



Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog)

Jerome K. Jerome (1859 – 1927)

Read by:	Nick Bulka	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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Genre:	Humorous Fiction		

Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog) is a comic novel written by English author Jerome K. Jerome that chronicles the antics of three mates on a two-week boating holiday on the Thames. Originally planned as a travel guide featuring articles of local historical interest, the humorous elements quickly overshadowed the serious and quaint elements and Jerome wisely tailored it as a somewhat slapstick comedy. The three men are based on Jerome and two friends, a senior manager at Barclays and the founder of a London printing press. The dog, Montmorency, is entirely fictional, but sprang from “that area of inner consciousness which, in all Englishmen, contains an element of the dog”, according to Jerome. The book appeared at a time in the

1880’s when the commercial traffic on the Thames had largely disappeared and a mania for boating took hold as a leisure activity. Although critical reception was lukewarm at best, the book sold in huge quantities and has been in print since publication in 1889. The Guardian ranked it number 25 on its 2015 list of The 100 Greatest Novels of All Time and Esquire placed it at number 2 on its 2009 list of Funniest Books Ever. It has been adapted for the stage and at least six times for film and television.

Jerome K. Jerome (May 2, 1859 – June 14, 1927) was an English writer and humorist known for *Three Men in a Boat* (1889). He was born in Walsall, an industrial town in the midlands just northwest of Birmingham. His education was cut short by the death of his father, an ironmonger, at age 13 and his mother two years later. He worked for the railroad for four years and then tried his hand at acting for several years without much success. He turned to writing while working as a teacher, clerk, and other odd jobs, and achieved some success with a comic memoir of his acting experiences and with *Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow*, a collection of comic essays. His marriage in 1888 was followed by a honeymoon in a little boat on the Thames, which inspired him to write *Three Men in a Boat*, which was an instant and massive bestseller. Financial security enabled him to write full time. He became editor of the *Idler* and a *To-Day*, a magazine he founded, but withdrew following financial and legal difficulties. He produced *Three Men on the Bummel* (1898), a sequel to *Three Men in a Boat* with the characters on a bicycle trip in Germany. He published *Paul Kelver*, a novel, in 1902, and a play, *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, which was a commercial success but critical disaster. He published his autobiography in 1926. He died the following year from a stroke suffered on a motoring tour.