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9

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Charles Dickens

Bleak House

Read by **Sean Barrett** and **Teresa Gallagher**

In *Bleak House* Dickens presents a critical picture of England in 1853. He condemns the insidious power of a hidebound legal system which creeps like a London fog into the lives of every character in the book. Dickens ingeniously links characters from all backgrounds from Esther Summerson, an orphan given support by the kindly Mr Jarndyce, owner of Bleak House, to Lady Dedlock who lives with a secret she can't reveal. Tulkinghorn, the ruthless lawyer, Krook the shop-keeper and Jo, the pathetic crossing-sweeper, are all finely drawn characters that enrich this story of the unravelling of Lady Dedlock's secret by Inspector Bucket, whose appearance in this novel can give it a claim to be the first English detective novel.

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