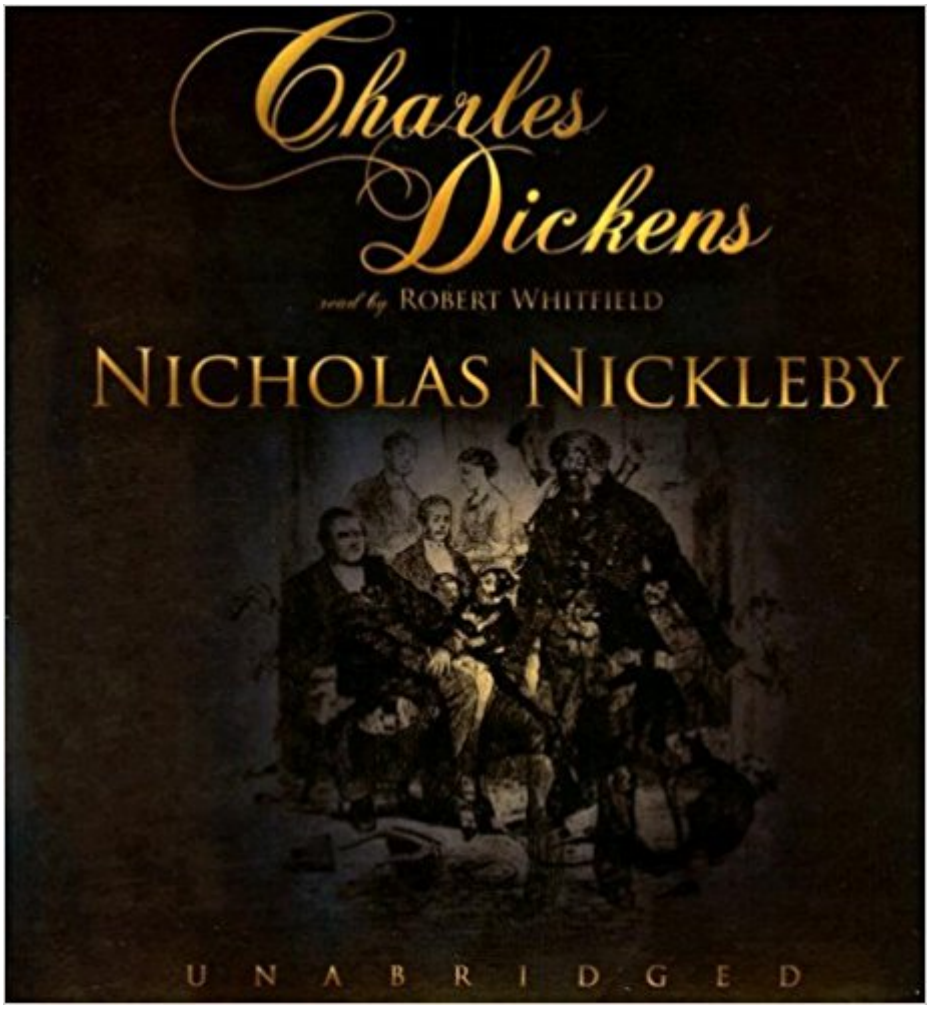
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Nicholas Nickleby



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Synopsis

The most gorgeously theatrical of all Dickens's novels, Nicholas Nickleby mingles the somber world of Oliver Twist with the sunlit spectacle of The Pickwick Papers.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Blackstone Audio Inc.; Unabridged edition (February 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786161442

ISBN-13: 978-0786161447

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.7 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 234 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,236,165 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (D) > Dickens, Charles #579 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Classics #5130 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

Customer Reviews

Nicholas Nickleby, a gentleman's son fallen upon hard times, must set out to make his way in the world. Along the way various older, money-grubbing villains attempt to injure him. Eventually, with the assistance of kind patrons, he and his family achieve economic security and a happy home. Sounds rather trite, doesn't it? Not with characters written by Dickens (Hard Times, Audio Reviews, LJ 5/1/98). Schoolmaster Squeers would make a fine poster boy for child abusers. Ralph Nickleby's initial desire to injure Nicholas gradually develops into a full-blown obsession. Then there are the kind Cheeryble brothers, the gentle, much-abused Smike, and a host of other friends who provide comic relief. Martin Jarvis does an outstanding job of reading this book. His ingenues sound young (a frequent problem area for male readers) while his villains are deliciously evil. The only problems are with the abridgment. In several places, choppy editing has left brief, disconnected scenes and/or character cameos without relevance to the abridged tale. Still, this is a charming presentation and a wonderful bridge to a classic book. Recommended for public and academic libraries.Al. Pour-El, Iowa State Univ., Ames Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"The novel has everything: an absorbing melodrama, with a supporting cast of heroes, villains and

eccentrics, set in a London where vast wealth and desperate poverty live cheek-by-jow." --Jasper Rees, The Times"Nicholas Nickleby was a revelation. Here was a school -- Dotheboy's Hall, with its grotesque headmaster, Wackford Squeers -- which was even worse than the prison camp to which my poor innocent parents had confined me! The story of Dotheboy's Hall seemed horribly familiar -- the beatings, the bad food. But here was something to which even a child could respond, As well as being sympathetic to the plight of the children, the author was hilarious." --A.N. Wilson --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This edition as a LOT of pictures (both full color and the original illustrations). The print matches how the book would have been published in Dicken's time, which is a tad too small for my tastes, but the binding is firm, the book's prices (19.99) when it came out in the 1980's would have been a large sum of money, and the quality shows. The pages are super high quality, the ink does not smudge or rub, and the pictures are throughout the book where Dicken's would have wanted them. Even the color ones are spaced out, unlike some books of this era, where they are all bunched together in the middle.Def. a high quality printing with great illustrations. I think I paid $10 for my copy, with free shipping. Super good value.

Dickens shows sometimes in his earlier novels - this is his 2nd - that he is getting paid by the word/installment. He can get a little wordy. Mrs. Nickleby had one-sentence that was three pages long, but Oh!, what a sentence, he is a magician with verbose characters and narration.

One must remember that this was written in the 19th century and can be a bit difficult to read, with extremely long and detailed descriptions of location, thought and action not found in today's works. Like many of Dicken's novels, the plot is convoluted and chronicles the tale of a young person and his family who have fallen on hard times and the people who both help and hinder their well being. Highly recommended for those who enjoy these old classics or just the patient reader who enjoys a good story with a happy ending.

Dickens' ability to write outrageously hilarious scenes consistently leaves me floored (and fangirling!) and /Nicholas Nickleby/ is no exception in this respect. Dickens is also tremendously skilled at rendering poetic, heartbreakingly beautiful sentimental scenes, and those also find their place in the plot of /NN/.This is definitely earlier Dickens - he hasn't quite attained the writing maturity that characterizes what I consider his masterpieces (David Copperfield, Little Dorrit, Bleak

House, Great Expectations) but it is nevertheless a wonderful read. Early Dickens is still masterful writing.My only qualm with the text is a qualm I have with Dickens in general, his female leads are so bland. Kate Nickleby is basically another Agnes -- too passive and good for me to like. The rest of the characters, however, are wonderfully rendered (Newman Noggs! Smike (sob)! and of course, the Squeers!).The Kindle edition was relatively free of typos (at least, I don't remember too many of them marring my reading).

Typical period piece writing by Dickens. You either love his work or critique it as simplistic plot lines. However, his novels embrace the period in Great Britian when, while its empire touched all 4 corners of the Globe, back home the Social Classes had much suffering at the lower levels. The way children were treated then would be called neglect and abuse in our current time. Yes Dickens is predictable and Yes his novels have common threads to each other, but he allows us a window into a time where the poor and children were exploited. He paints a picture of the landscape and surroundings of London and the countryside in such a way as you would want to be there, or avoid it all together. One of my all time favorite authors, this book shows why so many waited for the next installment back in his day. Todays Soap Operas, Paperbacks and Mini Series have nothing on a Good Dickens Novel - I highly reccomend the reader get back to Dickens and forget that you were foced to read his works back in Middle School. Enjoy

Dickens as usual is a little hard to follow in places, but still a great read (or listen).

This is not a comment on Dickens's writing. This is a comment on this Premium Kindle edition. I have been reading a lot of Dickens over the past few years. Modern America is so far removed from the society that Dickens was writing about, that I find I need a well annotated text to get the most out of my reading. There are no notes available in the "Premium" editions that are touted to be the best Kindle versions of Dickens available. If these are the best, that's not saying much.

Even after having been a devout reader of Dickens throughout my life, I am still awe struck by not only his story telling but the magnificent descriptive prose he uses at critical times throughout his novels. Nicholas Nickleby is no exception.In order to keep his weekly readers alert and in anticipation of this forthcoming work, Dickens had a tendency to vary his style slightly from one tale to the next. With Nickleby he refrains from his numerous 'quirky' characterizations and keeps them at a minimum. I strongly feel this was done as an effort to clearly define the malice and greed that is

shown by the moneychangers of his time. In addition, this prose is more streamlined and less diffuse than some of his other works. It is a linear progression of the two main characters, Nicholas and Kate, as they live out their lives after their father's passing. There are very few side subplots as are so characteristic in other novels. The two that are present (Nickolas's acting career and the pursuance of Kate by one of the scrupulous elite) serve more as a distraction rather than adding to the on going plotline.This edition of Nicholas Nickleby is flawless. I recommend any and all translations by this company.In sum, this novel is an easy, fluid read that makes the 850+ pages seem like much less and, above all, Dickens ends his tale with the moniker that generally accompanies his other works; "And they lived happily ever after.". Ah, if life could always have this cheerful ending.

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