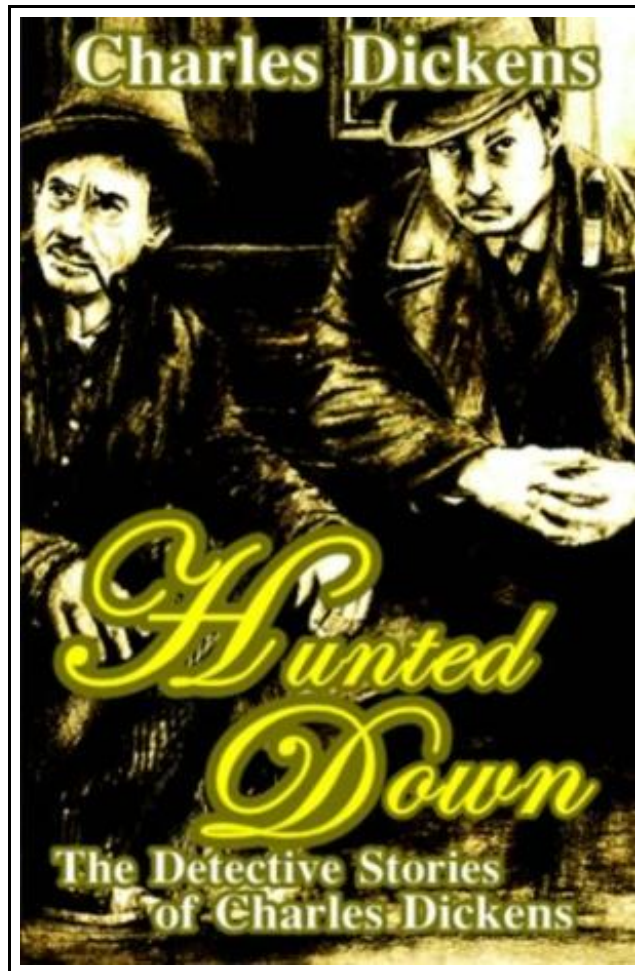


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Reviews

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HUNTED DOWN: THE DETECTIVE STORIES OF CHARLES DICKENS (PAPERBACK)



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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. A curious little story that both feels like Dickens and at the same time is not Dickens. If I m honest it has more of the tone of Wilkie Collins or even Conan Doyle than it does Dickens and yet there is something about it that makes it bounce along with the pace and occasional wry description that we know and love in Dickens more famous and longer novels. So is this Dickens when he s not really trying? It is, after all, shorter than some of the single chapters in works such as Nicholas Nickleby or David Copperfield and was apparently written purely as a commissioned piece, but then Dickens was a professional and indeed somewhat commercial writer and while his spark may have been ignited by the creative urge he was certainly no stranger to commissioned deadlines and both the commercial drive and requirements of writing for a publication. So is this Dickens at his best? Certainly not. While it is hard to find particular fault it is nonetheless generally unsatisfying in that this appears to be a fine premise for a novel rushed through as a short story. At times there are elements reminiscent of Bleak House and The Mystery of Edwin Drood but the promise is never fulfilled. There is no doubt that Dickens could write a short story, many of his Christmas and ghost stories attest to his mastery of this style, but this is not one that is as fully developed as it might be. If anything it lacks the three elements of suspense, a sense of mystery and any true level of the grotesque, the first two of which are essential to any great...



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