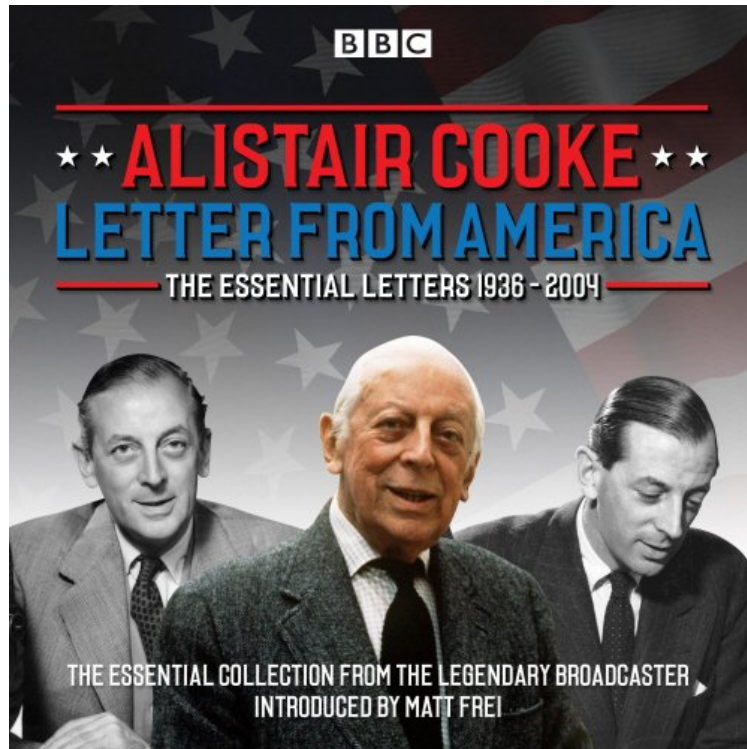


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Letter from America: The Essential Letters 1936 - 2004: With Additional Narration by BBC American Correspondent Matt Frei

Alistair Cooke

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All six volumes of The Essential Letters from America, brought together for the first time in this definitive chronological collection of Alistair Cooke's finest broadcasts. Alistair Cooke was the doyen of foreign correspondents and a radio legend, entertaining millions of listeners for over fifty years in his weekly "Letter from America." It was the longest-running show in radio history, and every show was a virtuoso performance. In this selection of his best and most memorable Letters, Cooke reports on landmark political events from presidential elections to Franklin D. Roosevelt's funeral and the assassination of JFK. He reflects on the war in Vietnam, the Watergate scandal, the Monica Lewinsky affair, the Watts and Rodney King race riots in LA in 1965 and 1992, the Gulf War and the terrible events of 9/11. Here are Cooke's observations on the Challenger space shuttle explosion, Black Monday, the catastrophic San Francisco earthquake of 1989 and - in his final Letter - President Bush's difficulties with the situation

in Iraq. But there are also Letters in a more personal vein, as Cooke reflects on topics close to his heart such as sport (the Ali v. Liston fight, baseball star Joe DiMaggio, and golfer Bobby Jones) and music (pianist William Kapell, jazz singer Louis Armstrong, and composer Irving Berlin). The Letters are set in their historical context with a specially commissioned script narrated by award-winning broadcast journalist Matt Frei. This collection also includes a bonus programme, Remembering Alistair Cooke.

About the AuthorAlistair Cooke enjoyed an extraordinary life in print, radio, and television. Born in Manchester in 1908 and educated at the universities of Cambridge, Yale, and Harvard, he was the Guardian's Senior Correspondent in New York for twenty-five years and the host of groundbreaking cultural programmes on American television and of the BBC series *America*. He was best known both at home and abroad for his weekly BBC broadcast *Letter from America*, which reported on fifty-eight years of US life, was heard on over five continents and totalled 2,869 broadcasts before his retirement in February 2004, far and away the longest-running radio series in broadcasting history.