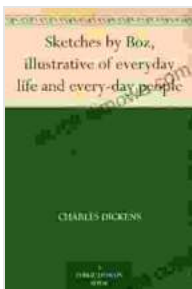


Sketches by Boz: A Journey Through Victorian London's Everyday Life

Published in 1836, *Sketches by Boz* is a collection of 56 short pieces by Charles Dickens, originally published in various magazines and later compiled into a single volume. These sketches offer a vivid and often humorous glimpse into the everyday life of London's working class during the Victorian era.

The World of Boz

The pseudonym "Boz" was adopted by Dickens to conceal his identity as the author of these early works. It is thought to have been inspired by his younger brother's pronunciation of "Moses," a popular nickname at the time.



Sketches by Boz, illustrative of everyday life and every-day people by Charles Dickens

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 953 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 414 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Paperback	: 78 pages
Item Weight	: 4.2 ounces
Dimensions	: 6 x 0.18 x 9 inches

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The sketches in *Sketches by Boz* cover a wide range of subjects, from the bustling streets and markets of London to the lives of the poor and working class. Dickens's keen eye for detail and his ability to capture the essence of everyday life make these sketches a valuable historical document as well as an entertaining read.

Here are a few examples of the diverse topics covered in *Sketches by Boz*:

- The crowded streets and markets of London
- The lives of the poor and working class
- The city's thieves and criminals
- The eccentricities of London society
- The changing landscape of the city

Dickens's Social Commentary

While many of the sketches in *Sketches by Boz* are humorous, they also contain a strong undercurrent of social commentary. Dickens was a keen observer of the social injustices of his time, and his sketches often highlight the plight of the poor and working class.

In one sketch, entitled "The Mudfog Association for the Advancement of Everything," Dickens satirizes the self-importance of middle-class society. In another, entitled "The Steam Excursion," he pokes fun at the new craze for steam-powered travel.

Through his sketches, Dickens exposes the hypocrisy and inequality of Victorian society, and he calls for a greater sense of compassion and understanding for the less fortunate.

The Influence of Sketches by Boz

Sketches by Boz was a critical and commercial success, and it helped to establish Dickens as one of the most popular and influential writers of his time. The sketches also had a significant impact on the development of the novel in England.

Dickens's ability to capture the everyday lives of ordinary people in a realistic and engaging way paved the way for the great Victorian novels that were to follow, such as *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, and *Great Expectations*.

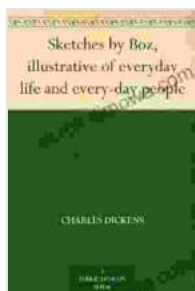
"The street is full of life. In and out they come and go, with here and there a rusty, iron-bound donkey cart with 'Potatotes' inscribed upon its side in white letters; other carts and coaches, with people sitting outside them in berry-faced comfort; and cabs, with for 'er Majesty' and 'Connaught Rangers' inscribed in brass nails upon the door. The boys slide down the area railings, the girls jump over and scramble after them, and the men and women 'walk along the centre of the pavement, with their hands behind them - the men with their mouths full, and their hats stuck on the top of their heads, and the women with their hair not very neatly turned up behind their ears, and their elbows squared, and their bodies half doubled up - like old washerwomen walking to and fro upon a drying-ground."

- Charles Dickens, *Sketches by Boz*

Sketches by Boz is a classic work of Victorian literature that offers a fascinating glimpse into the everyday life of London's working class during the 19th century. Dickens's keen eye for detail and his ability to capture the

essence of everyday life make these sketches a valuable historical document as well as an entertaining read.

Whether you are a fan of Dickens or simply interested in Victorian London, I highly recommend picking up a copy of *Sketches by Boz*. You will be rewarded with a delightful and informative journey through the everyday life and times of one of the most fascinating cities in the world.



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