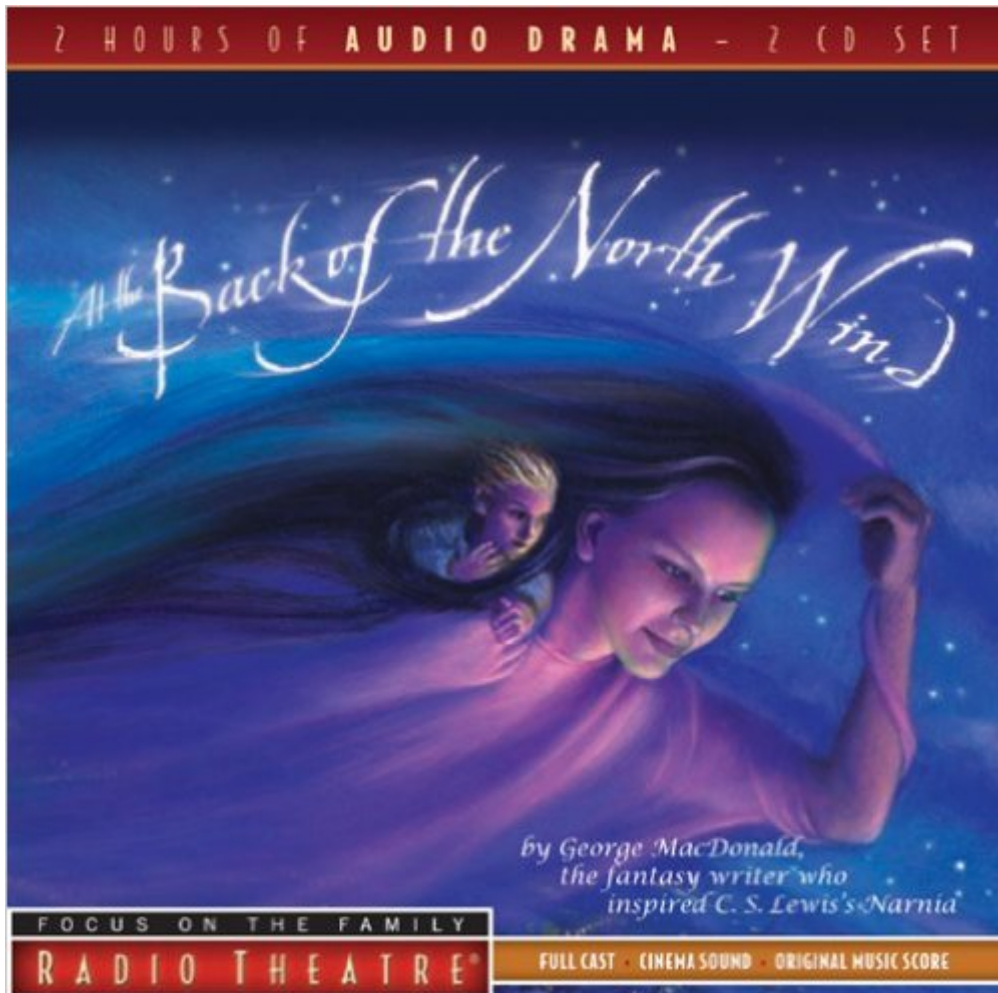


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# At The Back Of The North Wind (Radio Theatre)



## Synopsis

In this Radio Theatre audio drama adaptation of George MacDonald's classic story, a beautiful woman known as the North Wind blows through a small village in Victorian London, and everyday lives are mysteriously enveloped by a power and a glory. Along the way, she visits a poor stable boy named Diamond and takes him with her on her journeys. *The Back of the North Wind* explores the place of death in our lives, social injustice, and our deep need for love and forgiveness. C. S. Lewis, author of the classic *Chronicles of Narnia* series, said of MacDonald, "What he does best is fantasy—fantasy that hovers between the allegorical and the mythopoeic. And this, in my opinion, he does better than any man. MacDonald is the greatest genius of this kind whom I know."

## Book Information

Series: Radio Theatre

Audio CD

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.4 x 4.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (173 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

I've never read anyone who writes quite like MacDonald. When you read him it is not the quality of his writing, but rather his personality (kindly and eccentric, at the same time so quintessentially Scotch) and immensely powerful and original imagination that show on the page. He is more an excellent storyteller than a "proper" author, I think. In *The North Wind*, as in much of MacDonald's work, there is a wealth of moral and religious themes and analogies under the surface. In my mid 20's now, I was surprised at the effect that reading MacDonald's children's books has had on me. It

is not that I would have disagreed on an intellectual level with anything in the books before reading them, but rather that MacDonald has a talent for gently bringing people to examine what their opinions mean and how they treat other people as a result of them. I've found more than a few chinks in my own armour, in that respect. As for *North Wind* in particular, it's quite a breathtaking, display of raw, imaginative brawn. The first third or so of the book is perhaps one of the most chilling and beautiful stories I've ever read. It becomes a little more conventional after that and meanders a little. There is a good bit of amiable nonsense and a fairy tale within it that, though it seems a little tacked on and has nothing to do with the greater story, is still very clever and charming. I think most adults will see the ending coming, but it left me a little shaken up anyway. Like some of the other reviewers have mentioned, it's a very hard thing to create a character who is absolutely good. There is a real danger of making the character into a weak, simpering, priggish, goody two shoes.

I am quite ready to add *At the Back of the North Wind* to my collection of masterpieces that shall remain close to me, I suspect, my entire life. While a collection of favorite books by C. S. Lewis' site largest on that shelf, *At the Back of the North Wind* will be the second book by George MacDonald to join them. This seems quite appropriate as Lewis himself held MacDonald in such high esteem, even calling him his 'master.' While more childish than *Phantastes*, *At the Back of the North Wind* manages to enchant my imagination in the same way that Narnia always has, while upon first inspection the tale may seem to be of little substance to a more mature audience I think there is subtle depth hidden within the deceptively simple child whom the story centers upon. Diamond is the young boy of a poor coach driver and his wife living in England during the late 1800's. The story begins in the hayloft above the horse stalls where Diamond sleeps, as the wind blows, but it is not a simple wind, it is the North Wind, the romantic and enchanting idea of a grand lady who is the north wind. Diamond, the infinitely innocent and pure child is beckoned into the air and weaved into many journeys with the north wind where he learns goodness, truth and beauty. Throughout the story, other people see him as quietly wise or as one of 'God's Babies.' As the story progresses Diamond becomes weak and ill and while being taken to the enchanted country at the back of the North Wind he lapses into unconsciousness. Diamond returns, and with what strength he has, blesses everyone whom he meets; helping his family by driving his father's cab while he is ill, saving an orphaned friend off the streets, even quieting the drunken man's baby who lives next to him, whom even mistakes him for an angel.

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