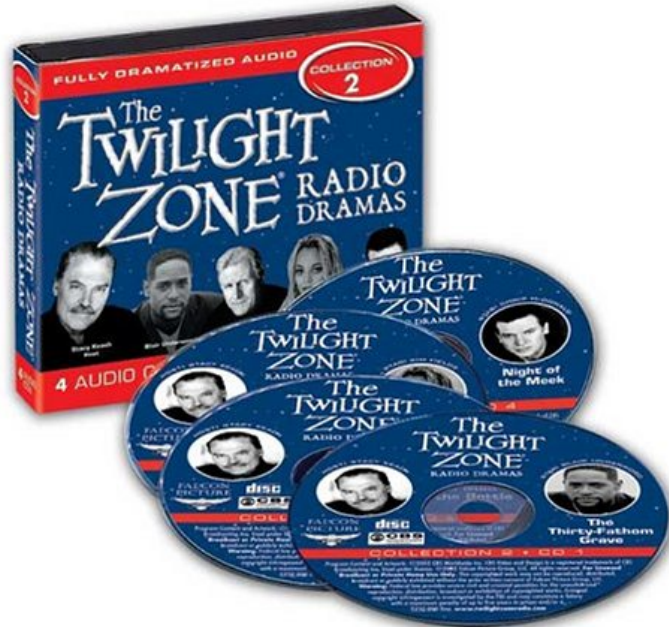


## The Twilight Zone Radio Dramas CD Collection 2

*Blair Underwood, Kim Fields*

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**Blair Underwood, Kim Fields : The Twilight Zone Radio Dramas CD Collection 2** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Twilight Zone Radio Dramas CD Collection 2:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice engaging audio - Gives me eyes a rest. By Tea drinker It's a pleasant memory of my childhood - and being audio, it gives me eyes a rest. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fun By GuessHoo57I am admittedly the perfect candidate for this series; I don't have much time to sit and stare at a TV and watch most of the brilliant original television shows, but the nature of my work is such that I constantly crave new audio entertainment. Short of flying to London and purchasing every audio drama the BBC ever released or picking up scratchy old-time radio broadcasts, wonderful as they are, there's little or nothing for someone like me to enjoy out there. Beyond that, however, I have no idea how anyone thought they could make money off reproducing old Twilight Zone episodes as radio dramas. I was so excited to find out these existed, and that there are so many of them, I may have a bias; however, I've found many of them to be superior in quality as a bonus. It's true the translated stories suffer from audio over-exposition, some dubious acting even from the guest celebs and, pulled out of the time-frame in which they were originally produced they don't always hold up. However, on the plus side the stories are as solid today as ever, the sound effects and music are genuinely creep-inducing, the shows have a confident polish and the element that imagination adds to the proceedings is exciting and enjoyable. Imagining the dark, dream-like department store landscapes of "The After Hours" is thought-provoking in ways even the best of today's visuals could never live up to. Not on this collection, but one of the more effective moments is the awful sound of the strange creature Anthony conjures up in the audio version of everyone's favorite, "It's A Good Life." These shows are also

wonderfully quiet and cerebral; I've traveled to cities where they air on local radio stations and can attest they're a wonderful way to chill out before bed time. In a world obsessed with literalization and noise, I'm thrilled that something exists out there for adults to enjoy that involves using one's imagination, even if the product isn't perfect. 5 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A Complete Waste By A Customer When word got out that "The Twilight Zone" would make its move to radio with Stacy Keach filling in for Rod Serling as host, the response was generally on the order of, 'Uh, how can you go from TV back to radio? And why Twilight Zone to make the regression?' Well, the producers of the series obviously saw no problem with it... they pay CBS their fees, get the product on the shelves, and collect the cash from the sales. This is, unfortunately, another example of an over-commercialized, slapdash attempt to sequelize a classic masterwork. If the effort is an attempt to make "Twilight Zone" accessible to the younger generation, there's no need... you can go pop in a tape or DVD and watch the original episodes. But this seems to be a case of taking Shakespeare and cutting out all the middle English, in attempt to make the plays more universal. The producers hooked Dennis Etchison, an otherwise superlative writer, to "expand" the great old stories of Rod Serling (and yes, the stories of Richard Matheson, Chuck Beaumont, and other writers are going to be adapted for radio as well, sans a few segments that don't work well on radio including Matheson's near-silent "The Invaders" and Serling's highly visual "Eye of the Beholder"). Sadly, it is all too apparent that Etchison knows, deep down, that the work of the old writers can't be topped. For a show like "The Twilight Zone", whose domain was almost like a world parallel to our own, with the entire universe as its breeding ground, to take its stories and bring them back to the mundane and the reality-grounded as radio programs is pointless. These first two sets really come off as no more than bland recitations of old stories that fans know inside and out from the original TV versions. The actors for the first series of eight dramas include Jim Caviezel, Lou Diamond Phillips, Tim Kazurinsky, Jane Seymour, James Keach, Blair Underwood, Kim Fields, Chris MacDonald, and Ed Begley Jr. Of these, only Jane Seymour does a credible job as star of Serling's episode "The Lateness of the Hour" (which originally starred the late Inger Stevens). Tim Kazurinsky and Lou Diamond Phillips do earn their paychecks with fairly humorous performances in episodes "Mr. Dingle the Strong" (originally starring Burgess Meredith) and "A Kind of Stopwatch", respectively. The rest of the actors quite obviously have no clue as to what they were doing, reciting all their lines as if read directly from a cue card (which in fact is probably what they did!) In the role of ersatz-Rod Serling, the narrator, Stacy Keach pretty much mails in his performance. His readings of the intro/closings are but lacking the gripping sincerity and meaning that Rod always imparted to each and every narration. Further hampering the dramas is the inclusion of sponsor commercials, which pop up several times. The CD versions are all one continuous 42-minute track with no option of fast-forwarding through the commercials unless done manually. In short, this new radio series does not yet offer anything that the original series didn't. The days of good ol' radio are gone, never to return. But there are many more of these dramas still yet to be released. Collections 3 and 4 have already been released and do offer some nice sound effects and a fabulous performance by Morgan Brittany in episode "The Passersby". So perhaps there's hope. Brittany is the first actor who appeared in the TV series, to star in these dramas, and more celebrities are reportedly going to appear in future installments. Stay tuned... but keep the volume on low until the producers come full circle and prove their worthiness to carry Rod Serling's gauntlet.

Experience one of television's greatest science-fiction series, The Twilight Zone fully dramatized for AUDIO! The Twilight Zone Radio Dramas feature a full cast, music and sound effects and today's biggest celebrities in modern radio dramatizations by Dennis Etchison of creator Rod Serling's classic scripts. Hosted by Stacy Keach, The Twilight Zone Radio Dramas will keep you glued to the edge of your seat whether listening in your home or while driving in your car. This collection features 4 stereo recordings. "The Thirty-Fathom Grave" Starring Blair Underwood. When a Naval destroyer picks up a signal from a ship that sank twenty years ago, a crewman is haunted by a strange memory buried at the bottom of the sea. "The Man In the Bottle" Starring Ed Begley, Jr. What if a genie granted your heart's desire? Is it possible to wish your way to happiness or is the hidden price more than anyone can pay? "The After Hours" Starring Kim Fields. A young woman goes gift shopping in a department store and is trapped on the ninth floor when the store closes even though no such floor exist. "Night of the Meek" Starring Chris McDonald. Every year Corwin plays Santa Claus for the kids in a department store. But this time there may be more presents in Santa's bag than even he can imagine.

From AudioFile Rod Serling's "Twilight Zone" teleplays are among the most memorable in television history. The best of these four adaptations is "The 30-Fathom Grave," starring Blair Underwood. Kim Fields (Tootie from TV's "The Facts of Life") reprises Anne Francis's role in "The After Hours" as an amnesiac stranded in a department store. In "The Man in the Bottle," Ed Begley, Jr., plays a kindly curio-shop owner who learns to be careful what he wishes for. "Night of the Meek," the final story in this collection, a perennial favorite from the original series, stars Chris McDonald as a down-and-out department store Santa, but lacks the emotional punch of Art Carney's original 1960 performance. Narrator Stacy Keach and announcer Doug James do faithful Rod Serling impressions. The music and atmosphere capture the tone of the original, making this a nostalgic treat for old fans, and a wonderful introduction for

those who have never set foot in the Twilight Zone. S.E.S. AudioFile 2003, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, Maine