



A Christmas Carol and Other Christmas Books (Oxford World's Classics Hardbacks)

Charles Dickens

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A Christmas Carol has gripped the public imagination since it was first published in 1843, and it is now as much a part of the holiday season as is mistletoe or Santa's reindeer. Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future--it is impossible to go anywhere during the month of December and not hear these names, time and again.

Now comes a wonderful new collection of Dickens' Christmas stories, graced with many of the original drawings that appeared in the first edition. Pride of place goes to *A Christmas Carol*, of course, but the book also includes four other marvelous tales: *The Chimes*, *The Cricket on the Hearth*, *The Battle of Life*, and *The Haunted Man*. All five stories show Dickens at his unpredictable best, jumbling together comedy and melodrama, genial romance and urgent social satire, in pursuit of his aim "to awaken some loving and forbearing thoughts, never out of season in a Christian land." The volume also features an excellent introduction by Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, who offers invaluable background to the Christmas stories, illuminating the social questions they set out to address, outlining their reception and the enduring popularity of *A Christmas Carol*, and highlighting how their style and themes resonate in more complex ways in his major fictions. In addition, the book includes two appendices containing Dickens's article, "What Christmas Is As We Grow Older," and facsimile pages from Dickens's reading version of *A Christmas Carol*.

A wonderful gift for the holiday season--featuring colored end papers, delightful contemporary illustrations, and a ribbon marker--this superb volume will delight the heart of readers young and old.

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