



Hero Francis Majcinek, called Frankie Machine, returns to Chicago from World War II with a Purple Heart and an addiction to morphine, which he relies on to overcome the pain of a war injury and to numb the guilt he feels for a drunken spree that put his wife, Sophie, in a wheelchair. His wife spends her dreary days making him feel guilty. Frankie, a shrewd dealer in a seedy West Side poker parlor, is known as the "Man with the Golden Arm," both because of his rapid reflexes and his morphine habit. Frankie finds love and solace in Molly Novotny, a young part-time prostitute, but he remains trapped in his marriage and drug habit until he gets involved in an accidental killing and a not-so-accidental robbery that bring him to the fateful moment when the police come knocking to arrest him for his part in the killing.

"This is a man writing and you should not read it if you cannot take a punch....Mr. Algren can hit with both hands and move around and he will kill you if you are not awfully careful....Mr. Algren, boy, you are good." —Ernest Hemingway

NELSON ALGREN (1909–1981) wrote of the despised urban underbelly of America before it was fashionable to do so and still stands as one of our most defiant and enduring novelists. *The Man with the Golden Arm* won the first National Book Award in 1950. His other novels include *A Walk on the Wild Side* and *Never Come Morning*.



MALCOLM HILLGARTNER is an actor, author, playwright, and professional narrator. He and his wife, Jahnna Beecham, have written over one hundred books for young readers under the name Jahnna N. Malcolm, and their musicals have played in theaters across America. His audiobook credits include works by Dean Koontz, Peter Carlson, and William F. Buckley Jr.

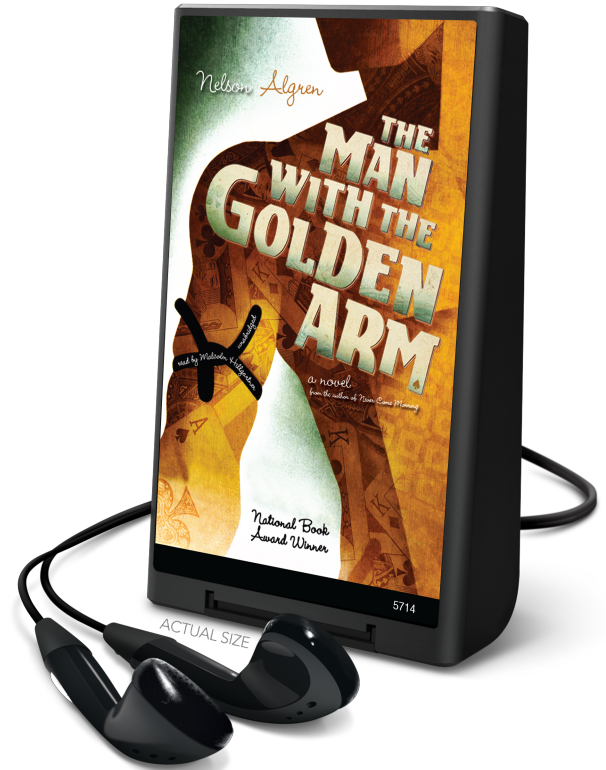


Running Time: 14½ hours • Unabridged
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ISBN-13: 978-1-4332-9683-3
 ISBN-10: 1-4332-9683-7



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