

## Art

Most of my connection with books is through audiobooks. Reading is work for me. Audiobooks are a pleasure that help me get through tasks that I would not otherwise enjoy — long drives or exercise. It's even more than that. A great reader raises the experience from the intellectual level of reading to the emotional level of immersing myself in a play.

The most powerful experience I've had with an audiobook is with Kate Reading's narration of *Middlemarch* by George Eliot. Without an audiobook I would never have made it through the brilliant but convoluted sentences of George Eliot about characters whose biographies by themselves are of zero interest. The audiobook made *Middlemarch* one of the great experiences of my life. The 19<sup>th</sup> century woman Eliot had an understanding of motivations that fit my 21<sup>st</sup> century views better than anything else I've ever read, and Reading made the book into a play that I could visualize. After about my 4<sup>th</sup> reading, 36 hours a shot, I became fascinated by how she could know how to get the right feeling from the lines without being able to rehearse each sentence.

I'm impressed by avid readers who can be excited by books they read. My limited imagination, however, make it easier for me to immerse myself in the book as a play. A good audio book is a treasure for me especially with the improved technology that makes listening easier.

