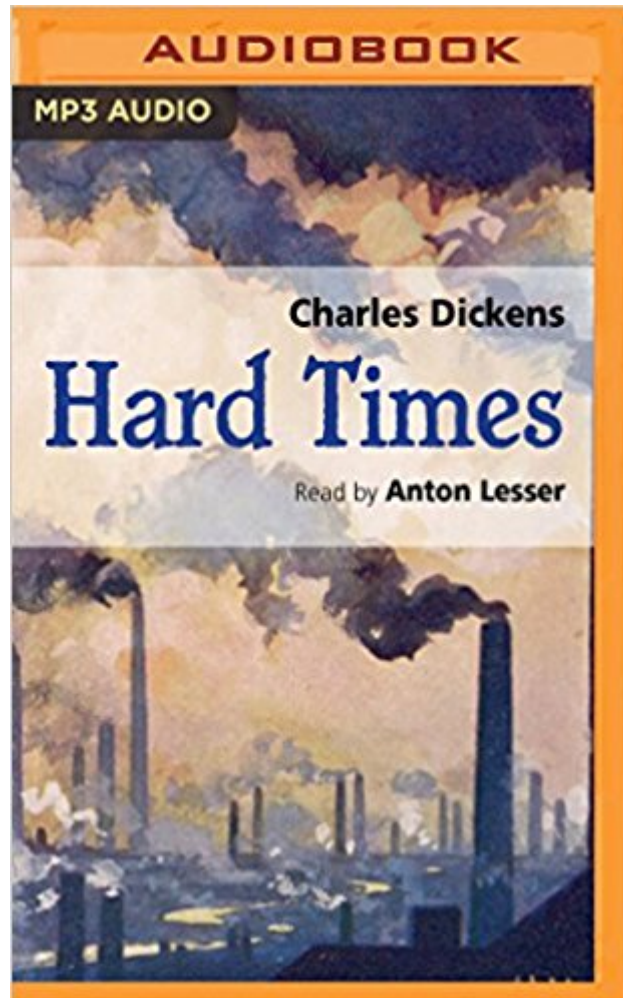




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Hard Times



Synopsis

Hard Times is Dickens's most political novel. Set in the industrial north of England, in Coketown, he examines the lives of working people, who are taught by the capitalists Gradgrind and Bounderby to think only of the facts of life and not to indulge in imagination. Gradgrind's own children have been so educated and as a result are dysfunctional and disconnected from their feelings. Only the travelling circus company of Sleary seems to offer any hope of humanity in Coketown. Hard Times is a deeply moving story written in anger to strike a blow for the victims of the dehumanising processes of industry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

British novelist Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, England. Over the course of his writing career, he wrote the beloved classic novels [Oliver Twist](#), [A Christmas Carol](#), [Nicholas Nickleby](#), [David Copperfield](#), [A Tale of Two Cities](#) and [Great Expectations](#). On June 9, 1870, Dickens died of a stroke in Kent, England, leaving his final novel, [The Mystery of Edwin Drood](#), unfinished.

It's free; what else can I say? Despite how cheap it would be to purchase one of the many 1 or 3 dollar editions available for kindle, in my endeavor to pick the best version to read (for my English History class) I was seduced by by this versions' lack of a price tag. And it's got the illustrations! In a quick scan of the preview, everything seems to be in place and well optimized for kindle. I look forward to reading what I already know is a 5 star novel.

It is helpful to know about utilitarian philosophy, how the industrial revolution effected the economy of the haves and have nots and educational standards of the day. The book satirizes the upper class English in such a way that rings true to our current political, economic and educational quagmires. Beautifully written and a very interesting read.

Charles Dickens' books are classics for a reason: His writing is brilliant, and though he was a good middle class Brit, he was wise and compassionate enough to make the plight of his poorer countrymen and women his master subject.

Masterpiece. I can't imagine being raised by facts only. The heart and soul could not survive it one minute.

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