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Little Dorrit



Synopsis

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"It tripped my social conscience and infected me for the rest of my life" -- Jon Snow "I would always prefer to go get another Dickens off the shelf than pick up a new book by someone I've not read yet" -- Donna Tartt "He's a marvellous writer...He's very, very good" -- William Trevor "There is no one Dickens novel I could pick over all the others. Dickens is huge-like the sky. Pick any page of Dickens and it's immediately recognizable as him, yet he might be doing social satire, or farce, or horror, or a psychological study of a murderer-or any combination of these" -- Susannah Clarke "In Little Dorrit, Dickens attacked English institutions with a ferocity that has never since been approached" -- George Orwell --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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This book was so good I wasn't ready to let it go. In fact after reading it I then went and picked up the audio book and listened to it, and I'm still letting it play through for the second time around. I don't want to let these characters go. Arthur is this genuine, sweet, good hearted soul who just wants to do the right things. Little Dorrit is a sweet girl who does her best for her family. Fanny Dorrit is living the best life she knows how given a disposition that has become a bit bitter. William Dorrit is a mixture of pompous conceit and fragile pathetic character. Pancks is the guy who gets stuck doing the dirty work of another and still turns out to be a good person. Poor Flora is this utterly silly woman who you can tell from her character has a lot of feeling but has little ability to express those feelings without seeming ridiculous-- there's at least one person in everyone's past who has made them come off a little ridiculous, isn't there? There are so very many characters I can't give you a sketch of all of them, but I can say that many of them are likable, all of them are relatable in one fashion or another. I can't say the story is exactly believable. Of course there certainly were debtor's prisons, and very likely Dickens would know more about them than I would, that's not the part I find hard to believe. It's the rich dead uncle that rescued them all that is about as far fetched as the fairy tales of poor young women being found and married to a prince. Still it was an amazingly enjoyable tale and I will have to move on eventually, but not tonight. Tonight I'll immerse myself in this story and let it play on and on.

“He never thought that she saw in him what no one else could see. He never thought that in the whole world there were no other eyes that looked upon him with the same light and strength as hers. I have been told this is the closest to an autobiographical novel that Dickens ever wrote. I have also been told this is one of his funniest novels. While I did enjoy its darkish humor, I think of this book as a love story of two people that thought the other was out of their reach. I am happy to tell you this has a successful conclusion but it is a long time coming. This is the story of Amy Dorrit known as Little Dorrit who was born and lived in debtor's prison with her father and brother and sister. Her mother was dead. It is also the story of Arthur Clennam who is fascinated by Little Dorrit and seeks to help her in any way he can. There is a huge cast of characters and a storyline that encompasses most of the world before returning to debtor's prison to end the tale. The many plots of this tale evolve around a con man, a simple man who becomes rich after spending most of his life behind bars, an honest man who is conned and ends up in debtor's prison because he will not do a dishonorable thing to save his life. A mother who keeps secrets and feels guilt. I have never

read this book before and I have read most of Dickens works. He is one of my favorite authors and does not disappoint here either. I thoroughly enjoyed it and can recommend it.

This was a long slog. Mostly, it was entertaining and engaging. Sometimes it got tedious. I believe I read somewhere that authors should show, not just tell. Therein lies the problem here. Little Dorrit contains two characters, Little Dorrit's father and Flora the one-time intended of Arthur Clennam, who blather incoherently and excessively, and we get the full experience of that blather...over...and...over...again. I wanted to choke the both of them. Other than that, the story is fairly interesting, as is usual for Dickens. There are lots of weird, interesting characters, lots of wry comments on the human condition, especially as it relates to law or government, and so forth. Although there is an orphan in the book, we don't realize it until 80% of the way through, and then, she's not exactly a major character, although an important one. We do, however, get our fair share of eccentric old maids, grifters, ne'er-do-wells, shady lawyers and all the other characters who make up Dickens' menagerie, and of course, a couple of poor but extremely good hearted people. While this is not my favorite Dickens book by a long shot, it is still well worth reading.

The book is thick and wordy, but the setting and characters are so well developed. Amy Dorrit is such an amazing character, so loving and full of grace in circumstances that would test the patience of Job. While it is true that this novel was written during a "dark" period for Dickens and the scene is rather rough (as are many of the characters), the two main characters have such redeeming qualities that it is worth the long ride.

The book is great, but the marketing is false. The "Free Audiobook" turns out to be a link to librivox that does not interface with the Kindle book.

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