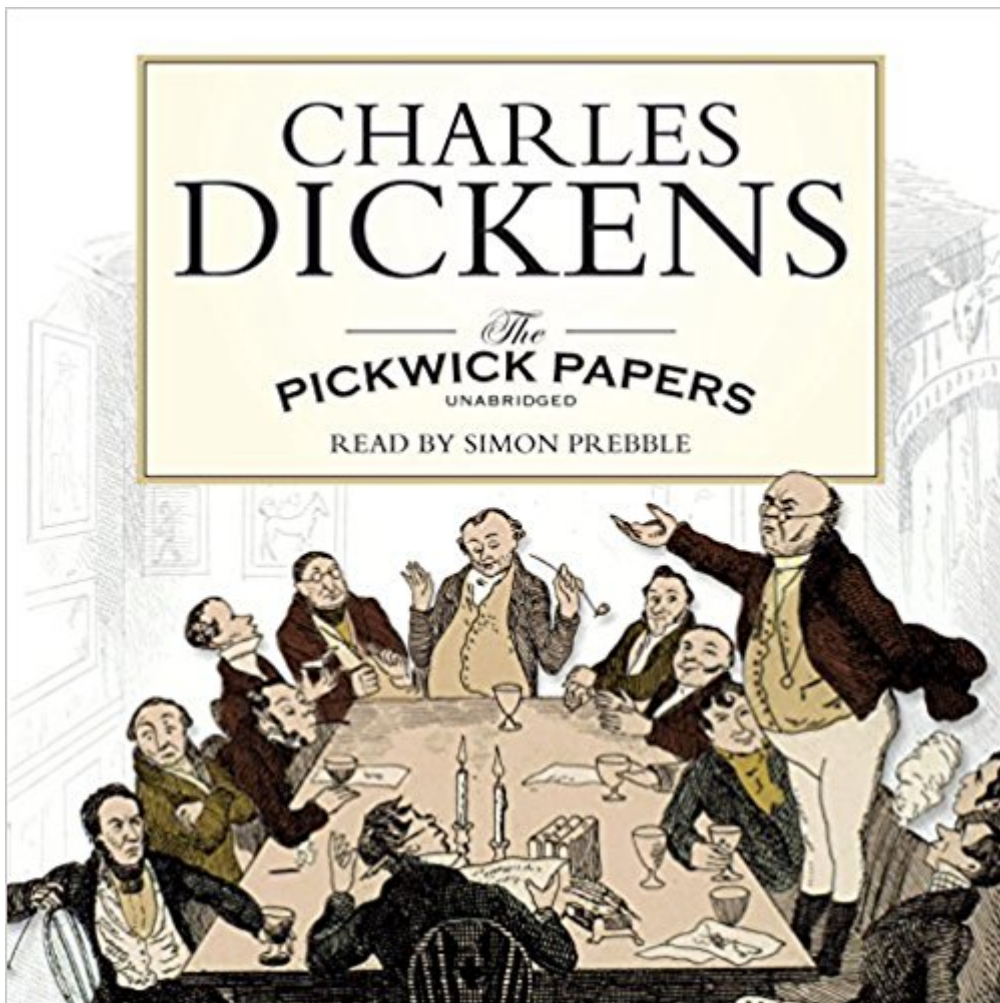


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The Pickwick Papers



Synopsis

[Read by Simon Prebble] When a twenty-four-year-old writer named Charles Dickens was asked to write a serialized story about English country life, no one anticipated that he was about to become one of the most famous authors of all time. The Pickwick Papers, as it came to be called, enchanted readers with its lively humor and delightfully drawn characters. The members of the Pickwick Club (aka Pickwickians) (Mr. Nathaniel Winkle, Mr. Augustus Snodgrass, and Mr. Tracy Tupman) presided over by the kindly old Mr. Samuel Pickwick, Esquire, agree to make a series of separate journeys into the English countryside and report back to the other club members on their adventures and observations, resulting in an abundance of entertaining anecdotes. Their travels throughout the English countryside provide the chief theme of the novel. When The Pickwick Papers was finally released as a complete novel, it became the first real publishing phenomenon, inspiring bootleg copies, theatrical performances, and merchandise based on the popular characters.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[A] supreme masterpiece. . . The great example of everything that made Dickens great." --G. K. Chesterton"Charles Dickens . . . began his literary career as a magazine contributor, writing under the pseudonym "Boz," publishing Sketches by Boz in 1836. His comic masterpiece, The Pickwick Papers (serialized in 1836-37), was intended as 20 monthly installments. Because of the popularity of the series, Dickens increased the number to 40, making the book some 750 pages long. Fear not, gentle listener, you will never be bored. The madcap adventures of Samuel Pickwick, wealthy retired businessman with a gigantic brain, and his three young friends, Tupman, Winkle, and

Snodgrass, poke fun at the law, religion, debtors prisons, romance, the medical profession, dueling, con men, local elections, the media, a lawsuit for breach of promise, and other difficulties too numerous to mention. Pickwick is accompanied by his faithful servant Sam Weller, whose old father keeps marrying widows. And everybody in England seems to be an alcoholic or at least tipsy much of the time. Through it all, Pickwick's virtue and naïveté shine, a beacon to his club members and the many friends he makes along the way. Many anecdotes told by those many friends let Dickens flex his literary muscles. He writes scenes of tender love, death scenes to make you weep, grinding poverty, soul-blighting prisons but balances all with wit and uproarious humor. Dickens' masterwork is narrated by the incomparable Simon Prebble, a British-born performer, veteran of stage and television. He has narrated some three-hundred audiobooks. He gives the novel the full-voiced treatment, with accents and fluttery females given to hysterics. Highly recommended." --SoundCommentary.com (starred review)

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While writing this I am also organizing the markings file of my first Kindle book Don Quijote, which I have perused several times. The Pickwick papers only this first time, although having been conscious of its existence forever, at least 50 years. I thought that it is just a small heap of papers to be quickly eyed through. Even starting I was not aware of its extent. But it just went on and on. Only afterwards I found out that as paper book it is in some edition 660 pages and in another even 800, that is about a half of Don Quijote. And not an only dull sentence or dead end, just like DQ! Many times I continued still another chapter beyond what I had intended. I finished it in three weeks, that is good 30-40 pages a day, which is about double of its due quota, considering that I usually read two or three books parallelly. But what about the connection between DQ and Pickwick? Is there any above the fact that they both are huge blocs of foremost world literature? I have the itching that yes, but cannot show clear instances. Of course both main persons are in some way foolish idealists, big free minds, which we all wish we could be. A great deal of both stories takes place in travelling, but by different means and in different signs: DQ on his miserable Rosinante and Pickwick on various

horse buggies, one of which is called gig and described as - in fact not described closer than that it was on several occasions 'clay colored and red wheeled', but how many wheels? no mention. Never heard before of this vehicle. Wikipedia gives a host of gigs, and mentions the vehicle as two wheeled and horse drawn. In general, I am very pleased with my invention of collecting dictionary lookups to a vocabulary file. This is one of the finest features of Kindle, although left half way in performance. You get the dictionary definition in an instant, but after closing it vanishes into thin air. Luckily there are screen grabbers with which you can save both the word and its definition. Although so different of the present mode of life, still particularly different of the social surrounding of our life in Finland, where no Mr. and no Sir exist, not even difference between he and she in the mode of linguistic usage, without any hesitation: five bright stars to Mr. Pickwick by the great Charles Dickens!

This was the worst Charles Dickens book I've ever read. And I've read most of them. The characters were not fully developed. The ending was predictable. It did have some redeeming qualities, so 3 stars. Also, this e-book had type-o's. I actually skipped through parts at the end, getting bored, to read what happened to my favorite characters, which was pretty much what I expected would be the outcome. I know to expect a happy ending, which I'm actually glad for and wait in anticipation for. However, while the end was not completely happy, it was not completely satisfying in the happy parts. It felt like when you watch a movie based on real life and at the end they say "So and went on to do this..." It just doesn't always satisfy your craving to be swept away in the story. --I wasn't moved, like I usually am.

I would give six stars if I could, but I have been a Dickens fan all my life. This was one book I had not read yet. So interesting, full of the social criticism Dickens is famous for, as well as displaying that wonderful and often very moving prose style. The Whispersync narration was masterful. Could not have been better, whoever that was I would love to congratulate him.

I must have watched too many horror movies. When I saw the title of this book, I was sure someone would walk into a dark corner of the shop and get eaten. Or maybe someone would get a steak in the heart. Unfortunately it is one of the first road trips. Little Nell Trent and her grandfather travel the country meeting interesting characters such as Punch (of Punch and Judy fame.) I had to stop reading and look up the history of Punch. The reason it feels like it goes on forever is because it was printed as a serial which lasted from 1840 to 1841. Meanwhile back at the ranch the evil looking

dwarf, Daniel Quilp cheats at cards with his cabal. And we all know the only thing worse than cheating at cards is kicking the dog. I am still trying to find out what the message of the book is. No one can write that much without having some sort of message. My guess is that people read this stuff for the Genius loci. There are not that many cliff hangers. Charles Dickens' writing style is not as smooth and to the point as Jane Austin, however it is not packed full of gobbledygook as is Wilkie Collins'. I have a well bound hard copy. However I enjoyed listening to the kindle whispersync version from audible read narrated by Anton Lesser. I know how it ends. You will just have to read and find out.

Wonderful read, full of love and moral lessons. Every once in a while, I just need another Dickens fix, and this book didn't disappoint. If you're one of those people who was forced at gunpoint in school to read A Tale of Two Cities, please give Dickens another chance. You owe it to yourself. If more people read Dickens, the world would be a much better place.

I have a list of 'indispensables'. and this is on it. The story does have a plot line running through it, but it is also like a news digest. There are bits and pieces that are well worth following for their own sake....and of course Dickens' delicious prose is enjoyable. His description of a man at a military review chasing his hat that has been blown off by the wind. The obligatory ghost story where the young man says (shakily) to the ghost "You know, I don't understand why you ghosts persist in staying where you were so miserable! Why not go somewhere pleasant?" And the ghost saying "I never thought of that! I am much obliged!" and vanishing, with the young man calling after it, "You would make us all very grateful if you would spread the word." It also contains, toward the end, one of the most moving tales of retribution, mercy and kindness, with a speech by Mr. Pickwick's barrister on the subject of mercy. A fun, touching, sometimes uproarious book.

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