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The Cricket On The Hearth: A Fairy Tale Of Home



Synopsis

In the 1840s Charles Dickens wrote 5 short stories with strong social and moral messages. The Cricket on the Hearth: A Fairy Tale of Home, is the third of these stories. Following the home life of John Peerybingle, the story introduces the many people in John's family and life along with a cricket that acts as the guardian angel of the family. Like its predecessors, this story also contains heavy social and moral implications. However it differs from A Christmas Carol and The Chimes, in that its main theme focuses on actions that affect the family rather than action affecting society as a whole.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Charles Dickens was an English writer and social reformer. He is widely considered the greatest Victorian novelist, and wrote such classics as Great Expectations, A Tale of Two Cities, A Christmas Carol, and Oliver Twist. Aside from his novels, he also wrote short stories, non-fiction, poetry, plays, and countless letters. He was also a well-known supporter of children's rights and educational reform. British-born Simon Prebble has played in everything from soaps to Shakespeare on stage and television, but it is as a veteran narrator of over four hundred audiobooks that he has made his mark since coming to the United States in 1990. Simon is one of AudioFile magazine's Golden Voices, has received over twenty Earphones Awards, five Publishers Weekly Listen-Up Awards, and he has been a finalist fourteen times for an Audie Award. He was Publishers Weekly's 2006 Narrator of the Year, and Booklist's 2010 Voice of Choice.

Last Christmas, a group of us sat around and watched a DVD collection of Christmas Classics. In it was the Cricket and the Hearth, a movie none of us had heard of... So we watched it. It was the most ridiculous cartoon/movie I have ever seen. Between random songs that went on way too long and made no sense, being told the cricket was good luck and watching all sorts of depressing horrors happen (including Bertha losing her sight), and some random Cat and Dog being shot... it's a movie we won't forget and continue to laugh hysterically to to this day. I'm so pleased to say this book was nothing like the movie! Poor Dickens is probably rolling in his grave that such master piece was turned into such a ridiculous cartoon. It's a story proving that love is beautiful! Whether it's between a husband and father, the blooming love of time and dedication, or the passionate romance that was torn apart and rekindled. It was beautifully written (as Dickens usually does) and a great story! While it really tells of its time setting, it can also be meaningful to anyone in any time. I would have given it 5 stars, but there were parts that went on too long and were hard to get through. But the story itself was incredible enough to get me through!

Dickens is still one of my favorite writers and, as per his usual, he did not disappoint with this one either. A short read, this story still carried all of his usual turns and thrills of the one swift twist near the end.

I enjoyed this tale despite its odd style. I gave it four stars, instead of five, because the blind girl was left out of the wrap-up at the end. The toy maker was beginning to become the man she believed him to be, and there could have been some hint that he would come to love her. The story did keep me coming back for more, even though I did not understand some of the old phrases. Fans of Charles Dickens and Shakespeare and Robert Service would probably enjoy this story.

It's classic Dickens. I read it many years ago as a child and use to read it every year, but I hadn't read it for probably 30 years. It is very enjoyable and could be a must to read every Christmas just like the Christmas Carol.

A very Dickensonian tale of the human condition. Well Told...included a surprise finish...my only criticism is that this lovely story which could have been of "real" people and not of fictional characters, was much too short. I highly recommend this book.

Although this is a literature classic, it was very difficult for me to read. There were many characters

to follow, the writing style was difficult to understand, and the story lapsed into occasional fantasy. When I finished the book, I still wasn't sure of its theme.

A brief, heart-gripping tale of learning to see, and to accept, the truth about those who are closest to us.

A joy-filled yet sobering depiction of human nature on the topic of love and duty. May we learn to hear the Truth before taking action.

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