

# Our Mutual Friend Charles Dickens Tcbinc

River Thames (tehmz). England's most important river serves as the central thread of the novel, tying together both character and incident. When the novel opens, the river offers both life and death. In a surreal, night scene, Gaffer Hexam is shown making his living from the bodies he finds in the river. During the course of the novel, the river is the setting for seven drownings or near-drownings, including the apparent drowning of young John Harmon, the "mutual friend" of the title.

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

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.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.

*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. This eBook features the unabridged text of 'Our Mutual Friend' from the bestselling edition of 'The Complete Works of Charles Dickens'. Having established their

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name as the leading publisher of classic literature and art, Delphi Classics produce publications that are individually crafted with superior formatting, while introducing many rare texts for the first time in digital print. The Delphi Classics edition of Dickens includes original annotations and illustrations relating to the life and works of the author, as well as individual tables of contents, allowing you to navigate eBooks quickly and easily. eBook features: \* The complete unabridged text of 'Our Mutual Friend' \* Beautifully illustrated with images related to Dickens's works \* Individual contents table, allowing easy navigation around the eBook \* Excellent formatting of the text Please visit [www.delphiclassics.com](http://www.delphiclassics.com) to learn more about our wide range of titles

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

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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.

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)

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.

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

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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

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fortune that goes with it).By the end of the book, all the bad guys are punished (yay!) and the good guys are .....

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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.

books give you the best possible editions of Charles Dickens's novels, including all the original illustrations, useful and informative introductions

Following his father's death John Harmon returns to London to claim his inheritance, but he finds he is eligible only if he marries Bella Wilfur. To observe her character he assumes another identity and secures work with his father's foreman, Mr Boffin, who is also Bella's guardian. Disguise and concealment play an important role in the novel and individual identity is examined within the wider setting of London life: in the 1860s the city was aflame with spiralling financial speculation while thousands of homeless scratched a living from the detritus of the more fortunate-indeed John Harmon's father has amassed his wealth by recycling waste.

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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.

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.

Two of the most beloved novels in all of English literature—together in one extraordinary volume. A TALE OF TWO CITIES After eighteen years as a political prisoner in the Bastille, the ageing Doctor Manette is finally released and reunited with his daughter in England. There the lives of the two very different men, Charles Darnay, an exiled French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a disreputable but brilliant English lawyer, become

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enmeshed through their love for Lucie Manette. From the tranquil roads of London, they are drawn against their will to the vengeful, bloodstained streets of Paris at the height of the Reign of Terror, and they soon fall under the lethal shadow of the guillotine. GREAT EXPECTATIONS A terrifying encounter with an escaped convict in a graveyard on the wild Kent marshes; a summons to meet the bitter, decaying Miss Havisham and her beautiful, cold-hearted ward Estella; the sudden generosity of a mysterious benefactor- these form a series of events that changes the orphaned Pip's life forever, and he eagerly abandons his humble origins to begin a new life as a gentleman. Dickens's haunting late novel depicts Pip's education and development through adversity as he discovers the true nature of his "great expectations."

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

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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.

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

### Our Mutual Friend

Designed to appeal to the booklover, the Macmillan Collector's Library is a series of beautiful gift editions of much loved classic titles. Macmillan Collector's Library are books to love and treasure. Chosen and introduced by the playwright J. B. Priestley, these twelve marvellous sketches are accompanied by George Cruikshank's evocative illustrations. Charles Dickens was one of the great chroniclers of London life. From the colourful chaos of dances and gin-shops to the sparse destitution of the pawnshop and the penitentiary, he captured the grime and the glory of the English capital with singular brilliance.

Orphans and beggars, lord mayors and murderers, actors, criminals, cab drivers and prostitutes; all rub shoulders in this wonderful selection from Sketches by Boz.

"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.

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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.

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