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Charles Dickens OLIVER TWIST



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Charles Dickens

CHARLES DICKENS was born on February 7, 1812, in Landport, Portsea, England. The second of eight children of a family continually plagued by debt, the young Dickens came to know not only hunger and privation—but also the horror of the infamous debtors' prison and the evils of child labor. A turn of fortune in the shape of a legacy brought release from the nightmare of prison and "slave" factories and afforded Dickens the opportunity of two years' formal schooling at Wellington House Academy. He worked as an attorney's clerk and newspaper reporter until his *Sketches by Boz* (1836) and *Pickwick Papers* (1837) brought him the amazing and instant success that was to be his for the remainder of his life. In later years the pressure of serial writing, editorial duties, lectures, and social commitments led to his separation from Catherine Hogarth after twenty-three years of marriage. It also hastened his death at the age of fifty-eight, characteristically while still engaged in a multitude of work. He died in his Gads Hill home in Kent on June 9, 1870.

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