

《Charles Dickens by Claire Tomalin 新权威狄更斯传记(ISBN=9780670917679)》

书籍信息

版次：1
页数：527
字数：
印刷时间：2011年10月01日
开本：16开
纸张：胶版纸
包装：精装
是否套装：否
国际标准书号ISBN：9780670917679

内容简介

Charles Dickens was a phenomenon: a demonically hardworking journalist, the father of ten children, a tireless walker and traveller, a supporter of liberal social causes, but most of all a great novelist - the creator of characters who live immortally in the English imagination: the Artful Dodger, Mr Pickwick, Pip, David Copperfield, Little Nell, Lady Dedlock, and many more. At the age of twelve he was sent to work in a blacking factory by his affectionate but feckless parents. From these unpromising beginnings, he rose to scale all the social and literary heights, entirely through his own efforts. When he died, the world mourned, and he was buried - against his wishes - in Westminster Abbey. Yet the brilliance concealed a divided character: a republican, he disliked America; sentimental about the family in his writings, he took up passionately with a young actress; usually generous, he cut off his impecunious children. Claire Tomalin, author of "Whitbread Book of the Year Samuel Pepys", paints an unforgettable portrait of Dickens, capturing brilliantly the complex character of this great genius. "Charles Dickens: A Life" is the examination of Dickens we deserve.

作者简介

Claire Tomalin was literary editor of the New Statesman then the Sunday Times before leaving to become a full-time writer. Her first book, *The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft*, won the Whitbread First Book Award, and she has since written a number of highly acclaimed and bestselling biographies. *The Invisible Woman*, a definitive account of Dickens' relationship with the actress Ellen Ternan, won three major literary awards, and *Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self* was Whitbread Book of the Year in 2002. Claire Tomalin is married to the writer Michael Frayn.

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