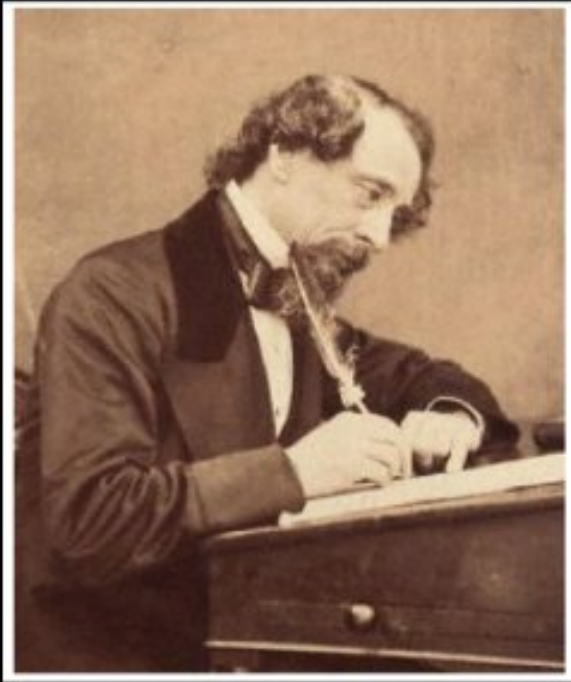


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THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP (Annotated) (English Edition)



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Charles Dickens

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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurNight is generally my time for walking. In the summer I often leave home early in the morning, and roam about fields and lanes all day, or even escape for days or weeks together; but, saving in the country, I seldom go out until after dark, though, Heaven be thanked, I love its light and feel the cheerfulness it sheds upon the earth, as much as any creature living.I have fallen insensibly into this habit, both because it favours my infirmity and because it affords me greater opportunity of speculating on the

characters and occupations of those who fill the streets. The glare and hurry of broad noon are not adapted to idle pursuits like mine; a glimpse of passing faces caught by the light of a street-lamp or a shop window is often better for my purpose than their full revelation in the daylight; and, if I must add the truth, night is kinder in this respect than day, which too often destroys an air-built castle at the moment of its completion, without the least ceremony or remorse. That constant pacing to and fro, that never-ending restlessness, that incessant tread of feet wearing the rough stones smooth and glossy is it not a wonder how the dwellers in narrow ways can bear to hear it! Think of a sick man in such a place as Saint Martin's Court, listening to the footsteps, and in the midst of pain and weariness obliged, despite himself (as though it were a task he must perform) to detect the child's step from the man's, the slipshod beggar from the booted exquisite, the lounging from the busy, the dull heel of the sauntering outcast from the quick tread of an expectant pleasure-seeker think of the hum and noise always being present to his sense, and of the stream of life that will not stop, pouring on, on, on, through all his restless dreams, as if he were condemned to lie, dead but conscious, in a noisy churchyard, and had no hope of rest for centuries to come. This edition includes:- A complete biography of Charles Dickens- A index with direct links chaptersPrsentation de l'diteurNight is generally my time for walking. In the summer I often leave home early in the morning, and roam about fields and lanes all day, or even escape for days or weeks together; but, saving in the country, I seldom go out until after dark, though, Heaven be thanked, I love its light and feel the cheerfulness it sheds upon the earth, as much as any creature living. I have fallen insensibly into this habit, both because it favours my infirmity and because it affords me greater opportunity of speculating on the characters and occupations of those who fill the streets.

The glare and hurry of broad noon are not adapted to idle pursuits like mine; a glimpse of passing faces caught by the light of a street-lamp or a shop window is often better for my purpose than their full revelation in the daylight; and, if I must add the truth, night is kinder in this respect than day, which too often destroys an air-built castle at the moment of its completion, without the least ceremony or remorse. That constant pacing to and fro, that never-ending restlessness, that incessant tread of feet wearing the rough stones smooth and glossy is it not a wonder how the dwellers in narrow ways can bear to hear it! Think of a sick man in such a place as Saint Martin's Court, listening to the footsteps, and in the midst of pain and weariness obliged, despite himself (as though it were a task he must perform) to detect the child's step from the man's, the slipshod beggar from the booted exquisite, the lounging from the busy, the dull heel of the sauntering outcast from the quick tread of an expectant pleasure-seeker think of the hum and noise always being present to his sense, and of the stream of life that will not stop, pouring on, on, on, through all his restless dreams, as if he were condemned to lie, dead but conscious, in a noisy churchyard, and had no hope of rest for centuries to come. This edition includes:- A complete biography of Charles Dickens- A index with direct links chaptersBiographie de l'auteurCharles John Huffam Dickens was born on 7 February 1812 in Portsea Island (Portsmouth). He was the second child of his parents, John Dickens and Elizabeth Dickens. His father worked as a clerk in Navy Pay Office. In 1815, John Dickens was transferred to London, the whole family moved with him and settled in Kent, where Charles spent the early days of his life to the age of 11. Charles had a few years of private education in Chatham, Kent. By the end of 1822, the Dickens family was heavily indebted as they lived beyond their means. According to the laws of the day, John Dickens creditors forced him into the Marshalsea debtors prison in Southwark, London in 1824. The wife and youngest children joined him in the prison, according to the norms of the society. Charles was 12 years of age at that time. He moved with Elizabeth Roylance, a family friend, in Camden Town. Later, he lived in the house of an agent for the Insolvent Court, Archibald Russell. On Sundays, Charles used to spend his time at the Marshalsea with his sister Frances, who was studying at the Royal Academy of Music. To pay for his board and to help his family, Charles had no other choice but to leave school and work at Warrens Blacking Warehouse located on Hungerford Stairs, near the present Charing Cross Railway Station. He earned 6 Shillings a week for a 10-hour day work. The working conditions for labor class were very harsh in those days, Charles had to go through the hardest period of his life during these days. These hardships left a lasting impression on Charles intellect, most of his works revolve around the reform of socio-economic and labor conditions.