The Great Poets: Emily Dickinson

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Synopsis

Here are some of the finest poems by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886), a unique voice in American poetry. She is known for her short poems, full of acute observations, and deft use of language. This careful but imaginative selection shows the remarkable variety she produced, despite the miniature nature of her medium.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I must say that I was very disappointed by the quality of the interpretation. Emily Dickinson was a deeply anxious, secluded and depressed woman. Her poems speak of it. Unfortunately, though the actress reading the poems may very well be talented in her own right, I do not believe that she was a good choice for reading Dickinson’s poetry. The voice of the actress is rather too high-pitched, very chirpy and often borders on being nauseating in its exuberance. An actress with a deeper voice in the lower range of the female vocal register would certainly have been preferable. Someone with a voice like that of Judy Dench or Helen Mirren would have been ideal. Besides, the interpretation of the poems also lacks understanding of Dickinson’s character. Sad and troubling poems are being read in a shallow and rather silly tone which I could not take seriously. It was very difficult for me to get through the whole recording.

I continue to enjoy this CD. The selection and arrangement of poems is excellent. Theresa Gallagher does a really fine reading—light, not heavy. I agree with another reviewer, though, that the pauses marking off the poems are too brief. But perhaps one can take this as the stream of a highly
intelligent and perceptive consciousness communicating.