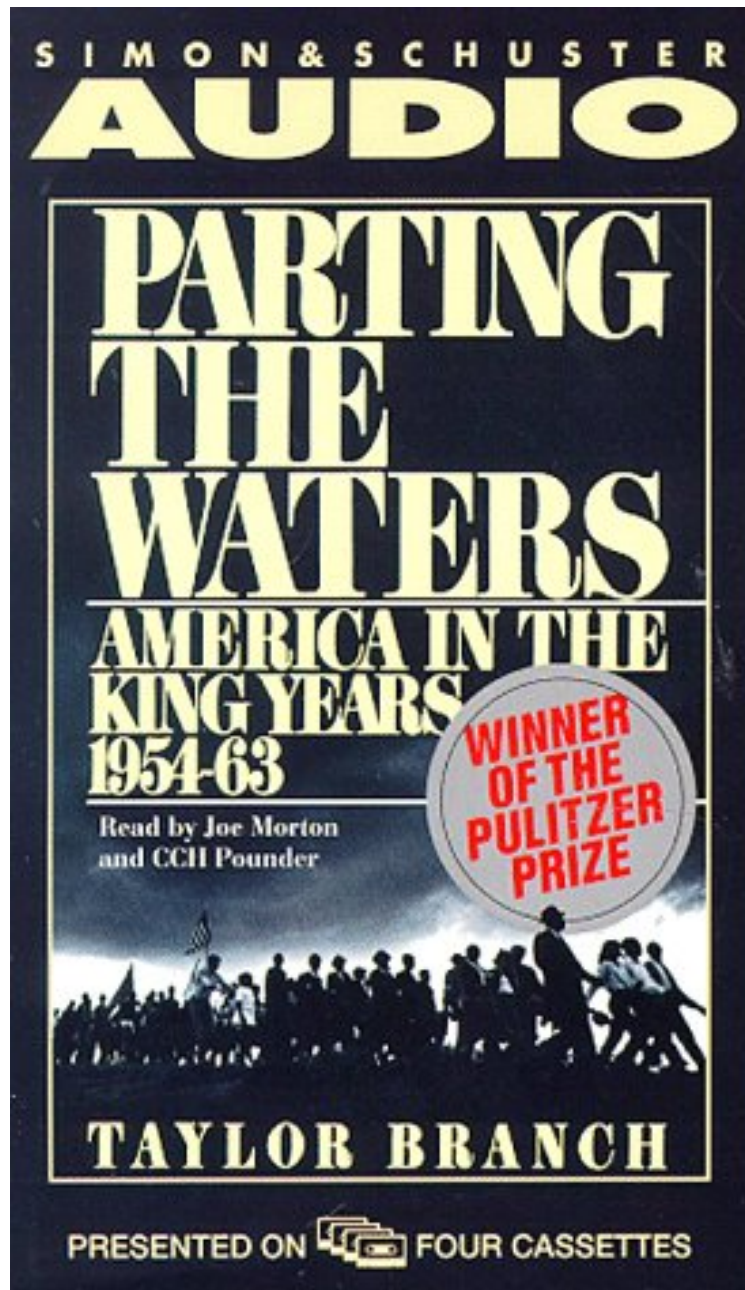


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Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, Part I - 1954-63

Taylor Branch

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Parting the Waters - American in the King Years 1954-63 - Taylor Branch - abridged audio book
The following comments are for the abridged CD audio book version of "Parting the Waters - American in the King Years 1954-63" by Taylor Branch. This book is the first of three by Mr. Branch that chronicles the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. This title won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1989. Simon and Schuster Audio markets this edition.
The story Mr. Branch tells of the struggle for civil rights against the life and times of Dr. King - 1954-63 - is mesmerizing. For individuals born after the events described there come a point where you may ask is this true? - did these things actually happen as described? - in the United States? For those of us who lived through this period we know the answers. Mr. Branch with his narrative talents put the listener right into the situations we wish had never occurred. After my second listening to this title I would make this a required book for all high school students.
The narrators of this audio book are simply excellent. Mr. Joe Morton and Ms. CCH Pounder exchange reading chapters, which is not distracting in the least. Although the material is alternately exhilarating, frightful, horrific and bewildering these two readers exercise a masterful restrained vocal tension that allows the listener to become involved in the story and not be led by vocal manipulations.
This audio book consists of 6 compact disks with a total playtime of approximately 6 and one half hours. The disks are secured in a standard fan fold multi CD holder. This holder slides into a sturdy external packaging box - typical and adequate packaging for a home library.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning first installment of the outstanding civil rights-era series comes to audio! Epic in scope and impact, this audiobook is hailed as the most masterful story ever told of the American civil rights movement. Moving from the fiery political baptism of Martin Luther King, Jr., to the corridors of Camelot where the Kennedy brothers weighed demands of justice against the deceptions of J. Edgar Hoover, here is the vivid tapestry of America, torn and finally transformed by a revolutionary struggle unequalled since the Civil War. 4 cassettes. .

.com An award-winning biography of Martin Luther King Jr., a history of the civil rights movement, and a portrait of an era, Taylor Branch's *Parting the Waters* begins slowly but soon catches the listener in a tumult of unforgettable events. Branch's thorough research has been synthesized into an impressive account of the violence, courage, and confusion at the beginning of the civil rights movement, building to a powerful conclusion with a blow-by-blow retelling of the events in Birmingham, Alabama. Aably narrated by Joe Morton and C.C.H. Pounder, the audio abridgment is occasionally choppy, but well-done considering the print edition runs about 900 pages. The broad cast of characters includes Baptist preachers and student movement leaders as well as President John F. Kennedy and his cabinet. If you are daunted by the sheer mass of the print edition of *Parting the Waters*, this abridged production is for you. However don't be surprised if you find yourself wanting more and digging into the print version after all or perhaps the audio version of *Pillar of Fire*, Taylor's second book in his projected three-part series. (Running time: 6 Hours; 4 cassettes)
From *Library Journal* Branch continues his acclaimed trilogy on the Civil Rights era, begun with *Parting the Waters* (LJ 1/89). Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.