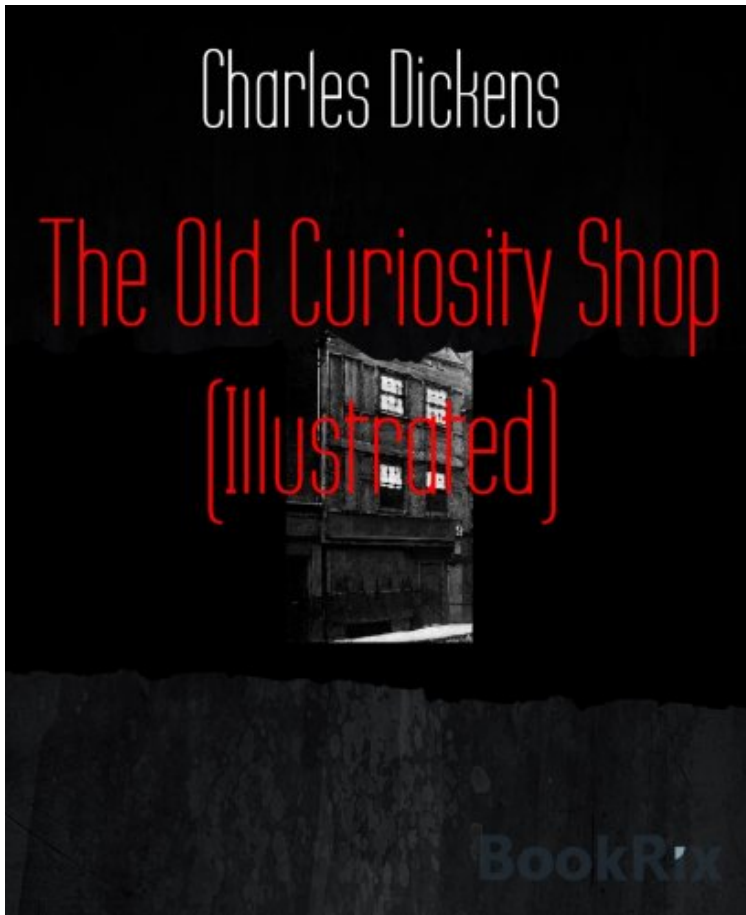


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The Old Curiosity Shop (Illustrated) (English Edition)



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Description :

Présentation de l'auteur
The Old Curiosity Shop tells the story of Nell Trent, a beautiful and virtuous young girl of "not quite fourteen." An orphan, she lives with her maternal grandfather (whose name is never revealed) in his shop of odds and ends. Her grandfather loves her dearly, and Nell does not complain, but she lives a lonely existence with almost no friends her own age. Her only friend is Kit, an honest boy employed at the shop, whom she is teaching to write. Secretly obsessed with ensuring that Nell does not die in poverty as her parents did, her grandfather attempts to provide Nell with a good inheritance through gambling at cards. He keeps his nocturnal games a secret, but borrows heavily from the evil Daniel Quilp, a malicious, grotesquely deformed, hunchbacked dwarf moneylender. In the end, he gambles away what little money they have, and Quilp seizes the opportunity to take possession of the shop and evict Nell and her grandfather. Her grandfather suffers a breakdown that leaves him bereft of his wits, and Nell takes him away to the Midlands of England, to live as beggars.
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Biographie de l'auteur Charles John Huffam Dickens was born on 7 February 1812 in Portsea Island (Portsmouth). He was the second child of his parents, John Dickens and Elizabeth Dickens. His father worked as a clerk in Navy Pay Office. In 1815,

John Dickens was transferred to London, the whole family moved with him and settled in Kent, where Charles spent the early days of his life to the age of 11. Charles had a few years of private education in Chatham, Kent. By the end of 1822, the Dickens family was heavily indebted as they lived beyond their means. According to the laws of the day, John Dickens creditors forced him into the Marshalsea debtors prison in Southwark, London in 1824. The wife and youngest children joined him in the prison, according to the norms of the society. Charles was 12 years of age at that time. He moved with Elizabeth Roylance, a family friend, in Camden Town. Later, he lived in the house of an agent for the Insolvent Court, Archibald

Russell. On Sundays, Charles used to spend his time at the Marshalsea with his sister Frances, who was studying at the Royal Academy of Music. To pay for his board and to help his family, Charles had no other choice but to leave school and work at Warrens Blacking Warehouse located on Hungerford Stairs, near the present Charing Cross Railway Station. He earned 6 Shillings a week for a 10-hour day work. The working conditions for labor class were very harsh in those days, Charles had to go through the hardest period of his life during these days. These hardships left a lasting impression on Charles intellect, most of his works revolve around the reform of socio-economic and labor conditions.