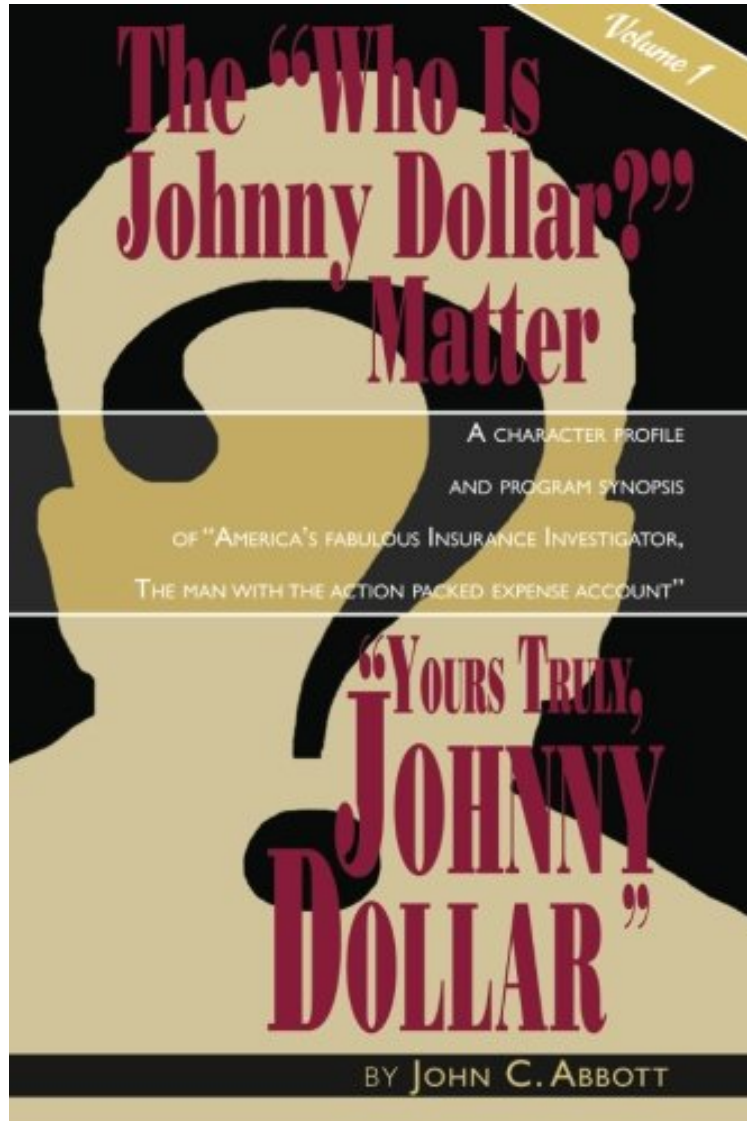


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Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar Vol. 1

John C. Abbott

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John C. Abbott : Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar Vol. 1 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar Vol. 1:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Superb reference for one of old radio's finest seriesBy Joseph W. WebbI recently my copies of "The 'Who Is Johnny Dollar?' Matter" by John C Abbott and published by Bear Manor Media arrived. The books can only be described as stunning. There is no other word for them. I'm not aware of a more exhaustive work done for one program. Very often, publishers and authors work within a budget for time and money, putting a limit on the amount of information that will end up in book form. It's hard to imagine that anyone could have

anything left to write about this series after this. I am a fan of the Bob Bailey run. I don't have much interest in the shows prior to his taking the role. Only by listening to the shows did I get an appreciation for Bob Readick and especially Mandel Kramer's portrayals. (How many of us really listen to all the shows that we have in our radio show collections? Abbott did for this series-- and every plotline down to the details of the expense account items and their amounts is here). There are three volumes: 1: The Russell, O'Brien, and Lund years; 2: The Bailey years; 3: Readick Kramer years. The number of shows each actor played the role is the reason why each volume has such a different cost, \$26.95, \$32.95, and \$19.95, respectively. Don't cheap out and get only the one with the actors you prefer. Volume 1 has some delightful sections about the series, including Dollar's biography (assembled from tidbits from show dialogue), his personal life, various hazards that he has encountered (he's been shot 13 times, and Abbott quips about the superstitious among us not to worry about it being 13 because there are still missing programs that would adjust the number), and how to estimate Johnny's income. A pleasant surprise is what he calls "The Final Chapter Matter," where he speculates about an episode, complete with dialogue and expense account, where Johnny retires. I won't spoil the ending. Abbott then summarizes background about the cases, actors, producers, and writers, as well as the recurring characters. Abbott listened to each available show, and augmented his research with reading of scripts of shows for which no recordings exist from the KNX collection in the Thousand Oaks library, as well as other research efforts. Like all researchers, I'm sure he feels that there are still things left to do, but I still consider it all stunning and wish I had the devotion to do the same for some of my favorite series. Volume 2 is devoted solely to Bailey's shows, and is the thickest of the volumes. Volume 3 has room for more surprises. Abbott summarizes the audition programs, and even summarizes the expense accounts by insurance company and by actor! Also in volume 3, Abbott briefly discusses who was the best Johnny Dollar. We all know it's Bailey, and most of us would choose Mandel Kramer as second. Surprisingly, Abbott selects Charles Russell, and lists his somewhat compelling reasons. I admit I was concerned about buying all three volumes at once, considering the cost. I can only say I'm anxious to dig into the series all over again with these books in hand. Just as clarification, if someone is looking for these books to contain detailed biographical information about the actors who played Dollar, they should look elsewhere. There is some light background about the actors. But the value of these books is that they are devoted almost solely to the character of Johnny Dollar, who is well worth the effort. I have been an old time radio hobbyist for more than 35 years, and never seen a work like this for a series that was broadcast for so long a time. I heartily recommend it. While many who grew up in the era will remember the shows of radio's golden age of the 1940s, the Johnny Dollar series was broadcast in the 1950s, and was truly one of radio's gems, especially the Bailey years. When everyone else seemed to be watching TV, Johnny Dollar survived until radio's last gasp in 1962. Luckily most all of the shows have been preserved by collectors, and these books will hopefully create an even wider appreciation of this already highly regarded series. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Great Book Series - Get all 3! By ZURlocker This is a great book series about an awesome radio show. If you're reading this review, you probably already know about Johnny Dollar, the fabulous freelance insurance investigator. Heck, you may even be obsessed about it. But I can guarantee you, John C Abbott is even more obsessed! He's written 3 books that cover every detail of just about every episode. There are also essays on Dollar's background and a thoroughly detailed index. Go ahead and splurge and get all 3 volumes. Well worth it for anyone who wants the definitive word on Johnny Dollar. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Book Review Matter By Michael Nella've been a big old time radio fan for years and Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar is one of my favorite shows. Its one of the few that I really worked hard to complete a near complete set of all the shows available on audio cassette. So when I saw John Abbott's books on the show, it was obvious that I had to get them. After reading through the first two volumes (especially the first since I had been listening to many of the shows with Charles Russell and Edmond O'Brien), there are plenty of things I enjoyed reading and things I wish I could have been included. The good: Abbott does a good job giving a synopsis of each episode including ones that only exist in script form. There was some nice trivia that the author picked up from listening to the available episodes (many times he said) and going through the scripts. The bad: I really wish Abbott would have put some history of the show (why each actor was selected, how it got sponsorship, etc.) since there is really none in the book. Also, there are several shows that don't survive in audio form and ones that Abbott could not get in script form. These episodes are not covered in the book or a list of shows that no or little information could be found about. On the whole, I would really recommend the books for those who are really big fans of the show, but for those who want to learn more about it that can't be deduced from listening to the shows, I would pass.

From 1949 until the end of Radio drama in 1962, Yours Truly Johnny Dollar was a stalwart of radio drama. This book, "The Who is Johnny Dollar Matter" provides a different look at Johnny Dollar - as if he were a real investigator. "The Who is Johnny Dollar Matter" starts with a mini-biography and then provides a detailed recap of each YTJD program. The detailed case analyses catalogs the details of each story, including cast, expenses, writers and directors, and cross-references to programs that used the same script with a different name and cast. The detailed index catalogs each story, case location and the cast of each program. The books also contain a detailed listing of cases by insurance company and the expenses for each of the 6 Johnny Dollars updated to 21st century dollars. Also included are recaps of

programs which only exist in the KNX collection of the Thousand Oaks, California library. "The Who is Johnny Dollar Matter" is the definitive reference work for the cases handled by Johnny Dollar, both those currently available electronically, but also those available only in the KNX collection of the Thousand Oaks, California library.