

AUDIO REVIEWS

his wife have a manageable life in a small Sussex village living in an old rectory purchased by his aging father, a distinguished novelist. There they care for their retarded daughter and the old novelist himself, who is senile and bedridden. Their daily routine is disrupted by the arrival of Cordelia Cotterel and her boyfriend. Cordelia is Roderick's illegitimate half-sister, the product of a liaison between the novelist and actress Myra Mason. Cordelia plans to write her mother's biography; there being no love between mother and daughter, it is likely to be a scathing exposé. Myra herself comes to the village, obviously determined to stop her daughter's research. Then someone stops Myra. Who? This is an intriguing mystery, well told by British actor Richard Mitchley. It's a great choice for public libraries.—*Nann Blaine Hilyard, Auburn P.L., Me.*

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

6 cassettes. unabridged. 5½ hrs. Books in Motion®, E. 9212 Montgomery, Suite 501, Spokane, WA 99206; 800-752-3199. 1991. #377. ISBN 1-55686-377-2. \$33.95. F

Edna Pontellier has everything: her youth, a successful husband, two healthy children, and a beautiful home. But is it enough? One sleepy summer, Edna finds love for the first time and discovers that her life is an orderly prison in which her role as wife and mother requires that she submerge herself and her individuality behind the wall of the needs of others. Unable to accept this life sentence, Edna begins her search for herself, but the turn of the 20th century is not a time that supports feminism. Divorce is out of the question. Her husband, shocked by her new rebelliousness, is alternately solicitous and angry, and her friends provide little support. Edna finds that she truly has only herself, her untested and unknown self, to rely upon. This is a poignant and compelling story of a woman's courage set against the backdrop of a bygone era of grace and elegance. The narration by Laurie Klein is effective. Recommended for libraries of all types.—*Roxanna Herrick, Washington Univ. Lib., St. Louis*

Battlefield Earth by L. Ron Hubbard

6 cassettes. abridged. 8 hrs. Bridge Audio, 4751 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029; 800-722-1733. 1991. ISBN 0-88404-682-6. \$29.95. F

In Hubbard's 1982 work of "pure" science fiction, the year 3000 is dominated by a brutal race called the Psychlos, who have conquered Earth to establish a mining operation. Jonnie Goodboy Tyler, the story's hero,

along with a band of surviving Scotsmen, ingeniously eliminates the Psychlos from Earth and then goes on to do some technological, financial, and diplomatic fast-thinking to keep other alien races from taking the Psychlos' place. Reader Roddy McDowall continuously dazzles the listener with his storytelling abilities—one moment his voice can be charged with suspense, the next moment it can be light and conversational. The only minus regarding this program is the flimsy physical package. Despite this, *Battlefield Earth* is recommended for all sf collections.—*Kristen L. Smith, Loras Coll. Lib., Dubuque, Ia.*

Best-Loved Stories Told at the National Storytelling Festival. 2 vols.

Vol. 1, ISBN 1-879991-04-7; Vol. 2, ISBN 1-879991-05-5.

Tales of Fools and Wise Folk

ISBN 1-879991-07-1.

Tales of Humor and Wit

ISBN 1-879991-06-3.

ea. vol: 1 cassette. abridged. 60 min. National Assn. for the Preservation & Perpetuation of Storytelling, PO Box 309, Jonesborough, TN 37659; 800-525-4514. 1991. \$9.98. F

These four programs consist of stories recorded live at the annual National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. The five to seven individual stories on each tape are performed by different storytellers. They vary widely in length and type: some are well-known fairy tales with modern twists, some come from published story collections, and others are personal remembrances. All have the immediacy and intimacy that only a skilled and practiced storyteller can create. They are well-packaged, lots of fun, and a nice change from most audiobook formats. Recommended for all collections.—*Kristen L. Smith, Loras Coll. Lib., Dubuque, Ia.*

DragonLance Legends by Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman. 3 vols.

ea. vol: 2 cassettes. abridged. 3 hrs. Random Audio, 201 E. 50th St., New York, NY 10022; 800-733-3000. 1991. \$16. Includes: Vol. 1: *Time of the Twins*. ISBN 0-679-40499-6; Vol. 2: *War of the Twins*. ISBN 0-679-40498-8; Vol. 3: *Test of the Twins*. ISBN 0-679-40497-X. F

This sequel to *DragonLance Chronicles* involves twins, the resplendent Raistlin the wizard, and Caramon the warrior. In a battle of good vs. evil, Raistlin uses the love of the priestess Crysania to gain immortality. Caramon, drowning in self-pity, fights for his and his brother's salvation. Reader Peter MacNicol, with many dramatic appearances to his credit, nar-

rates with great variety and distinguishes all character voices. This "sword and sorcery" tale is suitable for collections serving YAs.—*Karen Sendi, Univ. of Toledo Libs.*

A Few Green Leaves by Barbara Pym

8 cassettes. unabridged. 6½ hrs. Sterling Audio, c/o Thorndike Pr., PO Box 159, Thorndike, ME 04968; 800-223-6121. 1991. ISBN 1-56054-967-X. \$64.95. F

Pym's novel, published soon after her death in 1980, contrasts the impersonal "West Oxfordshire community" with the cozy English village of her early works. The 1970s, with its fake food, sleazy human-made fibers, and love of pretentious jargon, overwhelms wholesome country life. Modern villagers prefer medical advice to spiritual comfort, and television, not the local squire or priest, is their cultural leader. This audio version is well worth hearing. Jan Francis enunciates clearly and does not disturb the ambiguity of the words. Her interpretation is unobtrusive and doesn't overpower this thoughtful, satirical novel of uncertainty and hope, quiet endings, and hesitant beginnings.—*Juleigh Muirhead Clark, Virginia Commonwealth Univ. Lib., Richmond*

Last Lovers by William Wharton

8 cassettes. unabridged. 11 hrs. Brilliance Corp., 1810-B Industrial Dr., PO Box 887, Grand Haven, MI 49417; 800-222-3225. 1991. ISBN 1-56100-081-7. \$73.25. F

After abandoning his family and career, Jack embarks on a new life in Paris. When blind 71-year-old Frenchwoman Mirabelle bumps into him, Jack's outlook on life is transformed. Although sightless, Mirabelle sees Paris vividly through her memories. As she relates her thoughts to Jack, he develops both personally and artistically. Initially, 49-year-old Jack and Mirabelle have little in common. They grow closer with time and eventually become lovers. The shared narration is splendidly done by Michael MacCauley and Jean Reed Bahle. The taping is of the highest quality, and this audiobook is recommended for popular collections with mature audiences.—*Janet Morgan, Wiscasset P.L., Me.*

The Moscow Club by Joseph Finder

2 cassettes. abridged. 3 hrs. Penguin HighBridge Audio, 375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014-3657; 800-526-0275. 1991. ISBN 0-453-00769-4. \$15.95. F

Finder's fiction debut is a post-Cold War thriller. CIA analyst Charles Stone is a Russia expert and the logical choice to make sense of a tape