

A Tale of Two Cities (The Classic Novel of the French Revolution, Acclaimed Motion Picture, Illustrated Classic Edition)

Charles Dickens

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Classic Bestseller & Acclaimed Motion Picture

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens (1812-1870) is the greatest novel about the French Revolution, and one of the greatest novels ever. The book made a lasting mark on modern culture, literature, and cinema. Its potent religious themes of sacrifice and redemption are unmatched; its legendary conclusion, ever haunting. The book's mesmerizing quick-time prose is legendary. Both the opening and closing passages are among the most famous ever.

No less than seven movie adaptations are also highly acclaimed. The best version was nominated for Best Picture at the Academy Awards, and stars Ronald Colman and Basil Rathbone. The closing scenes of that film are legendary in movie history. Dirk Bogarde and Chris Sarandon also starred in well regarded film versions.

Plot and characters are unforgettable. A Tale of Two Cities is at once a love story; a war story; a crime novel; a Shakespearean tragedy; and a morality tale. The two cities are London and Paris of the late eighteenth-century.

English London, despite all its faults, serves as a peaceful counterpoint to a French Paris consumed by a blood-thirsty revolution. The novel presents this comparison through the Englishman Sydney Carton, and the Frenchmen Charles Darnay.

As the book opens, the two leading men are competing stereotypes. The Englishman Carlton is elitist, empty, and cynical. By contrast, the Frenchman Darnay is a starry-eyed idealist; he yet hopes to save his French nation and its revolution.

However, in gripping and haunting plot twist, the once cynical Englishman Carton rises above and beyond; he startles all by taking on a Christ-like role, and convincingly too. The cynic shall save the idealist. With terrifying courage, the Englishman redeems a mispent life, and a sinful nation.

A Tale of Two Cities warns of the darkness of extremism. Only God's forgiveness and grace (Charles Dickens was a devout Protestant) can resolve the sins of mankind; all other paths lead to destruction.

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Lucille Yang:

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