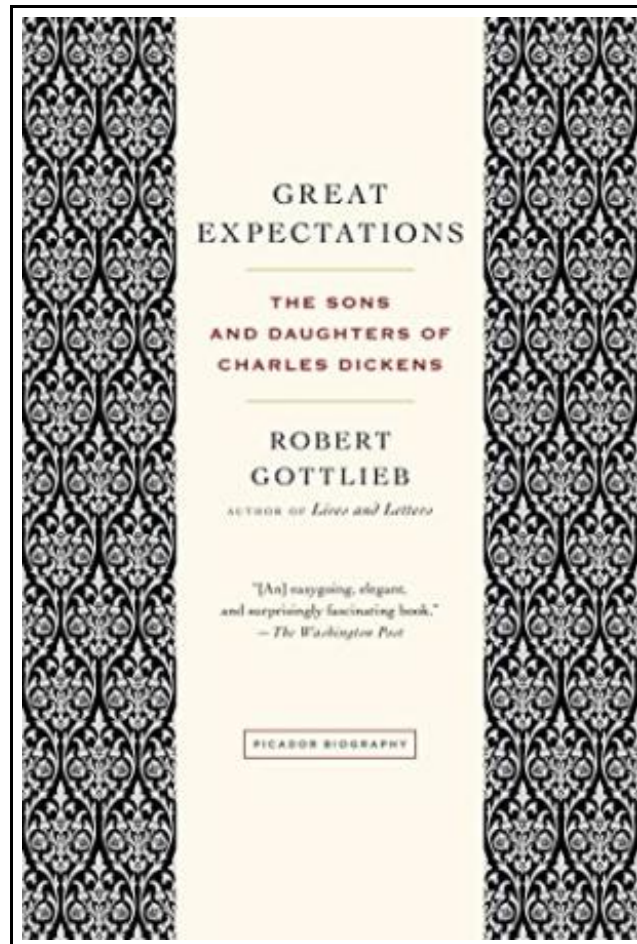


Great Expectations: The Sons and Daughters of Charles Dickens



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Reviews

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(Angela Kuhn)

GREAT EXPECTATIONS: THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF CHARLES DICKENS

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Picador. 1 Paperback(s), 2012. soft. Book Condition: New. Famous for the indelible child characters he created, from Little Nell and Oliver Twist to David Copperfield, Charles Dickens, was himself the father of ten children (and a possible 11th). Robert Gottlieb the biographer of Sarah Bernhardt and George Balanchine as well as the former editor of The New Yorker here gives us a sympathetic and insightful chronicle of the lives of those children. Each has a fascinating story of his or her own, from Katey, who became a successful portraitist, and Frank, who died in Moline, Illinois, after serving a grim stretch in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to Sydney, who joined the Royal Navy and was banned from Gad's Hill for his ruinous behavior, and died at sea at the age of 25, and Henry, a prominent jurist and paterfamilias who died in 1933 at the age of 84, Dickens's last surviving child. Writing in the New York Review of Book, Colm Tóibín called the book "Ingenious. It throws light not only on the novelist himself, but also on the range of influence parents and home life can have on offspring." "An accessible, sharply focused, and opinionated portrait of what the 'magical' but dominating father wrought at home. [The author] brings an enticingly light touch to his scholarship, resulting in a book that reads like haute literary gossip." NPR 239.



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