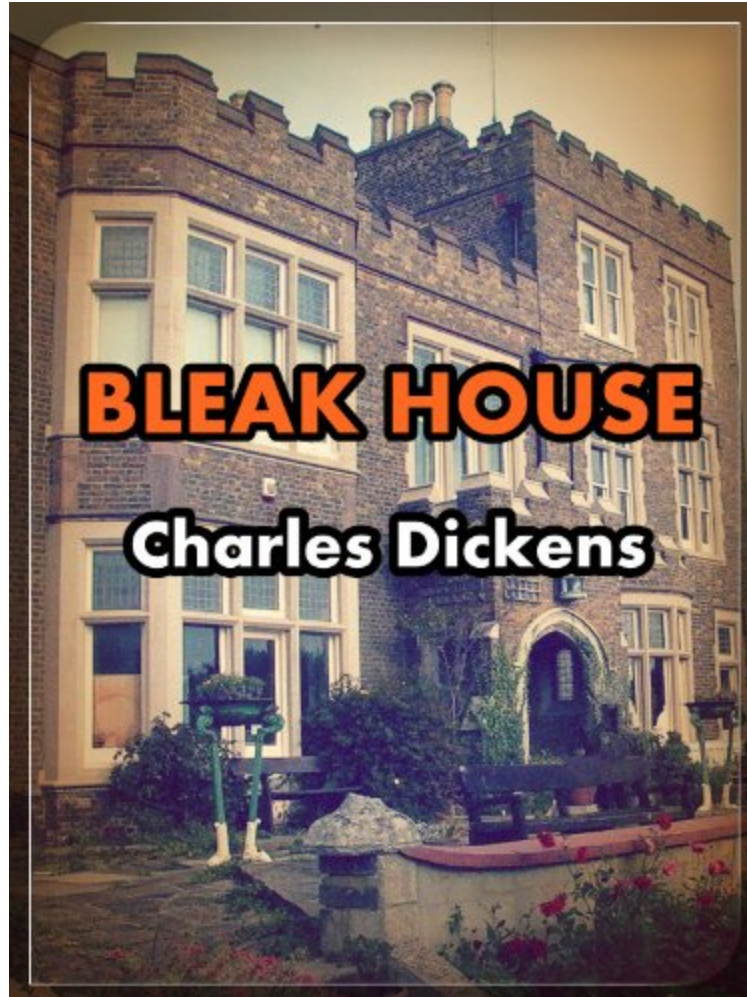


(Download free pdf) Bleak House (Illustrated) (English Edition)

Bleak House (Illustrated) (English Edition)

Von Charles Dickens

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Von Charles Dickens : Bleak House (Illustrated) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bleak House (Illustrated) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen8 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Nothing bleak about this...Von Ian BurleyAfter years without picking up a novel by Dickens (memories of starchy classes at school), I decided to plunge into "Bleak House", a novel that had been sitting on my bookshelf for about ten years, waiting to be read. Although I found it heavy going at first, mainly because the style is so unfamiliar to modern readers, after about ten pages I was swept up and carried off, unable to put the hefty tome down until I had finished it. This book is a definite classic. The sheer scope of the tale, the wit of the satire (which could still be applied to many legal proceedings today) and the believable characters gripped me up until the magnificent conclusion. One particularly striking thing is the "cinematic" aspect of certain chapters as they switch between different angles,

building up to a pitch that leaves the reader breathless. I can't recommend "Bleak House" too highly. And I won't wait so long before reading more Dickens novels.

5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Great Principle of English Law: Make Business Von Bernard M. Patten The one great principle of English Law according to Dickens is to make business for itself. There is no other principle distinctly, certainly, and consistently maintained through all its narrow turnings. Only when viewed by this light does the legal system become a coherent scheme, and not the monstrous maze we are apt to think it. Let the public clearly perceive that its grand principle (Dickens says), "is to make business for itself at their expense, and surely they will cease to grumble." Obtaining a decision in Court was likely to be frustratingly slow and expensive as Dickens discovered in 1844 when he launched suits against five piratical publishers for breach of copyright. As he complained in a letter, "I was really treated as if I were the robber instead of the robbed." Although Dickens won the suit, it cost him more than any damages he was able to collect and he resolved never again to become involved in dealing with Chancery, remarking bitterly in 1846 that "it is better to suffer a great wrong than to have recourse to the much greater wrong of the law." Ultimately, he got his revenge, as writers often do, by publishing in 1852, Bleak House, his novel, about, among other things, the law's delay, and the human consequences thereof. The story evolves around the case of Jarndyce and Jarndyce, a law suit which in the course of time became so complicated that no man alive knew what it meant. The parties to it understood it least and the only way it could end, it did end: consumed in costs. Along the way to this pitiable end, the reader gets to know some wonderful characters who do amazing and interesting things, in an authentically described landscape of a polluted nineteenth century London. If you haven't experienced this great classic yet, I advise you to do so. You are in for a great treat.

4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Maximum Complexity with Maximum Conciseness Von Jaime When I first picked up Bleak House, I was daunted by its size. As I read, I found each page was filled with "maximum complexity with maximum conciseness," housing a great deal of character and setting details and descriptions. However, the novel proved to be full of clever satire, which I later found out to be directed at the High Courts of Chancery and lawyers of England. The character descriptions in the book are fantastic, and the witty satire borderlines the same genius. Perhaps my favorite part of the book is the character of Mrs. Jellyby who is so concerned with foreign aid (what Dickens calls 'Telescopic Philanthropy' as a title of the fourth chapter) that she neglects her children. Her dirty and mistreated son Peepy gets his head stuck in bars in the stairs and then falls down them, only for Mrs. Jellyby to continue a conversation. Dickens' satirical look at many things in the book make it what I think is the best Dickens I have read so far in my life.

Kurzbeschreibung The book includes 10 unique illustrations that are relevant to its content. Bleak House is a novel by Charles Dickens, published in twenty monthly instalments between March 1852 and September 1853. It is held to be one of Dickens's finest novels, containing one of the most vast, complex and engaging arrays of minor characters and sub-plots in his entire canon. The story is told partly by the novel's heroine, Esther Summerson, and partly by an omniscient narrator. Memorable characters include the menacing lawyer Tulkinghorn, the friendly, but depressive John Jarndyce, and the childish and disingenuous Harold Skimpole, as well as the likeable but imprudent Richard Carstone. At the novel's core is long-running litigation in England's Court of Chancery, Jarndyce v Jarndyce, which has far-reaching consequences for all involved. This case revolves around a testator who apparently made several wills, all of them seeking to bequeath money and land surrounding the Manor of Marr in South Yorkshire. The litigation, which already has consumed years and sixty to seventy thousand pounds sterling in court costs, is emblematic of the failure of Chancery. Dickens's assault on the flaws of the British judiciary system is based in part on his own experiences as a law clerk, and in part on his experiences as a Chancery litigant seeking to enforce his copyright on his earlier books. His harsh characterisation of the slow, arcane Chancery law process gave memorable form to pre-existing widespread frustration with the system. Though Chancery lawyers and judges criticized Dickens's portrait of Chancery as exaggerated and unmerited, his novel helped to spur an ongoing movement that culminated in enactment of the legal reform in the 1870s. In fact, Dickens was writing just as Chancery was reforming itself, with the Six Clerks and Masters mentioned in Chapter One abolished in 1842 and 1852 respectively: the need for further reform was being widely debated. These facts raise an issue as to when Bleak House is actually set. Technically it must be before 1842, and at least some of his readers at the time would have been aware of this. However, there is some question as to whether this timeframe is consistent with some of the themes of the novel. The great English legal historian Sir William Holdsworth (see below), set the action in 1827.

deBleak House is a satirical look at the Byzantine legal system in London as it consumes the minds and talents of the greedy and nearly destroys the lives of innocents--a contemporary tale indeed. Dickens's tale takes us from the foggy dank streets of London and the maze of the Inns of Court to the peaceful countryside of England. Likewise, the characters run from murderous villains to virtuous girls, from a devoted lover to a "fallen woman," all of whom are affected by a legal suit in which there will, of course, be no winner. The first-person narrative related by the orphan Esther is particularly sweet. The articulate reading by the acclaimed British actor Paul Scofield, whose distinctive broad English accent lends just the right degree of sonority

and humor to the text, brings out the color in this classic social commentary disguised as a Victorian drama. However, to abridge Dickens is, well, a Dickensian task, the results of which make for a story in which the author's convoluted plot lines and twists of fate play out in what seems to be a fast-forward format. Listeners must pay close attention in order to keep up with the multiple narratives and cast of curious characters, including the memorable Inspector Bucket and Mr. Guppy. Fortunately, the publisher provides a partial list of characters on the inside jacket. (Running time: 3 hours; 2 cassettes).

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