



A Tale of Two Cities and Great Expectations: Two Novels (Oprah's Book Club)

Charles Dickens

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Two of the most beloved novels in all of English literature--together in one extraordinary volume.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

After 18 years as a political prisoner in the Bastille, the aging Doctor Manette is finally released and reunited with his daughter in England. There the lives of the two very different men, Charles Darnay, an exiled French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a disreputable but brilliant English lawyer, become enmeshed through their love for Lucie Manette. From the tranquil roads of London, they are drawn against their will to the vengeful, bloodstained streets of Paris at the height of the Reign of Terror, and they soon fall under the lethal shadow of the guillotine.



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

A terrifying encounter with an escaped convict in a graveyard on the wild Kent marshes; a summons to meet the bitter, decaying Miss Havisham and her beautiful, cold-hearted ward Estella; the sudden generosity of a mysterious benefactor--these form a series of events that changes the orphaned Pip's life forever, and he eagerly abandons his humble origins to begin a new life as a gentleman. Dickens's haunting late novel depicts Pip's education and development through adversity as he discovers the true nature of his "great expectations."

This deluxe paperback edition features

- French flaps
- rough-cut high-quality paper
- complimentary front- and back-cover designs highlighting each novel and including foil and debossing

A Charles Dickens Timeline

1812	Born February 7 in Portsmouth, England
1824	His father John sent to Marshalsea Debtor's Prison for a debt of £40 and 10 shillings Began working 10-hour days in shoe-polish warehouse to help support family
1833	First story, "A Dinner at Poplar Walk," appeared in the <i>Monthly Magazine</i>
1836	First book, <i>Sketches by Boz</i> , collected his early journalism and stories

- First novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, began its monthly serialization
- Married Catherine Hogarth
- 1837-39 *Oliver Twist* appeared in monthly installments
- 1838-39 *Nicholas Nickleby* serialized
- 1840-41 *The Old Curiosity Shop*
- 1841 *Barnaby Rudge*
- 1842 *American Notes*, based on his tour that year of the United States
- 1843 *The Christmas Carol*, the first of his "Christmas tales"
- 1843-44 *Martin Chuzzlewit*
- 1846-48 *Dombey and Son*
- 1849-50 *David Copperfield*
- 1852-53 *Bleak House*
- 1854 *Hard Times*
- 1855-57 *Little Dorrit*
- 1857 Met actress Ellen Ternan, his longtime companion
- 1858 Separated from his wife, Catherine
- 1859 *A Tale of Two Cities*
- 1860-61 *Great Expectations*
- 1864-65 *Our Mutual Friend*
- 1867-68 Second tour of America
- 1868-69 Farewell reading tour of the British Isles
- 1870 *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (unfinished)
- Died from a stroke on June 9

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Lester Baker:

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