



Actor James Murray narrates.

Listen to **SALAR**

One of the classics of angling literature, *Salar the Salmon* by Henry Williamson, is now available as an audiobook.

The story of Salar's extraordinary migration up a Devon river has captured the imagination of anglers since its publication in 1935. The idea to narrate the book came to actor and keen fly-

fisher James Murray on a long car journey with his eight-year-old daughter.

He explained: "After searching for an audio version of *Salar* I found one didn't exist, so having done a fair amount of voice-over work and narration I offered to do it *pro bono* with proceeds to the Atlantic Salmon Trust."

James, star of *Coronation Street* and *Cutting It*, contacted Henry Williamson's daughter, Anne, who thought it would be a great idea. But narrating 35,000 words is not straightforward.

"Reading a book out loud for eight hours a day, three days straight while keeping every sentence as engaging and dramatic as the last is not easy," he said. "When characters speak I give them a different voice but luckily Williamson stopped short of the fish talking... However, I had to commit to heron squawks and otter barks so that could offer comedic respite."

James has read the book many times. He said, "I think Williamson has a unique writing voice. He anthropomorphises a

salmon and as a result the reader empathises with the struggle the fish faces on its epic journey.

"I felt that as many people as possible should learn the salmon's story, now more than ever. Hopefully, the audiobook will introduce the fish to a younger generation and create awareness to help safeguard its future."

James lives near the Itchen and has spearheaded campaigns to stop pollution and abstraction of the chalk streams. He's a passionate salmon-fisher.

The book is about nine hours long and includes an introduction written by Michael Morpurgo author of *War Horse* (read by James). Perfect for those long summer car journeys.

Download *Salar* from Amazon Audible or from Strathmore Publishing. James stars in July's BBC 1 drama *Age Before Beauty*.

***Salar* was first published in 1935.**

