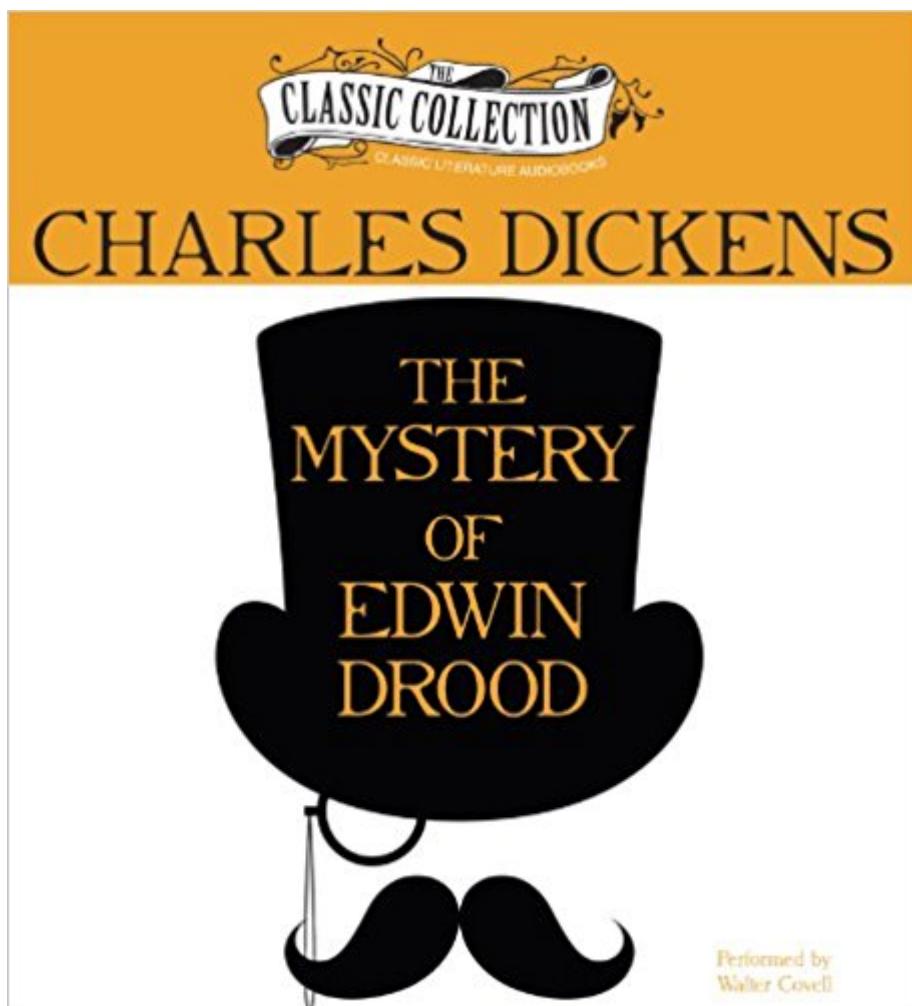


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The Mystery Of Edwin Drood (Classic Collection)



Synopsis

The Mystery of Edwin Drood is Charles Dickens' contribution to the field of crime and its detection. When young Edwin Drood disappears, suspicion centers on John Jasper, a drug-addicted choirmaster who hungers after Drood's fiancée. So does Neville Landless, a Ceylonese who has previously quarreled violently with the missing man. The mystery is further enhanced because it was left unfinished at the author's death. Thus the book has challenged the imagination of Dickens' fans for generations. This novel is part of Brilliance Audio's extensive Classic Collection, bringing you timeless masterpieces that you and your family are sure to love.

Book Information

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Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

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Windows 3.11, Windows/95, Windows/98, OS/2 and Macintosh and Linux with Windows Emulation. Includes Quiet Vision's Dynamic Index. the ability to build an index for any set of characters or words. --This text refers to the Digital edition.

The main issue in the novel is the disappearance of Edwin Drood and the suspicion that he has been murdered. But as intriguing as this central plot are the startling innovations in Dickens' work

and the troubled elements lurking within the novel: a dark opium underworld, the uneasy and violent fantasies of its inhabitants, the disquieting presence of old 'Princess Puffer', of the quiet cathedral town of Cloisterham from which people have to escape in order to save themselves--and, at the centre, the menacing figure of Jasper. --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Like many people, I'm sure, I read *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and wanted to know how it ended. If it hadn't been a mystery, things might have been different, but we are left with the disappearance of a healthy, optimistic young man, whose uncle lusts after the young man's fiancée (not knowing their engagement has been severed). We are also made aware that the uncle has an opium addiction, and the woman who operates the opium den he frequents may have overheard things he said while under the influence of the drug. Unable to imagine a satisfactory ending to the story myself, I researched on the Internet, to see if anyone knew where Dickens' plot was going, but there were only a few clues. Luckily, several people had attempted to write a conclusion to the *Edwin Drood* mystery, using what clues were available, and I picked Leon Garfield's version, which had several good reviews. Trying to copy Dickens' writing style is admittedly impossible. His complex prose and skill at detailed description must have developed considerably over the years. I was, however, comfortable with the continuation by Leon Garfield, which remained true to the characters already drawn for us by Dickens. I imagine the book would have been longer, had Dickens ever finished it, but I did not feel cheated in any way with the faster pace of the narrative, and the culmination answered those questions that nagged at me when I came to the sudden end of Dickens' incomplete story. Whether the ending was the one Dickens intended, we shall never know, but from the clues he left, it cannot be far wrong. The good guys get the girls, and actions and behavior introduced in Dickens' incomplete original are explained. I think Dickens probably would have ended with his usual tidying up, where almost every minor character is re-visited and put to rest (even if we don't particularly wonder about what happens to them). All in all, I was very satisfied with this book; it put my mind at rest.

The big thing with this novel is that it is unfinished. That's right. There is no ending. Don't fool yourself into thinking there'll be a resolution, because you'll be sorely disappointed. This is only half of the novel - Charles Dickens died before writing the rest. While it includes the notes that Charles Dickens left, he had a severe lack of notes giving hints at the future. No one knows how it could have ended - Queen Victoria unfortunately refused to be curious when the time called for it, leaving

the world forever in the dark. But from what there is, it's a great novel. It's great for those of us who really like reading mysteries, because it is the ultimate mystery - one that is never and never can be solved. It provides for great entertainment if you like creating your own endings for things. Also, as a warning, it is a Victorian novel. It is a Charles Dickens novel. You do have to be accustomed to his writing style to pick up on everything that goes on, but it is relatively easy in a sense compared to most of his novels. Very enjoyable. It's worth the read.

I have come to appreciate Charles Dickens literature; this story keeps you engaged until the very end. LOVE IT. Have ordered more of Dickens books. Thank you for making this book available. L A

I understand the frustration of the reviewer below. I have uploaded a photo of Oxford's Our Mutual Friend side by side with their Mystery of Edwin Drood. As you can see, the font size of Drood is smaller than that of Our Mutual Friend (which is the norm for Oxford Classics). The print is often faded in a line or two of pages of Drood as well, unlike the evenly always clear, very legible ink of Our Mutual Friend. If you have good eyes, the smaller font size and inking problems should not be a big problem. The edition itself is as good as any other Oxford Classics edition. I don't know of a competing scholarly edition.,

Dickens does it again! Here is a good mystery well written. I was hesitant to read an unfinished book but became interested when I saw a PBS adaptation on video. Like other adaptations they created an ending, which I liked. The book left everything open ended, but led down a different path. There are themes in the story that are timeless: a man obsessed about a young woman that doesn't like him and starts to fear him, jealousy, drug abuse, child abuse, and so on. I wasn't sure where some of the characters fit into the story, probably because the book was never finished. The fact that there are things that will never be resolved doesn't take away from it's being worthwhile to read.

Forced to read this for my college English class. Much better than I expected. Yes, you will be frustrated that there is no ending, but the journey itself will give you chills. If you like a dark, Gothic-esque setting, characters with hidden lives, and mysterious cries in the night you will love this novel.

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