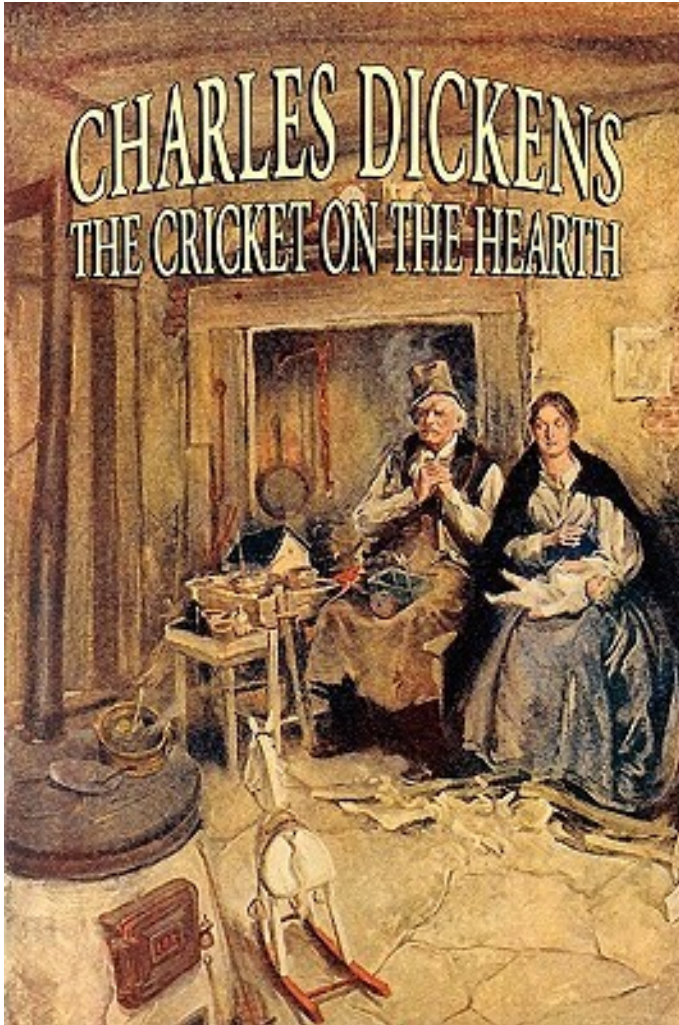


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## Charles Dickens

### The Cricket on the Hearth (Christmas Books)



Title: The Cricket on the Hearth (Christmas Books)

Author: Charles Dickens

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 84

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0809500418

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 6.4 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

Dickens gave his first formal expression to his Christmas thoughts in his series of small books, the first of which was the famous "Christmas Carol." There followed four others: "The Chimes," "The Cricket on the Hearth," "The Battle of Life," and "The Haunted Man." The five are known today as the "Christmas Books." Of them all the "Carol" is the best known and loved, and "The Cricket on the Hearth," although third in the series, is perhaps next in popularity, and is especially familiar to Americans through Joseph Jefferson's characterisation of Caleb Plummer.

The title creature is a sort of barometer of life at the home of John Peerybingle and his much younger wife Dot. When things go well, the cricket on the hearth chirps; it is silent when there is sorrow. Tackleton, a jealous old man, poisons John's mind about Dot, but the cricket through its supernatural powers restores John's confidence and all ends happily.

## Insightful reviews

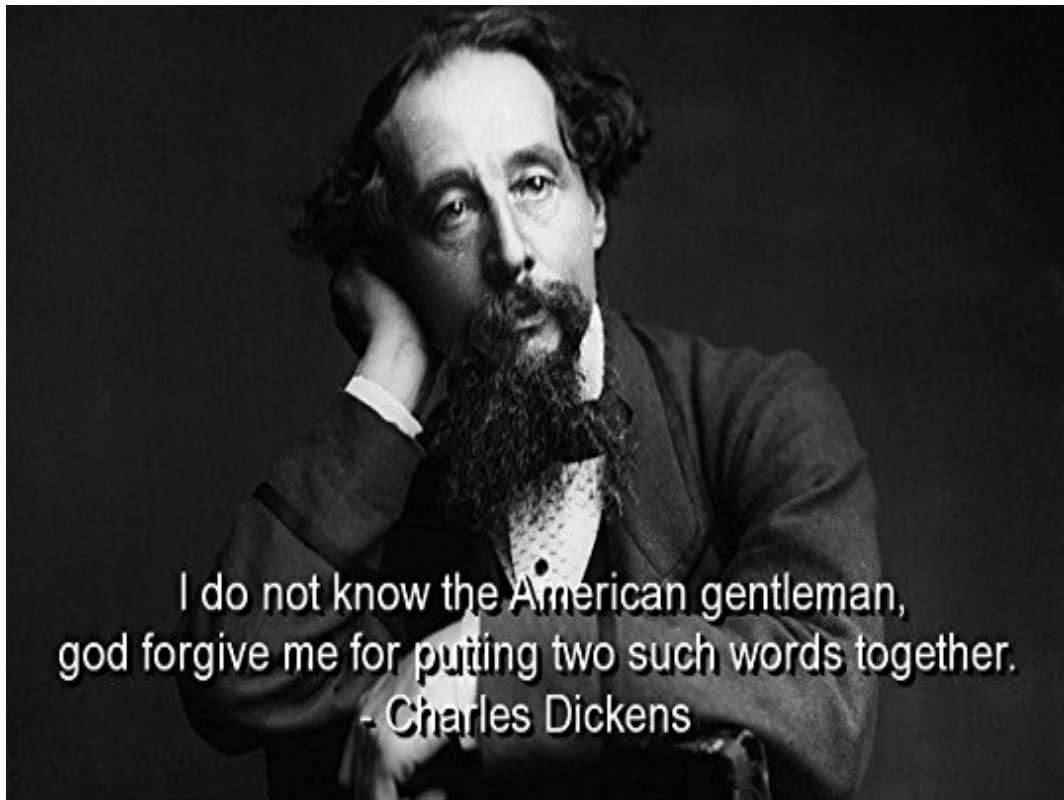
Cherie: I listened to this book in audio as well as reading it in print. I liked it. I didn't love it. I loved the narration by Jim Dale. He really made the characters come to life, but I had to actually read the printed story to understand parts of it.

The title leads one to believe it might be a cute little story, but it is not. It is a dark story with a grown up theme. There is love, lying, seeming betrayal and hurt feelings going on. Yes, there is a cricket and faeries and a lost son returning and a funny little baby nanny too. Like The Christmas Carol, it turns out in the end and everyone is happy. I was glad.

Lyn: Everyone in our time knows about Charles Dickens' magnificent [A Christmas Carol](#), but he actually produced five Christmas themed stories in the 1840s, A Christmas Carol being the first.

The Cricket on the Hearth, the third in this series, is less otherworldly than its more famous predecessor, but has magical realism elements with the Cricket as a guardian spirit and references to spirits and faeries. Charmingly domestic, this tells a simple story of love lost and found again as only the inimitable Mr. Dickens can. Loyal readers of his prose will also enjoy many other ubiquitous qualities of his writing such as complex characters (and wickedly appropriate names) social observation and comment and the long lost traveller surreptitiously come home.

Delightful.



CadyCan: The beginning with its entire focus on noises of the cricket vs the noise of the kettle boiling and reaching its climax seems initially irrelevant and obscure but the clever weaving of the cricket on the hearth throughout the tale reveals its purpose as the story progresses. I just love the sentiment of perceived indiscretion which was absolutely not what it seemed but an entirely honest and lovely act on the part of the truly wholesome, loyal and devoted wife that is the main character of the story. Essentially a love story but one that is not sappy or sordid but simply old fashioned, honest and wholesome, as it should be. Even the "meany" comes round and finds his cheery self by the end of it all. I do love a happy ending :-)

Lori: a pleasant tale from Charles Dickens, I may see strains of Scrooge within the story. The narrator used to be fantastic, Jan I believe you. I'll take heed to Jim Dale learn the telephone booklet and it'd be wonderful!

Amy: it is a favorite! like to learn it at Christmas time. after all components are drawn out with aspect which one may perhaps locate inconsequential. I feel this can be the essence of Dickens, however, and love how the elaborate weaving is pulled jointly within the end! We have a solid steel cricket that we pull out each Christmas. No conventional hearth...so we placed it on best of the piano. it is the digital fire of our home. :)

Maya Panika: Over-egged with sentimentality, even for Dickens. a bit disappointing: very predictable; I assumed there'd be a marginally extra magic in it. I will see why it isn't turn into a classic, yet then, A Christmas Carol was once a very tough act to follow. Comfort-reading, certainly, and pleasant-enough for the season.

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