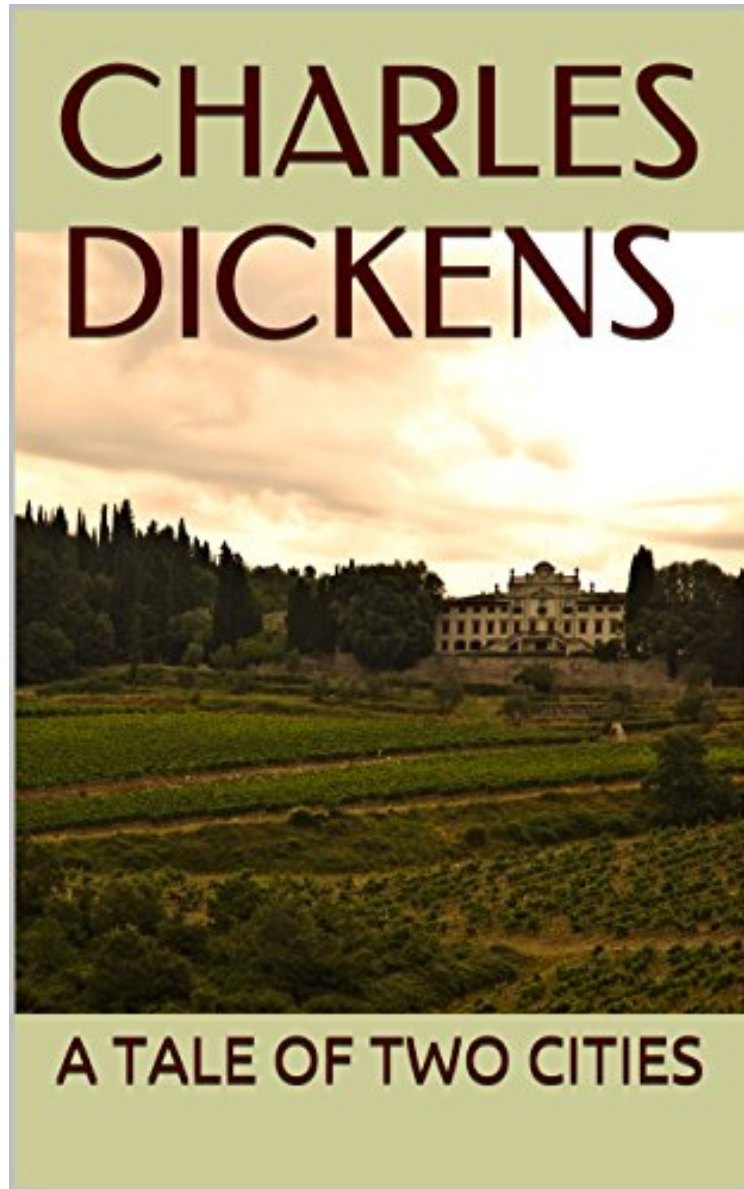


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## A Tale of Two Cities (English Edition)

*Von Charles Dickens*

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #684216 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2013-09-28Erscheinungsdatum:  
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**Von Charles Dickens : A Tale of Two Cities (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Tale of Two Cities (English Edition):

Kurzbeschreibung Two novels by Charles Dickens are in this Kindle book: A Tale of Two Cities (1859) and Great Expectations (1860)

**A Tale of Two Cities (1859)** Set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution, A Tale of Two Cities is one of the most famous novels in history. The opening lines are often quoted: It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, As the novel begins, Jarvis Lorry's urgent services are required. He is to meet a young woman at Dover named Lucie Manette who is believed to be an orphan. But in fact her father, Doctor Manette, has been found in France.

**Great Expectations** Six-year-old Pip is living with his sister and her husband, Joe, when he is invited to a castle owned by Miss Havisham, a wealthy old woman who was jilted at the altar and has never removed her wedding dress. Pip has been summoned to play with Miss Havisham's adopted child, Estella, and he soon falls in love with Estella, but there is little hope for Pip. That does not stop him dreaming of marrying Estella as he matures, however. Little does Pip know his fortunes are about to take a turn, and he will soon discover what life is like as a gentleman.

**About The Author** Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was an English writer often regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian period. He was born in Portsmouth and worked in a factory when his father was sent to debtors' prison. He wrote 15 novels, and his first famous novel was *The Pickwick Papers*.

**Charles Dickens Classic Books include:**

1. *Pickwick Club* (Serial 1836-37)
2. *Oliver Twist* (Serial 1837 - 39)
3. *Nicholas Nickleby* (Serial 1838 - 1839)
4. *The Old Curiosity Shop* (Serial 1840 - 1841)
5. *Barnaby Rudge* (Serial 1841 - 1841)
6. *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit* (Serial 1843 - 1844)
7. *Dombey and Son* (Serial 1846 - 1848)
8. *David Copperfield* (Serial 1849 - 1850)
9. *Bleak House* (Serial 1852 - 1853)
10. *Hard Times* (Serial 1854 - 1854)
11. *Little Dorrit* (Serial 1855 - 1857)
12. *A Tale of Two Cities* (Serial 1859 - 1859)
13. *Great Expectations* (Serial 1860 - 1861)
14. *Our Mutual Friend* (Serial 1864 - 1865)
15. *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (1870).

deDickens considered *Great Expectations* one of his "little pieces," and indeed, it is slim compared to such weighty novels as *David Copperfield* or *Nicholas Nickleby*. But what this cautionary tale of a young man raised high above his station by a mysterious benefactor lacks in length, it more than makes up for in its remarkable characters and compelling story. The novel begins with young orphaned Philip Pirrip--Pip--running afoul of an escaped convict in a cemetery. This terrifying personage bullies Pip into stealing food and a file for him, threatening that if he tells a soul "your heart and your liver shall be tore out, roasted and ate." The boy does as he's asked, but the convict is captured anyway, and transported to the penal colonies in Australia. Having started his novel in a cemetery, Dickens then ups the stakes and introduces his hero into the decaying household of Miss Havisham, a wealthy, half-mad woman who was jilted on her wedding day many years before and has never recovered. Pip is brought there to play with Miss Havisham's ward, Estella, a little girl who delights in tormenting Pip about his rough hands and future as a blacksmith's apprentice. I had never thought of being ashamed of my hands before; but I began to consider them a very indifferent pair. Her contempt for me was so strong, that it became infectious, and I caught it. It is an infection that Pip never quite recovers from; as he spends more time with Miss Havisham and the tantalizing Estella, he becomes more and more discontented with his guardian, the kindhearted blacksmith, Joe, and his childhood friend Biddy. When, after several years, Pip becomes the heir of an unknown benefactor, he leaps at the chance to leave his home and friends behind to go to London and become a gentleman. But having expectations, as Pip soon learns, is a two-edged sword, and nothing is as he thought it would be. Like that other "little piece," *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Great Expectations* is different from the usual Dickensian fare: the story is dark, almost surreal at times, and you'll find few of the author's patented comic characters and no comic set pieces. And yet this is arguably the most compelling of Dickens's novels for, unlike *David Copperfield* or *Martin Chuzzlewit*, the reader can never be sure that things will work out for Pip. Even Dickens apparently had his doubts--he wrote two endings for this novel.

--Alix Wilber

**Pressestimmen** [*A Tale of Two Cities*] has the best of Dickens and the worst of Dickens: a dark, driven opening, and a celestial but melodramatic ending; a terrifyingly demonic villainess and (even by Dickens standards) an impossibly angelic heroine. Though its version of the French Revolution is brutally simplified, its engagement with the immense moral themes of rebirth and terror, justice, and sacrifice gets right to the heart of the matter . . . For every reader in the past hundred and forty years and for hundreds to come, it is an unforgettable ride.

from the Introduction by Simon Schama