



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

*Simon Elmes*

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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-cum-sketch-show called *Lines from My Grandfather's Forehead*? What about Spike Milligan's intimate, soul-bearing 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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