

Our Mutual Friend Charles Dickens Firext

Our Mutual Friend

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Our Mutual Friend, written in the years 1864-65, is the last novel completed by Charles Dickens and is one of his most sophisticated works, combining savage satire with social analysis. It centres on, in the words of critic J. Hillis Miller (quoting from the character Bella Wilfer in the book), "money, money, money, and what money can make of life." In the opening chapters a body is found in the Thames and identified as that of John Harmon, a young man recently returned to London to receive his inheritance. Were he alive, his father's will would require him to marry Bella Wilfer, a beautiful, mercenary girl whom he had never met. Instead, the money passes to the working-class Boffins, and the effects spread into various corners of London society.

"In these times of ours," are the opening words of this book, which was published in England in 1864-65. The scene is laid in London and its immediate neighborhood. All the elaborate machinery dear to Dickens's heart is here introduced. There is the central story of Our Mutual Friend, himself the young heir to the vast Harmon estate, who buries his identity and assumes the name of John Rokesmith, that he may form his own judgment of the young woman whom he must marry in order to claim his fortune; there is the other story of the poor bargeman's daughter, and her love for reckless Eugene Wrayburn, the idol of society; and uniting these two threads is the history of Mr. and Mrs. Boffin, the ignorant, kindhearted couple, whose innocent ambitions, and benevolent use of the money intrusted to their care, afford the author opportunity for the humor and pathos of which he was a master. Among the characters which this story has made famous are Miss Jenny Wren, the doll's dressmaker, a little, crippled creature whose love for Lizzie Hexam transforms her miserable life; Bradley Headstone, the schoolmaster, suffering torments because of his jealousy of Eugene Wrayburn, and helpless under the careless contempt of that trained adversary- dying at last in an agony of defeat at his failure to kill

Eugene; and the triumph of Lizzie's love over the social difference between her and her lover; Bella Wilfer, "the boofer lady," cured of her longing for riches and made John Harmon's happy wife by the plots and plans of the Golden Dustman

When the body of John Harmon turns up in the Thames, an illiterate dustman named Noddy Boffins unexpectedly inherits Harmon's unclaimed fortune. Boffins's good luck seems fitting since Harmon's father--the notorious London miser Old Man Harmon--became rich through the dustman business, essentially garbage collection. The newly upwardly mobile Boffins and his wife, also a loyal servant of Harmon's miserly father, struggle to fit in with the monied class. At the same time, the couple attempts to aid those less fortunate than themselves, an effort that tests their moral compass. Soon Noddy begins to take on the penny-pinching tendencies of his benefactor. Our Mutual Friend (1865) offers satisfying twists and turns on the Victorian rags-to-riches story as it expertly weaves together one of the author's most important themes, newfound wealth and the seismic shifts of social circumstance that accompany it. This is a free digital copy of a book that has been carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online. To make this print edition available as an ebook, we have extracted the text using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology and submitted it to a review process to ensure its accuracy and legibility across different screen sizes and devices. Google is proud to partner with libraries to make this book available to readers everywhere.

The New York Times said of Our Mutual Friend, the last novel completed by Dickens, that for most readers it would "be considered his best." While expressing all the humanism and humor of Dickens's early work, Our Mutual Friend is also the author's most modern novel and one of his most sophisticated. The book's themes include the search for identity, the extravagance of wealth, and the dispersal of self, but at the heart of the novel, as with all of Dickens's best works, are the characters. Both thoughtful and whimsical, and at times uproariously funny, this novel is a must for Dickens readers. Young man's inheritance of his father's estate depends upon the conditions of his marriage. Dickens's last complete and full length novel, first published in 1865.

"The Count of Monte Cristo has become a fixture of Western Civilization's literature, as inescapable and immediately identifiable as Micky Mouse, Noah's flood, and the story of Little Red Riding Hood." -Luc Sante "A piece of perfect storytelling."-Robert Louis Stevenson With Alexandre Dumas's epic novel of intrigue and adventure, The Count of Monte Cristo has thrilled readers for centuries with its sweeping themes of alienation, love, and revenge. With its intricate plot and evocative settings in France and the Mediterranean, this book is one of the most beloved classics ever written. In this quintessential tale of vengeance set in the Napoleonic era, Edmond Dantès, a young French sailor, is engaged to marry Mercédès, a young and beautiful Catalan woman. In a terrible act of jealousy, three men betray Edmond, and he is

wrongfully convicted of treason. He is sent to the infamous Château d'If, one of the most feared prisons of France. After a daring escape from imprisonment, Dantès hunts in search of a treasure that he has learned of from a fellow inmate. Once in possession of his vast fortune, he returns to Paris as the mysterious Count of Monte Cristo to wreck revenge on the three men who have betrayed him. Dumas's tale simmers with intrigue and excitement and remains one of the great classics of our time. With an eye-catching new cover, and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of *The Count of Monte Cristo* is both modern and readable.

Two classics in one! Wonderfully spread out in one, annotated and illustrated, compact volume. Many vintage books are increasingly scarce and expensive. We published this volume in an affordable, modern, high-quality edition complete with a biography of the author. Includes: *The Old Curiosity Shop* (1841) *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (1870

Our Mutual Friend (1864-5) Dickens' last completed novel, has been critically praised as a profound and troubled masterpiece, and yet it has received far less scholarly attention than his other major works. This volume is the first book-length study of the novel. It explores every aspect of Dickens' sustained imaginative involvement with his age. In particular its original research into hitherto neglected sources reveals not only Dickens' reactions to the important developments during the 1860s in education, finance and the administration of poverty, but also his interest in phenomena as diverse as waste collection and the Shakespeare tercentenary. *The Companion to Our Mutual Friend* demonstrates the varied resources of artistry that inform the novel, and it provides the reader with a fundamental source of information about one of Dickens' most complex works.

Charles Dickens's last completed novel, "Our Mutual Friend" is the story of "Noddy" Boffin, a common clerk who becomes "the Golden Dustman" after he inherits a dust-heap where the aristocracy throw their refuse. A brutal satire and social analysis, "Our Mutual Friend" is a masterpiece that explores the allure and curse of money while demonstrating all the themes the author is famous for. Charles John Huffam Dickens (1812–1870) was an English writer and social critic famous for having created some of the world's most well-known fictional characters. His works became unprecedentedly popular during his life, and today he is commonly regarded as the greatest Victorian-era novelist. Although perhaps better known for such works as "Oliver Twist" or "A Christmas Carol", Dickens first gained success with the 1836 serial publication of "The Pickwick Papers", which turned him almost overnight into an international literary celebrity thanks to his humour, satire, and astute observations concerning society and character. This classic work is being republished now in a new edition complete with an introductory chapter from "Appreciations and Criticisms of the Works of Charles Dickens" by G. K. Chesterton.

One night, a crankypants riverman and his daughter find a body in a river outside London. Dum dum dum. The body is

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that of John Harmon, a young man who was supposed to return to England to claim a huge inheritance from his father. But now that the young man's been murdered, the money will go to a pair of old, naïve servants named Mr. and Mrs. Boffin. Right on cue, whole bunch of shifty folks come out of the woodwork to see what they can get out of the Boffins. One of the points of Old Man's Harmon's will was for his son, John, to marry a young woman named Bella Wilfer. Well it looks like Bella Wilfer won't get the money she expected because her would-be husband is dead. But the Boffins still want to take her in and treat her like their adopted daughter. Meanwhile, two guys named Bradley Headstone and Eugene Wrayburn compete for the love of Lizzie Hexam, the same girl who found John Harmon's body in the river at the beginning of the book. As the plot unfolds, Bradley's hatred of Eugene gets deeper and deeper until he attempts to murder the dude. But the murder is unsuccessful and it only brings Eugene and Lizzie closer together as Lizzie nurses Eugene back to health. About halfway through the book, we learn that John Harmon isn't dead after all. Instead, he's posing as Mr. Boffin's secretary, Mr. Rokesmith, so he can judge whether Bella Wilfer would make a worthy wife or if she's interested only in money. Eventually, Bella proves herself by sacrificing her position with the Boffins in order to defend Mr. Rokesmith. Harmon thinks this is proof enough of her value, so he marries her and eventually gets around to reclaiming his former identity (and the fortune that goes with it). By the end of the book, all the bad guys are punished (yay!) and the good guys are

This novel follows the trauma of a Jewish family living in the Vilna area during the late 1930's. Their struggles to survive, fight and escape the horrors of this time are vividly portrayed.

The love between a brother and sister proves a strong bond against adversity.

Two classics in one! Wonderfully spread out in one, annotated and illustrated, compact volume. Many vintage books are increasingly scarce and expensive. We published this volume in an affordable, modern, high-quality edition complete with a biography of the author. Includes: A Christmas Carol (1843) Great Expectations (1867 edition)

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is in the charge of the solicitor, Mortimer Lightwood, who has no other practice. Before the son and heir can claim his inheritance, he goes missing, presumed drowned, at the end of his journey back to London. A body is found in the Thames by Gaffer Hexam, a waterman who makes his living by retrieving corpses and robbing them of valuables, before handing them over to the authorities. Papers in the pockets of the drowned man identify him as the heir, John Harmon. Present at the identification is a mysterious young man, who gives his name as Julius Handford and then disappears. By the terms of the miser's will, the whole estate then devolves upon Mr and Mrs Boffin, naïve and good-hearted people who wish to enjoy it for themselves and to share it with others. London and Paris at the time of the French Revolution are the setting of this suspense-filled classic focusing on the physical resemblance of Sidney Carton and Charles Darney & their love for Lucy Manette.

Even within the context of Charles Dickens's history as a publishing innovator, *Our Mutual Friend* is notable for what it reveals about Dickens as an author and about Victorian publishing. Marking Dickens's return to the monthly number format after nearly a decade of writing fiction designed for weekly publication in *All the Year Round*, *Our Mutual Friend* emerged against the backdrop of his failing health, troubled relationship with Ellen Ternan, and declining reputation among contemporary critics. In his subtly argued publishing history, Sean Grass shows how these difficulties combined to make *Our Mutual Friend* an extraordinarily odd novel, no less in its contents and unusually heavy revisions than in its marketing by Chapman and Hall, its transformation from a serial into British and U.S. book editions, its contemporary reception by readers and reviewers, and its delightfully uneven reputation among critics in the 150 years since Dickens's death. Enhanced by four appendices that offer contemporary accounts of the Staplehurst railway accident, information on archival materials, transcripts of all of the contemporary reviews, and a select bibliography of editions, Grass's book shows why this last of Dickens's finished novels continues to intrigue its readers and critics.

With contributions ranging over three centuries, *Culture, Capital and Representation* explores how literature, cultural studies and the visual arts represent, interact with, and produce ideas about capital, whether in its early phases (the growth of stock markets) or in its late phase (global speculative capital).

.0000000000Charles Dickens' fascination with ghosts and the macabre is traced to his childhood, to the grim and ghoulish stories told him by his nursemaid, Mary Weller, whom he referred to as Mercy, 'though she had none on me'. Along with the horrors of the 'penny dreadful' magazine, *The Terrific Register* - a publication which made Dickens 'unspeakably miserable and frightened the very wits out of my head' - the stories recounted by Weller were so powerful as to colour Dickens' imagination and shape much of the enduring fiction he created. This collection brings together all Dickens' ghost stories - twenty in all - including several long tales. Here are chilling histories of coincidence, insanity and revenge. Illustrated by various artists, with an Afterword by David Stuart Davies.

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