (Lear's final meeting with his eldest daughters, for example), but they didn't bring down the whole play.Last, but not least, the audiobook stayed faithful to the text. I think they used one of the folios. Anyone know which one?Overall, I recommend this for high schoolers encountering Shakespeare for the first time, those who can't see the play live, and for the slow readers and mind wanderers. Enjoy!

Recently I've gotten hooked on the Arkangel Shakespeare audiobooks because, as fully dramatized, they become entertainment not a scholarly exercise in reading an archaic language.King Lear was new to me, unlike the others I listened to, so I didn't know whether I could follow the action without any cues to tell me who was speaking. Not to worry, the actors are distinct enough that this wasn't a problem. I didn't know what to expect from the play itself because it was always described as horribly depressing, but, without any visuals, I could get interested in the characters without having any image of Lear carrying his dead daughter on stage.Anyway, this has become one of my favorites of the Arkangel series. As the kids progress through the plays in school, I will bring out these audiobooks so we can hear 'conversational' Shakespeare to counterbalance what the kids see on the printed page.

This is a word for word recording of the original text of Shakespeare's King Lear.

I have no comment about the quality of this recording, but on the copy I have, Disc 2 is short by one track, Scene 1 of Act IV. Buyers should inquire of sellers if this is the case with their copy. Caveat

emptor!

King Lear has gotten old and wishes now to divide his kingdom among his three daughters. The better praise they give him, the more they receive. With the exile of Lear's youngest daughter, Cordelia, Lear begins to experience the vices of his remaining daughters first-hand, as well as the greed of the illegitimate son of his friend, Gloucester. The cast was well chosen for this production, although its heavy-handedness makes for some slow and quieter performances. Samantha Bond shines as the virtuous Cordelia and David Tennant gives a fantastic, if not somewhat subdued performance, as Edgar and Poor Tom. The music between each new scene and act can be a little tiresome, but overall, the production is a well-collaborated one. I do not favor tragedies as a rule, but I do recommend this play to someone who finds them appealing or wishes to have a well-rounded understanding of Shakespeare's plays.

This, as others in the Arkangel series, is extremely over acted, IMO. The over the top yelling is very distracting. I stopped listening to it. It is a yelling contest.

Reading Shakespeare's classic tragedy is one thing, but listening to it performed in such a masterful way is another. This oral production of King Lear brings this play to life in a powerful way. What better way to get through traffic than to be entrenched in the world of treachery, pride and redemption! The actors are magnificent! This is one of my best purchases from .

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