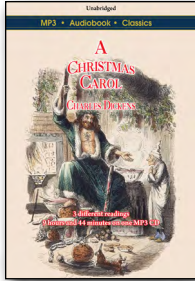


# British Fiction - Charles Dickens

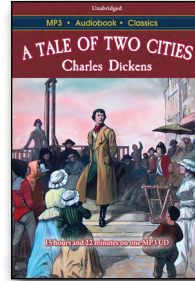


## A Christmas Carol

Author: Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)  
Read by: Multiple readers  
Length: 3 versions - 9 hours 44 minutes total  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Genre: Fantasy Fiction

Ebenezer Scrooge wasn't born a scrooge, but life had disappointed him enough that he gave himself over to acquiring money and the little power it afforded him over his fear of death. Then one Christmas Eve, Jacob Marley, his "beastly dead" former partner, appeared to warn him of what awaited him in the afterlife if he did not change his ways. Scrooge was frightened, but not convinced. Enter Christmas Past, Present and Future. In an admixture of fear and love, Scrooge underwent the conversion made manifest on Christmas Day in generosity, kindness and amends. A Christmas Carol (1843) is perhaps the most popular Christmas story ever written this side of Bethlehem and helped revive a celebratory attitude toward Christmas that had been lost with the nineteenth century's industrialization and urbanization. With the German customs of the Christmas tree and Christmas cards, the immense popularity of Dickens's novella helped the Christmas season become again what it was meant to be – a season of joy, hope, celebration, gratitude and love.

Catalog: DB-1040  
UPC: 0684758936196  
MSLP: \$11.99

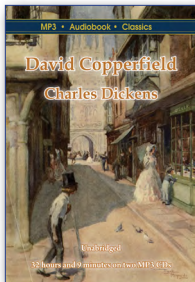


## A Tale of Two Cities

Author: Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)  
Read by: Paul Adams  
Length: 15 hours 22 minutes  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Genre: Fiction

*A Tale of Two Cities* was serialized in 1859 to great acclaim in Dickens's new literary periodical, *All Year Round*. It's a complex story concerning characters caught up in the heady times before and during the French Revolution, complete with the overheated passions and the fluid unpredictability of the masses when their reasonable group-think devolves into mob mentality. One is reminded of a recent lyric: "Meet the new boss; same as the old boss," for what happened in the late Eighteenth Century the French people stumbled their way to a new sovereignty that deposed and executed a King and his wife. Dickens identifies with the oppressed in the characters of Dr. Manette and Gaspard, and he paints the villain of all villainy in the despised Marquis St. Evremonde. But the mob, grown bestial with bloodlust, ultimately violates Dickens unerring sense of balance and fairness. The Reign of Terror executes those who started the Revolution, and it is against this backdrop that Dickens raises his eyes to a better place that will come about with the kind of loving self-sacrifice embodied in the selfless act of Sydney Carton.

Catalog: DB-1042  
UPC: 0684758936202  
MSLP: \$13.99



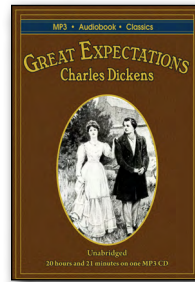
## David Copperfield

Author: Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)  
Read by: Tadhg Hynes  
Length: 32 hours and 9 minutes  
Format: Two MP3 CDs in DVD case  
Genre: Fiction

*David Copperfield* was Dickens's eighth novel, published in 1850, having been serialized two years prior. It is one of the most popular novels ever written, with over two hundred million copies sold worldwide. Every writer draws upon his experience to fashion works of fiction. To some degree all works are autobiographical, but in each writer's oeuvre there exists one book which is the deepest, most precious expression of the writer's heart and soul. *David Copperfield* was that book for Dickens.

Catalog: DB-1042  
UPC: 0852679827200  
MSLP: \$19.99

The structure is more open ended than a three or five part structure might dictate, because it is one of those rare works bold enough to present life as it is. It is a great novel, with David and a host of characters, including the despicable Uriah Heap, that Ur-master of office politics; but it is also more than a novel because it is Dickens's most fervent statement of self, his ultimate declaration of what life is, his life, anybody's life, of what it means and why it matters.



## Great Expectations

Author: Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)  
Read by: Mark F. Smith  
Length: 20 hours 4 minutes  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Genre: Fiction

*Great Expectations* (1861) was Dickens's thirteenth novel, written when he was at the height of his powers and deemed to be the voice of Victorian England. Dickens himself felt that it might well be his best work and it remains one of his most popular novels. It is a *bildungsroman*, a "coming of age" novel, written in the first person of the protagonist, Pip, an orphan who starts from a place of little comfort, but benefits from the ministrations of good Joe, the blacksmith and his custodian. Pip, through no conscious act or intent of his own, soon embarks on a great beginning with equal expectations. He lives fully, experiencing the pain and joys of love, found, lost and, perhaps, found again. He travels a high road allowed very few in that time and place, and we are the beneficiaries of those travels, having been invited along for the ride.

Catalog: DB-1043  
UPC: 0852679827217  
MSLP: \$14.99



## Oliver Twist

Author: Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)  
Read by: Tadhg Hynes  
Length: 14 hours 57 minutes  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Genre: Fiction

"Please, Sir, may I have a little more?" That famous request from Dickens's *Oliver Twist* (1838), embodies the cry of the times in England when the Industrial Revolution had hijacked the world of manners, only to introduce a cruel world overrun by commerce. Those who take refuge in the hidden corners of a society on fire are invariably passed over, forgotten and ultimately sacrificed for what is too often called "some greater good." Dickens confronts this in the character of young Oliver, an orphan bounced from work house to the streets of

Catalog: DB-1044  
UPC: 0684758936240  
MSLP: \$12.99

London, where he meets the Artful Dodger, a pickpocket and informal leader of a gang of thieving street kids. The Dodger is Oliver's entre to a hard, crooked world of small time criminals overseen by an aqualung named Fagin and his dark colleagues. Dickens is unsentimental in his portrayal of the underside of brilliant and burgeoning London, and reminds us all that orphans like Oliver deserve more than what they could hope to receive from a society in a race with itself to the top of the world.



## Hard Times

Author: Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)  
Read by: Multiple readers  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Length: 10 hours 43 minutes  
Genre: Fiction

*Hard Times*, Dickens' tenth novel, is unusual in two respects: it is one of his shortest works, and it does not take place in London but instead in Coketown, a generic mill town in the north of England. *Hard Times* distills the essence of Dickens' concerns: the rights of the undervalued worker, the inequities of the capitalist system, the coarseness of the new era, and the failure of the institutions designed to protect the rights and lives of the vulnerable poor and lower classes. Like others who've suffered the machinations of blind and deaf bureaucracies, Dickens' bias for the underprivileged was as real as the impact his father's financial ruin had on his childhood. Dickens wrote what he knew, and although his famous work ethic, prolific output and unparalleled success lifted him into the ranks of the wealthy, he never lost sight of or feelings for the vulnerable, who too often suffered in a society more concerned with status, wealth and profit than the people who were exploited to make the whole thing work.

Catalog: DB-1067  
UPC: 0684758936233  
MSLP: \$12.99