

AUDIO REVIEWS

1950s. Dr. Hamilton and his family were missionaries in Kenya, but returned home due to Mrs. Hamilton's health. The narrative follows their lives as they establish a home and practice and includes many stories of that now unknown commodity: the house call. Stories of patients and anecdotes about their predicaments are also included. The listening is a bit slow at first, but one is soon caught up in the story of small-town life and Dr. Hamilton's quest to practice Christianity in his personal and professional lives. Technically, the tapes are first-rate, and Bernard Brown provides a fine reading. Recommended.—*Melody A. Moxley, Rowan P.L., N.C.*

The Arabs: Journeys Beyond the Mirage by David Lamb

10 cassettes. unabridged. 14¼ hrs. Recorded Bks., 270 Skipjack Rd., Prince Frederick, MD 20678; 800-638-1304. 1991. #91421. \$72.95 (Rental: \$17.50).

HIST

Lamb, a former correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, presents insightful observations based on his personal interactions with cultures from Cairo to Saudi Arabia to Oman. His accounts are vividly detailed and sprinkled with bits of history and politics. From a Westerner's perspective, the sections

discussing Islam, Muhammad, and the Koran are especially enlightening. Narrator Nelson Runger reads with animation, smoothly pronouncing Arabic names and words. In light of current interest in Middle East issues, this audio presentation is recommended for public libraries.—*Karen Sendi, Univ. of Toledo Libs., Ohio*

Mosby's Rangers by Jeffrey D. Wert

9 cassettes. unabridged. 10½ hrs. Books on Tape®, PO Box 7900, Newport Beach, CA 92658; 800-626-3333. 1991.

#2915. \$56 (Rental: \$18.50). HISTORY

All the elements seem to be here: high-stakes drama, improbable accomplishments, male camaraderie, and enough bloody legend to propel would-be warriors into outrageous reverie. Wert tells the tale of Lieutenant John Singleton Mosby, who led a guerrilla battalion for the Confederacy during the last two years of the conflict. Mosby's Rangers gathered valuable intelligence for the Confederacy (often from behind enemy lines) and even kidnapped a Union general once. In the end, they refused to surrender and instead disbanded. Mosby went on to live a long life as a lawyer and, ironically, accepted an ambassadorial position in later life. Wert's language is charged with military jargon. He resorts to such expressions as "they bloodied a goodly number" in attempting to make the case that the legend of Mosby's Rangers (while somewhat inaccurate as noted by Wert) is justified. In addition, Dick Estell's reading is oddly devoid of expression, given the material's sensationalism. Not recommended.—*Phillip Fryer, Loyola/Notre Dame Lib., Baltimore*

Law for the Layman™. 5 vols.

ea. vol: 1 cassette. 60 min. Legovac, PO Box 150430, Altamonte Springs, FL 32715-0340; 407-339-3013. 1992.

\$16.95. Includes: *Anatomy of a Civil Trial; Contracts; Family Violence & the Law; Waging Custody Battles; Wills, Trusts, & Estate Planning.* LAW

These tapes are informative consumer guides that are likely to be popular in public libraries. *Wills, Trusts, & Estate Planning* neatly covers important considerations. *Contracts* is a general guide to a complex area of law. *Anatomy of a Civil Trial* provides a good overview of the process and clues listeners to the methods of attorneys. *Family Violence & the Law* is especially valuable and should be in every public library. It offers a step-by-step guide to escaping an abusive situation and includes the toll-free number for the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The review copy of *Waging Custody Battles* begins in mid-sentence and contains some strange pauses. With this exception, the series is high-

ly recommended.—*Reilly Reagan, Putnam Cty. Lib., Cookeville, Tenn.*

Caedmon 1952-1992: An Anthology

2 cassettes. abridged. 2½ hrs. Harper-Audio, 10 E. 53rd St., New York, NY 10022; 800-982-4377. 1992. ISBN 1-55994-574-5. \$19.

LIT

Caedmon's "Spoken Word" series on LP pioneered long before there were cassettes. This two-and-a-half-hour compendium includes more than 60 selections. Fragments, alphabetically arranged by author, are introduced three at a time. The results are often ironic: *Pride and Prejudice*, with Mr. and Mrs. B. discussing their daughters meeting Mr. Darcy, is juxtaposed with *The Wizard of Oz* and Dorothy's first meeting with the Scarecrow; a selection from Winnie the Pooh is followed by Paul Monette reading from *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Journal*. With readers such as Richard Burton, Colleen Dewhurst, and Claire Bloom, selections read by authors such as Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, and Carl Sandburg—the real treasures of the Caedmon collection—achieve less than their full effect. While this collection might well become a collector's item, the best one can hope is that it will encourage listeners to seek out the newly remastered Caedmon recordings, which were recently reissued in honor of Caedmon's 40th anniversary.—*Rochelle Ratner, formerly Poetry Editor, "Soho Weekly News," New York*

Understanding Islam

by Thomas W. Lippman

5 cassettes. unabridged. 7½ hrs. Blackstone Audio Bks., PO Box 969, Ashland, OR 97520; 800-729-2665. 1992. #1109. \$29.95 (Rental: \$11.95).

REL

Lippman served three years as bureau chief of the *Washington Post* in Cairo and traveled throughout Muslim countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia. Here he provides a lengthy, detailed description of Islam: its history, development, philosophy, practice, and political and economic influence upon the world. He brings secular insight to events in the Middle East during the 1970s and 1980s and compares Islam to Christianity and Judaism. His inaccurate descriptions of Jewish customs, religion, and philosophy lead this reviewer to question the depth of his understanding of Islam. The program's sound quality and technical production are poor. In addition, the printed version (*LJ* 6/1/82) is better suited to handle the topic's complexity. Suitable only for specialized collections.—*Miriam Kahn, Consultant, Columbus, Ohio*



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by John Grisham

THE FIRM by John Grisham

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