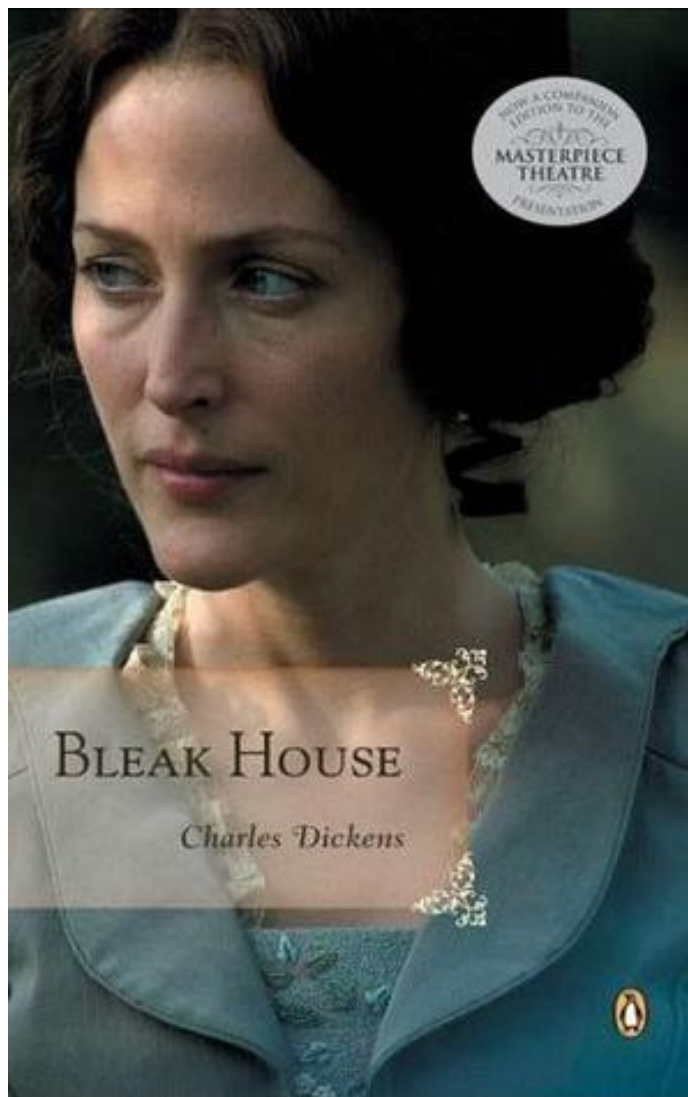


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# Charles Dickens

## Bleak House



Title: Bleak House

Author: Charles Dickens

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 1017

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0143037617

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## Description

Bleak House is a novel by Charles Dickens, published in 20 monthly installments between March 1852 and September 1853. It is held to be one of Dickens's finest novels, containing one of the most vast, complex and engaging arrays of minor characters and sub-plots in his entire canon.

At the novel's core is long-running litigation in England's Court of Chancery, Jarndyce v Jarndyce, which has far-reaching consequences for all involved. The litigation, which already has taken many years and consumed between £60,000 and £70,000 in court costs, is emblematic of the failure of Chancery.

Though Chancery lawyers and judges criticised Dickens's portrait of Chancery as exaggerated and unmerited, his novel helped to spur an ongoing movement that culminated in the enactment of legal reform in the 1870s.

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## Insightful reviews

Lyn: Bleak House was Charles Dickens' 1853 novel that documents the tragi-comic events surrounding the chancery court case of Jarndyce v Jarndyce.

Told with an unusual blend of shifting perspectives, the first being a first person narrative and the second an omniscient, present tense narrator, Dickens describes a London where justice is turned upside down and personal values are intertwined with the doleful legal system.

As with most of Dickens novels, Bleak House features an extraordinary cast and the author's ability to convey a character is his genius. A good book.



Elizabeth: I am guessing Esther is suppose to be Dickens' portrayal of perfect, Victorian femininity, but she is a bore most of the time. She has her moments though. Mannnn, why is everyone so lame towards Mr. Guppy? He is the Duckie of the 19th century. Lady Dedlock was my favorite character (besides Mr. Bucket), so I am not happy that she got the short end of the stick. Skimpole the f-ing man child (literally) gets off better than Lady Dedlock! I guess the fact that I am still passionate about these characters after 1000+ pages is deserving of a 4 star review.

I feel it is my duty to tell readers that someone dies from SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION. Dickens, you are a pimp.

Helle: (4.5) This tome of a novel is by many regarded as Dickens's finest novel, and I can see why. Like many of Dickens's books, *Bleak House* is bursting with life and brimming with personalities. It is full of heart and humour – two of the traits that I appreciate most in books. Clever is good, too, but if a book doesn't have a heart, it loses its point for me. Dickens's books always have a big, beating heart, but are constructed (and written) cleverly, too. What I also value in books, and which *Bleak House* has in abundance, is exuberant, witty, ironic, insightful, marvellous prose.

Some of the things I loved:

- The girl Charley, the boy Joe (my throat constricted a couple of times when they entered the story).

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- Inspector Bucket's extraordinary conversational skills (he was one of the first detectives in English literature).

- Mr. Jarndyce's growlery. In fact, I want one and think it reasonable that everyone has one, especially one ensconced in a library.

- Dickens's exhibition of people's self-aggrandizing hypocrisy and, in this connection, the way in which he integrates the state of affairs in London's slums (Tom-all-alones) into his story, and ultimately how this social criticism, specifically of Chancery, helped further legal reforms.

The novel was sometimes too sprawling for me. There were so many characters that I felt I lost hold of the main threads of the story, much like in *Our Mutual Friend*. I thoroughly enjoyed Esther's parts and Lady Dedlock's, but I couldn't muster as much interest in some of the smaller characters (Mr. Guppy, Mr. and Mrs. Smallweed, Philip and several others). I couldn't see what they contributed to the overall stories other than acting as fillers, or at least some of them have such small parts and are such caricatures that they could have been put into one character. I was about half way through before I could sort them all out from each other. But that was one of Dickens's trademarks, too. He treads his ground labouriously and in great detail, which occasionally distracted me from the main story, but of course he ties all those threads together at the end.

I was sometimes lost in his words, at other times marvelling and smiling at his images:

About Lady Dedlock:

*She passes close by him with her usual fatigued manner and insolent grace. (...) Lady Dedlock is always the same exhausted deity, surrounded by worshippers and terribly liable to be bored to death even while presiding at her own shrine.*

About Sir Leicester Dedlock:

*Sir Leicester has magnificently disengaged himself from the subject and retired into the sanctuary of his blue coat.*

I bow to Dickens's story telling abilities, which were very nearly second to none at the time, and to his social commentary and humanity, which is where he differs not only from many of his contemporaries but also from most of the novelists living today whom he has been compared to but who, in my opinion, exhibit none of his acute social awareness.

Oscar Wilde liked Dickens's caricatures but didn't care for his moralizing (well, he wouldn't). In the same vein there is pathos, sometimes drifting into unapologetic sentimentality, in this novel which many modern novelists shy away from, but which I found oddly gratifying. Despite the bleakness that pervades the story, Esther leaves us at the end summarizing what it is to be rich, and we are assured that the wind was never again in the east. Highly recommended for patient readers who like their novels big, sprawling and Victorian and for lovers of language.

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Jason Koivu: among Thanksgiving and xmas my examining velocity flooring to a halt. thank you much Dick.....ens! This is an extended book, yet i have learn longer ones that did not look part so long as Bleak House. Saharan-esque stretches of plodding plot did not help. yet greater than that, this ebook suffers from having an excessive amount of character, and characters with character, characterful characters with personality to spare and well, you get the point. by the point Dickens had written Bleak apartment he'd skilled nearly each spot on England's social strata, so he knew people, he loved people, and he cherished to put in writing concerning the humans he knew. There are a few great, fully-formed fictional parents herein that appear extra alive than a couple of genuine humans I know. yet that does not keep this publication for me. There also are a few dimensional signposts additional simply to element the way. yet that does not wreck this e-book for me. The tangents a few of these characters pass on is what kills the tale dead. Dickens resuscitates the plot with a delectable little tidbit now and then, comparable to providing you with desire that the endless Jarndyce and Jarndyce lawsuit could be resolved, yet then alongside comes a longwinded attorney or a funny scene with a few foolish previous humans babbling and throwing pillows at one another. it truly is an excessive amount of of an excellent (and sometimes bad) thing. It's challenging to fault the writer and the standard of the writing for my low score in this one. Dickens' craft is at its craftiest, yet he centred an excessive amount of of it on one point of writing, and for that the author is at fault.

Kalliope: examining Bleak apartment has had a redeeming impact for me. earlier than this wonder happened Dickens evoked for me both miserable black and white movies in a small and boxy television watched in the course of oppressive times, or interpreting what appeared unending pages in a nonetheless mostly incomprehensible language. Dickens intended then a ache on either counts. In this GR team learn i've got loved Bleak condominium tremendously. In the crowd dialogue many matters were cited by way of the members. at first the critique at the social facets has been wear the tray, but additionally the remedy of ladies and/or children, the critique of the Empire and of the felony occupation and institutions, the interaction among the 2 narrators, he humour, the richness in literary and old references, the musings on ethics, etc. All this makes for a really wealthy analysis. For me this booklet is definitely a reread. And except the entire points above, what have struck me most, since it has shocked me, have been the very wealthy plot and how it used to be constructed. that's why, if I learn Bleak residence again, i'll achieve this whereas drawing a diagram that, equally to these charting engineering processes, could plot the plot. Using an Excel sheet as my basis, the graph i've got in brain will be a dimensional chart, with the X or horizontal axis extending as much as the sixty seven chapters of the book, whereas at the vertical or Y axis i might mark out 3 diversified bands. those bands could correspond to what I see because the major threads of the story. i'm considering of: 1. The Chancery, with the entire felony aspects. during this tale line belong the court docket itself, and the criminal workplaces akin to Kenge and Carboy and Mr. Tulkinghorn's. The characters with regards to those felony facets could belong to this band. 2. Esther, together with her upbringing and Godmother. And the following belong significant characters akin to John Jarndyce and the 2 Wards, Ada and Richard. 3. Chesney Wold, with the Dedlocks, Mrs Rouncewell and Rosa, etc. Each bankruptcy will be plotted in response to its quantity and to the tale band to which it belongs, and so it might be drawn as a square. to every chapter-square i might supply one among colors, counting on who's narrating it. while Esther is telling the tale i'd colour the sq. pink, and whilst it's the Narrator, it'd be blue. For the early chapters, Band #2 will be more often than not pink, whereas the opposite will be commonly blue; yet because the novel advanced, i

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believe the purple may start to invade different band tales and vice-versa. In each one chapter-square i'd contain little cells, each resembling one personality as they first look within the story. because the chapters complex and the characters reappeared, i'd draw connecting traces for these reappearing cells which might hint truly how these character-cells began to circulation from story-band to story-band. I want i'll draw the graph i've got in brain in HTML layout for this GR box. yet to offer you an idea, i feel it should appear like a mixture of the next graphs: and this: Then i'd additionally mark whilst a few episodes or tales in the stories, have been presented. to those i might supply the form of a kind of elongated bubble or ellipse and they might be superposed at the bankruptcy boxes, when you consider that they wouldn't fairly belong, nor not-belong, to the 3 tale strains above. during this ellipse type I position the episodes concerning the Jellybys, the Badgers, the Turveydrops, etc. Some of the characters, whether they first look within the context of 1 of the bands, ultimately stream from one tale to a different a superb deal. finally they don't relatively belong to anyone of them in particular. those characters I conceive as significant connectors within the plot. i might then mark them with daring enormous dots associated by way of strains and may finally seem like a connecting grid. I name those the Connexions, and Jo, Mr. Guppy, Mr. Smallweed, among others, belong to this category. Mr. Guppy, considered one of my favorite characters, has an immense "connexion" functionality even supposing he's succeeded in his skill to precipitate the plot by way of the main determinant of the connectors, Mr. Bucket. because the Detective, his position is exactly that of connecting every thing and thereby succeed in or propitiate the conclusion. there's one other crew of characters who've a lighter connexion function, simply because they don't quite strengthen the plot, yet assist in pulling it jointly and make it extra cohesive. To this classification I position leave out Flint and will be Charlotte (Charley) Neckett. As we draw additional to the ideal of the X-axis, the connecting traces linking the pivotal characters develop into more and more busy and tangled as they expand over a growing number of boxes. The connecting nodes could turn into anything like: By the end, as we procedure the ultimate chapters, the entire tale bands may have conflated into Esther, and the graph may turn into anything like this one within which the imperative center stands for the All-Loving-Esther. And Charles Dickens deliberate all this and not using a Computer.

Emma Flanagan: i am not the largest Dickens fan yet as i am attempting to learn extra classics this yr I felt I should still supply him a shot again. Bleak residence used to be suggested to me so it gave the look of a very good position to start. it truly is successfully a Victorian cleaning soap or drama, with quite a few storylines. given that Dickens frequently released his novels in serial, they successfully were. With the entire plots and characters you would like your wits approximately you because the tales interweave with each one other, and finally all come together. it is a booklet which incorporates every thing you are going to count on of Dickens. As a author his nice strengths continually lay in a capability to color those super atmospheric scenes, and weave attractive stories which additionally prick on the judgment of right and wrong of the reader. thus the problems of selection are the ridiculousness of the Courts of Chancery, societies perspectives on "fallen women" and their children, although there's additionally the observation on poverty as you will count on in Dickens. of these items he's the indisputable master. The characterisation is potentially the weakest element. there's a loss of intensity to the characters in comparison to the opposite nice novelists together with lots of Dickens contemporaries. Mr Jarndyce for example, regardless of being one of many critical characters, is rarely extra than the beneficiant benefactor. I by no means bought a consider for him as a

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person. Esther although candy and likeable isn't one of many nice heroines, she is simply too angelic and passive. The main attention-grabbing personality is for sure girl Dedlock. She is without doubt one of the few characters we get a true believe for and perception into. Sir Dedlock can be rather interesting. regardless of being a paragon of the establishment, he turns opposed to societal expectancies while he learns the reality approximately woman Dedlock which was once very sweet. probably if there have been much less characters we'd have gotten a greater think for the most characters. a few characters might definitely were distributed with. Harold Skimpole is an lousy frustrating personality who serves no transparent purpose. He sometimes comes out with statements which i believe are meant to symbolize the perspectives of society yet past this he has no definable role. There are different both frustrating characters, I had an intensive disliking of all characters attached with the criminal occupation that is after all the point, yet Harold Skimpole is definitely the worst and such a lot superfluous. but for all that even sometimes vulnerable characterisation through Dickens remains to be much better then so much writers, and his strengths extra then cancel out those weaknesses. Would i like to recommend it? such a lot definitely. it's an stress-free and interesting read. It attracts you in strangely speedy for a ebook of its length. I observed lots of the twists and divulges coming however it did not decrease my delight in it. whether your now not a Dickens fan it truly is worthy giving it a shot...and that is coming from one other non Dickens fan. it is even made me contemplate giving one other of his books in the past at a few point.

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provide first emphasis, so purchase on the one parts nice, of you believe up.