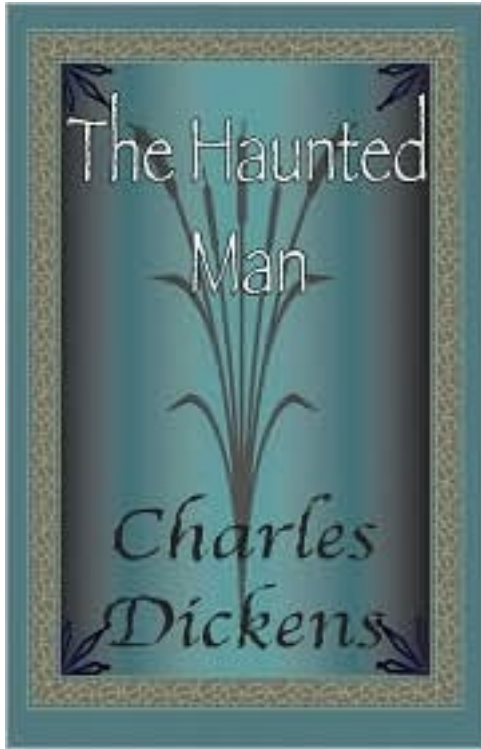

Charles Dickens

The Haunted Man (Christmas Books)



Title: The Haunted Man (Christmas Books)

Author: Charles Dickens

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Description

In this story, Dickens narrates the hair-raising experiences of a professor. As the protagonist dwells on his past sorrows and mistakes, a phantom visits him. It offers him a bizarre escape from painful recollections of yesteryear by offering to eradicate his memory. On seeing the professor turn into a man devoid of emotions, the reader realizes how empty one becomes without a past.

Insightful reviews

David Bland: Dicken's wrote 5 Christmas Novellas. The most well known is "A Christmas Carol". "The Chimes" and "The Cricket on the Hearth" are also well known. "The Haunted Man" and "The Battle for Life" sold well, but are less well known today. The 3 I read prior to this one ("Carol", "Chimes", and "Cricket") seem cohesive, and generally follow characters that we meet early in the story. "Haunted Man" starts with "The Chemist" and his servants, and later abruptly jumps to the Tetterby family. The jump was so jarring that I wondered if I had a corrupted kindle version of the book. But, I persevered, and the story eventually caught up with itself. I found the book hard to follow, and it misses capturing the magic of Carol, Chimes, and Cricket. I'll continue on to read "Battle for Life", and I'll mark this one to reread, to see if I missed something. But my heart tells me that this just wasn't one of Dickens' better efforts.

Jason: Read in [A Christmas Carol and Other Christmas Classics](#).

4.5 stars, though the high rating is for personal reasons. It spoke to my heart. It stabbed right to the center of it because I could relate to the theme and it's moral. There were a few morals, but the main one for me was "don't be a wanton dick."

Often I deliberately turn my heart cold. I set it to stone, or iron even. It's more difficult nowadays, but sometimes I just don't want to feel. When one feels, he is subject to pain, and I don't always want that. Pain from wrongs done to me. Guilt over wrongs I've done others. Sadness over happy events that will never come again. Sometimes I just don't want to feel these things. Our main character had similar sentiments, and was given the chance to nip the memories that caused such maudlin malaise right down in the bud. He took it, and the consequences that went with it. Without the memories of things that caused him such woes, he was doomed to treat others rather poorly, and they were hurt.

I need my memories and feelings in order to grow, but that doesn't stop me from trying it this man's way sometimes (without the supernatural element, of course). I harden my heart, but invariably it cracks again. Through some self-help efforts, I'm assured that I will eventually no longer regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it, and I'm there most of the time. It's best to look things in the eye, see them for what they are instead of what I would wish for them to be, then move on. Lying to myself, and living dishonestly with rose colored glasses has never netted me any good results. (I have to be careful about wearing mud spattered glasses as well).

This story dredged up all that and more for me, and it's affect on me is why it gets such a high

rating. Otherwise I'd have given it 3 stars for the story itself.

It's classic Dickens. His prose is verbose, but pleasantly so. Great turns-o-phrase abound. The coincidences which were lacking in the last Christmas book ([The Battle Of Life](#)) returned here. And there are the exaggerated and silly characters. I especially loved the Tetterby family. The ending is happy, and leaves me with that warm, feel-good, Christmasy feeling, but it's not cloying.

The moral is expanded from what I mentioned above to include us needing our memories so that we can have the capacity to forgive. And that's another thing. I often ask God to forgive me my trespasses as I forgive those who trespass against me. I say it, though often the feeling inside is more like "God, kill ALL THE FUCKING BITCHES AND BASTARDS, if it be thy will, amen." So I have to be careful here. I'm asking the great Other who niggles at my mind throughout life to forgive me using the same exact standards with which I forgive others, and doesn't that just suck if I'm being cold-hearted? God dammit; can't win for tryin' sometimes, but it's good to be reminded of these kinds of things. It isn't always easy turning around and finding you're at the Magic Mirror Gate, but it's always instructive if you can face it. Thank you Mr. Dickens for hitting my defenses with a bunker buster, for I sure need it sometimes.

If any of this made any sense, then you'd probably enjoy this story immensely. If you're a fan of Dickens, you'd probably still really enjoy it, but maybe less so than if you can't relate. It was a gut puncher for me.

Laura: *From BBC Radio 4 Extra:*

Charles Dickens' last Christmas story is a vivid account of a man tormented by his past. With Michael Tudor-Barnes and John Moffatt.

Jake: it is a darkish Christmas story, even via A Christmas Carol standards. It does comprise an outstanding comedic element: the Tetterby family. they seem to be a hoot. it is the 3rd Dicken's Christmas tale i have learn and, no surprise, A Christmas Carol continues to be my favorite. one of many issues i admire approximately Dicken's Christmas stories is he contains Christmas's darkside--when lonely humans get lonelier, unhappy humans get sadder, and egocentric humans get extra selfish. Dicken's offers wish that such vice and folly could be overcome. humans can get better. Dicken's will get me believing this via the end. for individuals eager to depart out from the standard Christmas fare, i like to recommend this story.

Thomas Johnson: Dickens crafts one other darkish but hopeful Christmas story here. Redlaw is a greater built and subtler personality than Ebenezer Scrooge, and his stopover at with a spirit -- and the result of that stopover at -- are arguably extra heartbreaking. Scrooge realized his lesson by way of having a look in on these humans he knew and staring at their lives undetected. Redlaw simply realizes his mistake as soon as he has inflicted anguish on many greater than simply himself. there is a transparent lesson to the story, yet it is a little extra fascinating than the i discovered in A Christmas Carol such a lot we all know the significance of being style to others, yet now not all people could imagine -- or maybe agree -- that undesirable stories are an enormous a part of being human.

Elinor Loredan: i do not comprehend why this one is not nearly as well-known as A Christmas Carol, since it is especially profound, addressing the query of no matter if we might be if shall we disregard all of our sorrows and troubles. The story, during which that very factor occurs to the hero, argues that we might not, yet lose all of our softness compassion, and gratitude for solid times, infused with Dickens' attribute humor and pathos.

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