

# THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE TALKING BOOK

MATTHEW RUBERY

READ BY JIM DENISON

Recounting the fascinating history of audio-recorded literature, Matthew Rubery traces the path of innovation from Edison's 1877 recitation of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" to today's billion-dollar audiobook industry.

*The Untold Story of the Talking Book* focuses on the social impact of audiobooks, not just the technological history, in telling a story of surprising and impassioned conflicts: from controversies over which books the Library of Congress selected to become talking books to debates about what defines a reader. Delving into the vexed relationship between spoken and printed texts, Rubery argues that storytelling can be just as engaging with the ears as with the eyes, and that audiobooks deserve to be taken seriously.

We have come a long way from the era of sound recorded on wax cylinders, when people imagined one day hearing entire novels on mini-phonographs tucked inside their hats. Rubery tells the untold story of this incredible evolution and, in doing so, breaks from convention by treating audiobooks as a distinctively modern art form that has profoundly influenced the way we read.

MATTHEW RUBERY's work focuses on modern literature, media, and reading practices. Originally from Texas, he joined Queen Mary, University of London in 2010 after teaching in Leeds and Philadelphia for a number of years and completing his doctorate at Harvard.

JIM DENISON is a voice actor with over thirty years experience in professional public speaking, including five years as a radio personality.

Running Time: 11½ Hours • Unabridged



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