



# And Now on Radio 4: A Celebration of the World's Best Radio Station

Simon Elmes

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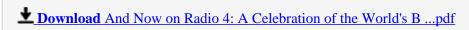
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And Now on Radio 4 offers an enthusiast's guide to the shows that have made Radio 4 what it is, and also explores some of the wonderful corners of the network's history that are long forgotten by all but a few. Who, for instance, now recalls Ronnie Barker's starring role on Radio 4 in a sophisticated cabaret-cumsketch-show called Lines from My Grandfather's Forehead? What about Spike Milligan's intimate, soulbearing account of his upbringing in colonial India, Plain Tales from the Raj? And who now remembers that Start the Week was once hosted by Russell Harty, a bit of programming compared by one insider to letting Graham Norton run Newsnight.

In order to reflect the way devotees listen to Radio 4, the book is organised not on simple chronological lines but in the form of a typical day. Chapter by chapter, the day evolves, from *Farming Today*, through the daily feast that is *Today*, through the morning menu of conversation, *Woman's Hour*, documentary and comedy. Lunchtime brings *The World at One*. The early evening, of course, yields *The Archers*. And finally there's *Book at Bedtime* and *Sailing By*.

An addictive mix of history, biography, anecdote and occasional useless fact, this is the perfect book for Radio 4 aficionados.



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