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## The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 – 1834)

Read by: David Barnes, David Wales Language: English Length: 2 hours 46 minutes Style: Solo

Genre(s): Poetry, Horror & Supernatural Fiction

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-7005	Special order	\$7.99
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*Water, water, every where / Nor any drop to drink.* We all know these lines. And we are all familiar with the image of an "albatross around the neck" as a symbol of a heavy burden of guilt. What many don't know (or have forgotten) is that these and others are from Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner", a long poem cast in the form of a narrative of a long sea voyage told by an old mariner to a wedding guest. It is classic horror story. The ship starts off well but is soon driven by storms to the Antarctic, where an albatross leads them out of an ice jam, but is then shot by the mariner. Initially cursed by the crew for his sin against nature, he is praised when the ship sails out of the mist and chill to rosier climes, and cursed again when the ship is

becalmed at the equator. They meet a supernatural creature when they encounter a ghostly ship who gambles for the souls of the crew. They all gradually succumb and then rise from the dead to steer the ship back home, only to sink in a whirlpool on arriving, with all lost except the mariner. Coleridge narrates the events in the story in different styles to convey the different moods of the listener's reaction to each section, ranging through bemusement, impatience, fear, and fascination. The poem first appeared in "Lyrical Ballads" in 1798 and was inspired by several accounts of voyages of exploration, most notably James Cook's account of his second voyage of the South Sea Islands and the Pacific Ocean.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (October 21, 1772 – July 25, 1834) was an English poet, critic, and philosopher who helped found the Romantic Movement in England with William Wordsworth. His best known works are the poems "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" and "Kubla Khan", the literary autobiography Biographia Literaria, and his influential critical work on Shakespeare. His contemporaries admired his meticulous craftsmanship and depended on his professional insights and advice as both poet and critic. Some believe he may well have originated notion of using common vernacular for poetic imagery and idea central to the Romantic Movement. Although his output was relatively small, he is considered one of the most important figures in English literature.

He was born in Devon the youngest of ten children in the second family of his father, a vicar, who died when Samuel was eight. He was sent to a charity school in London and then Cambridge. He suffered bouts of anxiety and depression throughout his life, which may have been due to bipolar disorder, and was a lifelong laudanum addict, which he took to ameliorate his poor health.