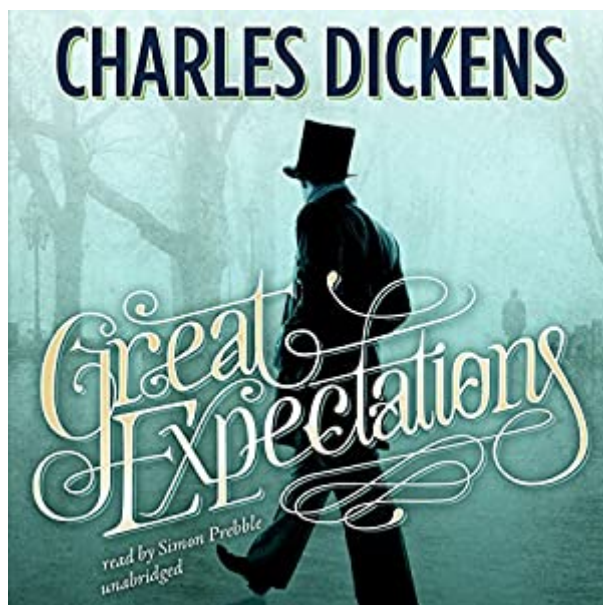


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# Great Expectations



## Synopsis

One of the most revered works in English literature, *Great Expectations* traces the coming of age of a young orphan, Pip, from a boy of shallow aspirations into a man of maturity. From the chilling opening confrontation with an escaped convict to the grand but eerily disheveled estate of bitter old Miss Havisham, all is not what it seems in Dickens' dark tale of false illusions and thwarted desire. Raised by a humble blacksmith, Pip is recruited by the wealthy Miss Havisham to be a companion to her ward, the cold but beautiful Estella. There, Pip learns to despise his rough origins as Estella torments him about his low prospects. When Pip is informed that an unknown benefactor expects to make him his heir, he sets off to London to realize his "great expectations." But true gentleman stature, he will find, is a matter of character, not fortune.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have read most of Dickens work and continue to reread many. I have been touched by the skill, power and superb craft infused into the stories. Art reflecting life as a painting in words so rich in color and vibrancy is cherished each time I start again. I wish I could thank Mr Dickens personally.

I really enjoyed reading this book and it was a great opportunity to confirm why Dickens has been loved and his works have been classics. Although almost all the people must have heard the famous name, Charles Dickens, and the title of his works, I think that not many of them enjoy reading and appreciate the author's works. Actually, I thought when I watched the film 'the Great

Expectations', the film must have nothing to do with Charles Dickens even though I watched more than seven times as I loved the main colors (based on 'green' throughout the movie), the actors and the actresses. You might be laughing at my confession. I think that the modifications and adaptations to the modern backgrounds of the film have made me confusing enough. Anyway, the film has made me curious of the title and the relationship between the novel and the film, so it finally led me to read this book. Considering the film belongs to 1990's, too many years have passed. However, (despite the gap(the time) between watching the film and reading this book) I am grateful for the time to allow myself reading and confirming the greatness of this book 'The Great Expectations'. The fantastic expressions or the use of words (language), and the descriptions of the characters' inner emotions and thoughts, not to mention the plot of this work !!! By reading this book, I could confirm why Charles Dickens has long been loved and appreciated.

Great Expectations, hailed by many as Dickens' best novel, hardly needs my review. Nevertheless, here goes. GE is very, very Dickensian and it's peopled by a multitude of interesting folks: good guys who are very good, bad guys who are sort of a mixed bag, and a slew of intriguing characters, major and minor. In particular, the wildly inventive and bizarre Miss Havisham, all by herself, makes reading this book worthwhile. The bottom line for me is that Great Expectations is a tale told in first person by Pip, and I really couldn't quite bring myself to like him. I kept thinking he deserved all the bad things that happened to him, and none of the good things. The novel also appears to make a point that is a little disturbing, that one should be careful what one wishes for, because you might be better off accepting one's lot in life. Clearly, in this case at least, fulfillment of great expectations does not lead to a better life. While it's sublimely well written, as one would expect from a Grand Master of the English language, Great Expectations is not my favorite Dickens. That remains a tie between David Copperfield and A Tale of Two Cities. A part of my personal "Classics I Should Have Read But Didn't" series, I listened to most of Great Expectations as opposed to reading it, the Audible.com version read by Simon Prebble. As usual, Prebble's narration is superb.

Charles Dickens' GREAT EXPECTATIONS is a wonderful book for young readers. The story of Pip is a lasting memory for young readers and entrances their engagement into a classic read. Join other young readers as they discover the bends in the life of Pip and what happens to him. The left-at-the-altar Miss Havisham is a memorable character in her goal to have her ward hate men as revenge for her spinster status. Dressed in her decades old wedding dress and the room and its

content for the reception, Ms. Havensham is a misguided, however wealthy, person. My ESL tutee will love this book and excite his desire for reading. He is in the first grade and reads at third grade level. When I met him three years ago, he was Spanish-speaking only. Many books that I read to him were read during the time he was home with his older brother and his mother. Both parents helped him learn English, although they solely speak Spanish in the home. Since my limited Spanish is a rusty 40-year old level, I have been studying books from to keep my Spanish conversational and fresh with the mother. Diego will love this Dickens' book.

If this review is integrated into reviews of other publisher versions, let it be known I have purchased the Dover Thrift Edition. If you are in need of a classic, this book comes highly recommended. I make this recommendation for people who would be interested in a book for its great characterization. While reading the novel, I had a distinct feeling for each of the characters, often having unique voices simply by the form of their words. It is a story of a poor boy who becomes interested in acquiring class, acquires it (by chance, not effort) and then readjusts into a new life separate from his old one. In this story, we meet eccentric characters of the countryside, then become acquainted with the classier characters of the city. The narrator, Pip, is both likable, unlikable, and relatable because of his many flaws and aspirations. Much of the story is driven by love, though the subject of our narrator's love is often admitted not to deserve it. I found the first part of the novel comparable to a read of Huckleberry Finn because of young Pip's innocence and strong heart. When it got to the second part, it reads much like a Victorian version of Catcher in the Rye, because teenage Pip (self-aware and hard on him with it) often finds himself ashamed, embarrassed, and unhappy in a room with anyone--his lesser and higher companions. The third portion becomes unlike anything but itself, and is introduced precisely at the time that the story threatens to fizzle out. I found the third portion of the book to be the most suspenseful and ironic, where the moral point is fully uncovered. This book is not heavy with action, combat, or thrills, but with voice, irony, and layered interaction. This is the type of book that someone reads when they're looking to reflect on themselves for who they are and how they treat their old and new loyalties.

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