

the mystery of drood

The mystery of Drood has captivated readers, scholars, and mystery enthusiasts for well over a century. This enigmatic subject is rooted in a complex web of literary, historical, and supernatural elements that continue to inspire debate and fascination. From its origins in Charles Dickens's unfinished novel to the myriad theories surrounding its true meaning, the mystery of Drood remains one of the most intriguing puzzles in literary history. In this article, we will explore the origins of the Drood mystery, examine notable theories, delve into related folklore and legends, and discuss its enduring legacy in popular culture.

Origins of the Drood Mystery

Charles Dickens and The Mystery of Edwin Drood

The roots of the Drood mystery lie in Charles Dickens's final novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, published in 1870-1871. Dickens intended the story to be a detective mystery centered around the disappearance of Edwin Drood, a young man whose fate remains uncertain due to Dickens's untimely death in 1870. The novel was left unfinished, with Dickens having written only six of the planned twelve installments.

This abrupt ending sparked immediate speculation among readers and literary critics. Many believed Dickens deliberately left the story unresolved, inviting others to speculate about Edwin Drood's fate and the identity of his murderer. The ambiguity and incomplete nature of the narrative laid the groundwork for an enduring mystery that would extend far beyond Dickens's lifetime.

The Unfinished Nature and Its Effect on the Mystery

Dickens's death left a significant void in the story, and the absence of a definitive conclusion fueled numerous theories and adaptations. Some believed Dickens had planned a complex plot involving secret societies, hidden identities, and moral allegories, while others thought the novel was a straightforward detective story. The lack of closure turned the novel into a fertile ground for speculation, with readers and writers attempting to fill in the gaps.

The novel's unfinished state also gave rise to a variety of conjectures about Dickens's own intentions. Was he deliberately leaving clues? Did he intend the ending to be open to interpretation? These questions have persisted for over 150 years, making the mystery of Drood not just about the narrative itself but also about Dickens's intentions, artistic process, and the cultural context of Victorian England.

Theories Surrounding the Drood Mystery

The Identity of Edwin Drood

One of the central questions is: who is Edwin Drood? Several theories exist:

- **Victim or Perpetrator:** Some believe Drood was murdered by his uncle, John Jasper, a choir master with a dark secret. Others speculate Drood himself might have staged his disappearance or had a hidden double life.
- **Symbol of Victorian Morality:** Some interpret Drood as a symbol representing purity or innocence lost, with his disappearance embodying Victorian societal anxieties.
- **Hidden Identity:** A popular theory suggests that Edwin Drood was not who he appeared to be, perhaps someone in disguise or with a secret past.

Charles Dickens's Own Involvement

Some theorists posit that Dickens may have embedded hidden clues about his own views or personal struggles within the novel. Victorian-era authors often used allegory and symbolism, and Dickens was known for his penchant for social commentary.

Others speculate that Dickens was aware of the story's ending but chose not to publish it, perhaps due to health issues or political reasons. The idea that Dickens's death was a planned narrative device has fueled numerous conspiracy theories.

The Secret Society Hypothesis

One of the more sensational theories suggests that Dickens's novel alludes to secret societies like the Freemasons or other clandestine groups. Supporters of this idea point to cryptic symbols and allegories within the text, claiming that Dickens was revealing hidden knowledge or warning about societal corruption.

This hypothesis has inspired numerous fictional and non-fictional works, including the 2012 novel *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* by Seymour Reit, which explores secret society themes.

Folklore and Legends Associated with Drood

The Real-Life Inspiration

While Dickens's novel is fictional, some believe that Drood's character and story were inspired by real events or individuals. Victorian London was rife with rumors of secret plots, ghostly apparitions, and mysterious disappearances, which Dickens may have incorporated into his narrative.

There are also legends of a mysterious figure called "The Drood," said to have been a shadowy secret agent or criminal operating in Victorian London. Although these stories are unsubstantiated, they contribute to the aura of mystery surrounding the novel.

Ghostly and Supernatural Theories

Some enthusiasts interpret the novel's ambiguous ending and Dickens's death as supernatural omens. There are stories of ghost sightings and unexplained phenomena associated with Dickens's death and the unfinished manuscript.

A popular legend claims that Dickens himself was haunted by the ghost of Edwin Drood, warning him of impending death. This supernatural angle has inspired numerous ghost stories and plays based on the novel.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

Adaptations and Interpretations

The mystery of Drood has inspired countless adaptations across various media:

1. **Stage plays and musicals:** Numerous productions have attempted to complete or reinterpret Dickens's story, often with added mystery or supernatural elements.
2. **Films and television:** Several movies and TV series explore the novel's themes, sometimes incorporating fictional endings or conspiracy theories.
3. **Literature:** Writers have penned sequels, prequels, and reinterpretations, each adding to the layered mythology of Drood.

The Ongoing Debate

Despite the numerous theories and adaptations, the core question remains: what did Dickens intend? The lack of a definitive ending means the mystery continues to inspire debates among literary scholars, mystery fans, and conspiracy theorists alike.

Many believe that the true answer may never be known, making the mystery of Drood a perfect example of the intersection between art, speculation, and the human fascination with the unknown.

Conclusion

The mystery of Drood endures not only because of Dickens's unfinished novel but also because of the deeper questions it raises about storytelling, secrecy, and the Victorian psyche. Whether viewed as a literary puzzle, a supernatural legend, or a reflection of Victorian society's hidden fears, the story continues to captivate audiences worldwide. As new theories emerge and reinterpretations are created, the enigma of Drood remains a testament to the enduring power of unresolved mysteries and the human desire to uncover the truth behind the unknown.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central mystery in 'The Mystery of Drood' by Dan Simmons?

The novel explores the mysterious disappearance of Charles Dickens's friend and fellow writer, Wilkie Collins, blending historical facts with fictional elements to unravel the secrets surrounding Collins's last days and the enigmatic figure of Drood.

Who is the character Drood in Dan Simmons's novel?

Drood is a shadowy, possibly supernatural figure representing evil or temptation, around whom much of the novel's intrigue revolves, symbolizing the dark forces at play in the characters' lives.

How does 'The Mystery of Drood' incorporate real historical figures?

The novel features real historical personalities such as Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins, weaving their lives and relationships into a fictional narrative that explores their interactions and the mysterious events surrounding Dickens's last years.

Is 'The Mystery of Drood' based on true events?

While inspired by real historical figures and events, the novel is a work of fiction that dramatizes and imagines the circumstances of Wilkie Collins's disappearance and the dark forces represented by Drood.

What themes are explored in 'The Mystery of Drood'?

The novel delves into themes of good versus evil, the nature of addiction and obsession, the supernatural, and the blurred line between reality and imagination.

Why has 'The Mystery of Drood' gained popularity among mystery and historical fiction fans?

Its intricate plot, rich historical context, and compelling blend of true and fictional elements make it a captivating read that invites readers to ponder the mysteries of the past and the darker aspects of human nature.

Additional Resources

The Mystery of Drood: Unraveling the Enigma of an Abandoned Legend

The mystery of Drood has captivated readers, scholars, and enthusiasts for over a century. An enduring blend of literary intrigue, secret societies, and unresolved questions, the story of Drood continues to provoke curiosity and debate. From its origins in 19th-century literature to modern interpretations and conspiracy theories, the tale remains shrouded in mystery. This article delves into the origins, symbolism, and ongoing fascination with the enigma of Drood, aiming to shed light on its complex layers and cultural significance.

Origins of the Drood Mystery: A Literary Genesis

Charles Dickens and the Death of a Legend

The roots of the Drood mystery trace back to the final years of Charles Dickens, one of England's most celebrated authors. Dickens died suddenly in 1870, leaving behind an unfinished novel titled "The Mystery of Edwin Drood." The novel's abrupt ending sparked immediate speculation and fueled a myriad of theories about its unresolved plot and characters.

In "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," Dickens introduces a complex narrative

centered around the mysterious disappearance of Edwin Drood, a young choirboy and heir to a wealthy uncle. The novel's incomplete nature invited readers to speculate about Drood's fate and the identity of his potential murderer, effectively turning the work into an open-ended puzzle.

What makes the story particularly intriguing is Dickens's reputation for intricate plotting and vivid characters, which only deepened the enigma surrounding the unfinished manuscript. The fact that Dickens himself was known for his fascination with the macabre, the supernatural, and secret societies further added layers of speculation.

Posthumous Interpretations and the Rise of the Myth

Following Dickens's death, numerous authors, scholars, and enthusiasts attempted to complete or interpret "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," leading to a proliferation of theories and adaptations. Some believed Dickens left clues within his other works, hinting at the novel's unresolved plot.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, writers like Wilkie Collins—who was a close friend of Dickens—and others penned sequel-like stories, trying to crack the code of Drood's disappearance. These efforts, while creative, only added to the legend and mystique of the original manuscript.

Moreover, the ambiguity of Dickens's own intentions—whether he intended to leave the story unfinished or was abruptly cut short—has led to persistent speculation. Some theorize Dickens deliberately left the novel incomplete to evoke suspense or to explore themes of mystery and morality.

This period also saw the emergence of the idea that "Drood" was more than just a fictional character: some believed the name symbolized a secret society, a hidden villain, or an allegory for societal corruption. The ambiguity fueled a cottage industry of detective stories, conspiracy theories, and cultural references.

The Symbolism and Themes of the Drood Narrative

Exploring the Literary and Cultural Layers

At its core, the mystery of Drood is not merely about the plot but also about the layered symbolism and themes Dickens embedded within the story. Several key themes emerge:

- Good vs. Evil: The novel's characters embody moral conflicts, with Drood often representing innocence or virtue, while other characters symbolize vice or duplicity.

- **Mystery and the Unknown:** Dickens's narrative is infused with Gothic elements—shadowy figures, secret chambers, and ominous settings—that deepen the sense of lurking danger.

- **Identity and Deception:** Characters often hide their true motives, leading to questions about authenticity and appearance versus reality.

- **Supernatural and the Occult:** Dickens's fascination with spiritualism and the supernatural is evident, with references to séances and spiritual communication, reflecting Victorian society's obsession with the afterlife.

These themes have allowed readers and scholars to interpret Drood as a reflection of Victorian anxieties—fear of moral decay, the allure of hidden knowledge, and the tension between rationality and superstition.

The Allegorical Significance

Some interpret “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” as an allegory for social or political issues of Dickens's time. For instance:

- **Class Struggle:** The characters' social statuses and motives can be seen as commentary on Victorian class divisions.

- **Moral Decay:** The ambiguous morality of characters reflects concerns about societal corruption.

- **Religious Inquiry:** The novel's spiritual references resonate with Victorian religious debates.

These allegories have added depth to the Drood mystery, transforming it from a simple whodunit into a complex commentary on Victorian society.

Theories and Speculations: Who Was Drood?

Real-Life Inspirations and Speculations

One of the most enduring aspects of the Drood mystery is the speculation about the real-life inspiration behind the character and the story. Several theories have emerged:

- **Charles Dickens Himself:** Some suggest Dickens embedded personal fears or moral questions into the story, making Drood an alter ego or symbolic figure.

- **A Secret Society:** Certain conspiracy theories propose that Drood was linked to clandestine groups operating in Victorian England, possibly involving

occult practices or political intrigue.

- A Literary Foil: Others believe Dickens intended Drood as a critique of contemporary societal issues, using the character as a symbol rather than a real person.
- Edwin Drood as a Victim: The character's mysterious disappearance has led to theories that Drood was a victim of societal or personal betrayal, embodying Victorian fears of loss of innocence.

Modern Interpretations and Pop Culture

In recent decades, the Drood mystery has permeated popular culture through novels, films, and media adaptations:

- G.K. Chesterton's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*: A classic detective novel that reimagines the story with a focus on detective work.
- David Hempleman's *"Drood"* (2012): A novel blending historical fiction, supernatural elements, and conspiracy theories.
- The Musical *"The Mystery of Edwin Drood"*: An award-winning musical inspired by Dickens's unfinished work, emphasizing audience participation and multiple endings.
- TV and Film Adaptations: Various adaptations explore different theories about Drood's fate, often emphasizing the mystery's open-ended nature.

These adaptations demonstrate that the Drood mystery remains fertile ground for creative exploration, continually inspiring new generations of storytellers.

Why Does the Drood Mystery Endure?

The Power of Ambiguity

One of the reasons the mystery of Drood endures is its inherent ambiguity. Dickens's decision to leave the novel unfinished invites endless speculation—each reader or scholar can craft their own ending, theories, or interpretations. The open-ended nature transforms the story from a simple narrative into a cultural puzzle.

The Cultural and Historical Resonance

The Victorian fascination with spiritualism, secret societies, and moral ambiguity resonates with contemporary audiences. The themes Dickens explored—moral complexity, societal decay, the supernatural—are timeless, making the Drood mystery relevant across different eras.

The Legacy of Dickens and the Power of Literature

As one of Dickens's most discussed and analyzed works, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" exemplifies how literature can become a vessel for mystery, symbolism, and cultural reflection. The unresolved ending ensures that new interpretations and debates continue to emerge, cementing its status as a perennial enigma.

Conclusion: The Enduring Enigma of Drood

The mystery of Drood remains one of the most intriguing puzzles in literary history. Rooted in Dickens's unfinished manuscript, it has grown into a layered myth encompassing themes of morality, the supernatural, societal critique, and the human fascination with the unknown. Whether viewed as a reflection of Victorian anxieties or as a deliberately left open-ended masterpiece, the Drood enigma continues to inspire curiosity, scholarly inquiry, and creative reinterpretation.

As new generations explore Dickens's works and the cultural currents surrounding them, the story of Drood endures as a testament to literature's power to mystify and captivate. Its unresolved nature invites us to ponder the mysteries that lie beneath the surface of stories—and perhaps, to accept that some enigmas are meant to remain forever elusive.

[The Mystery Of Drood](#)

the mystery of drood: The Mystery of Edwin Drood Charles Dickens, 2010-02-01 The Mystery of Edwin Drood is the final, uncompleted novel by Charles Dickens. John Jasper is a choirmaster who is in love with one of his pupils, Rosa Bud. She is the fiancée of his nephew, Edwin Drood. A hot-tempered man from Ceylon also becomes interested in her and he and Drood take an instant dislike to one another. Later, Drood disappears, and as Dickens never finished the novel, Drood's fate remains a mystery indeed.

the mystery of drood: The Mystery of Edwin Drood Charles Dickens, 2018-01-01 Edwin Drood is contracted to marry Orphan Rosa, but they break the engagement off-and soon afterwards Edwin disappears. Is it murder? And is his jealous uncle-a sinister choirmaster with a double life and designs on Rosa-the killer? Dickens died before completing the story, leaving the mystery unsolved

and encouraging successive generations of readers to turn detective. In addition to its tantalizing crime, the novel also offers a characteristically Dickensian mix of the fantastical world of the imagination and a vibrantly journalistic depiction of gritty reality. This edition features a new critical introduction that assesses the evidence to show whether the mystery can truly be solved, as well as a chronology, illustrations, appendixes (including one on opium use in the nineteenth century). Edited with an introduction and notes by David Paroissien.

the mystery of drood: The Mystery of Edwin Drood Charles Dickens, 1870 The biggest mystery of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is how it ends. It began as a serial, as nearly all of Dickens' novels did, but only six installments were published before the author's death in 1870. What we know about Edwin Drood is this: he is betrothed to a young woman named Rosa Bud; they are fond of each other, but uncertain about their future together. Jasper John--Edwin's older uncle and a frequenter of London's opium dens--is infatuated with Rosa, as is Neville Landless, and the two begin to compete for her affection behind the scenes. Then, on Christmas Eve, Drood disappears, leaving behind only a pin and a pocket watch. What became of Edwin Drood that fateful night is one of the greatest unsolved mysteries in literature and it continues to intrigue readers, writers, and literary historians more than 100 years after Dickens' death. This is a free digital copy of a book that has been carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online. To make this print edition available as an ebook, we have extracted the text using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology and submitted it to a review process to ensure its accuracy and legibility across different screen sizes and devices. Google is proud to partner with libraries to make this book available to readers everywhere.

the mystery of drood: The Mystery of Edwin Drood Charles Dickens, 2018-11-26 Among the unsolved puzzles of literature, few are more intricate and fascinating than *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Interrupted by death when the novel was half written, Dickens left to his readers a riddle which is equally baffling and alluring. The work was to have been published in twelve monthly installments. Only three were printed. Three more in manuscript were upon the author's desk when he died. The thread was cut when only half the story was told. Edwin Drood was a boyish chap, engaged to be married to a schoolgirl. As their betrothal was a testamentary provision of their parents, their love-making lacked ardor and the young people tugged at the tether. John Jasper, a cathedral choirmaster, was Drood's uncle, and treated him with an ostentatious affection. On Christmas Eve Edwin and a certain Neville Landless, with whom he had quarrelled, met in Jasper's room to arrange a reconciliation. On Christmas morning Edwin could not be found. The pivot of the story is this mysterious disappearance. *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Dickens's final novel was left unfinished before his death in 1871. Edwin Drood's uncle, John Jasper, a choirmaster, is in love with his pupil and Drood's fiancée Rosa Bud. She has also caught the eye of high-spirited and ill-tempered Neville Landless (who came from Ceylon with his twin sister Helena). When Drood is murdered, the killer must be found...that is if Drood is really dead. Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world's best-known fictional characters and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his lifetime, and by the 20th century critics and scholars had recognised him as a literary genius. His novels and short stories are still widely read today.

the mystery of drood: The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Illustrated) Charles Dickens, 2021-02-02 *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is the final novel by Charles Dickens, originally published in 1870. Though the novel is named after the character Edwin Drood, it focuses more on Drood's uncle, John Jasper, a precentor, choirmaster and opium addict, who is in love with his pupil, Rosa Bud. Miss Bud, Edwin Drood's fiancée, has also caught the eye of the high-spirited and hot-tempered Neville Landless. Landless and Edwin Drood take an instant dislike to one another. Later Drood disappears under mysterious circumstances.

the mystery of drood: The Mystery of Edwin Drood Charles Dickens, 2020-03-13 *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is the final novel by Charles Dickens, originally published in 1870. Though the novel is named after the character Edwin Drood, it focuses more on Drood's uncle, John Jasper, a

precentor, choirmaster and opium addict, who is in love with his pupil, Rosa Bud. Miss Bud, Edwin Drood's fiancée, has also caught the eye of the high-spirited and hot-tempered Neville Landless. Landless and Edwin Drood take an instant dislike to one another. Later Drood disappears under mysterious circumstances. The story is set in Cloisterham, a lightly disguised Rochester. With Dickens' death on 9 June 1870 the novel was left unfinished, only six of a planned twelve instalments having been published. He left no detailed plan for the remaining instalments, or solution to the novel's mystery, and many later adaptations and continuations by other writers have attempted to complete the story. The novel begins as John Jasper leaves a London opium den. The next evening, Edwin Drood visits Jasper, who is the choirmaster at Cloisterham Cathedral. Edwin confides that he has misgivings about his betrothal to Rosa Bud. The next day, Edwin visits Rosa at the Nuns' House, the boarding school where she lives. They quarrel good-naturedly, which they apparently do frequently during his visits. Meanwhile, Jasper, having an interest in the cathedral crypt, seeks the company of Durdles, a man who knows more about the crypt than anyone else. Neville Landless and his twin sister Helena are sent to Cloisterham for their education. Neville will study with the minor canon, Rev. Mr. Crisparkle; Helena will live at the Nuns' House with Rosa. Neville confides to Rev. Mr. Crisparkle that he had hated his cruel stepfather, while Rosa confides to Helena that she loathes and fears her music-master, Jasper. Neville is immediately smitten with Rosa and is indignant that Edwin prizes his betrothal lightly. Edwin provokes him and he reacts violently, giving Jasper the opportunity to spread rumours about Neville's reputation of having a violent temper. Rev. Mr. Crisparkle tries to reconcile Edwin and Neville, who agrees to apologise to Edwin if the former will forgive him. It is arranged that they will dine together for this purpose on Christmas Eve at Jasper's home. Rosa's guardian, Mr. Grewgious, tells her that she has a substantial inheritance from her father. When she asks whether there would be any forfeiture if she did not marry Edwin, he replies that there would be none on either side. Back at his office in London, Mr. Grewgious gives Edwin a ring which Rosa's father had given to her mother, with the proviso that Edwin must either give the ring to Rosa as a sign of his irrevocable commitment to her or return it to Mr. Grewgious. Mr. Bazzard, Mr. Grewgious's clerk, witnesses this transaction. Next day, Rosa and Edwin amicably agree to end their betrothal. They decide to ask Mr. Grewgious to break the news to Jasper, and Edwin intends to return the ring to Mr. Grewgious. Meanwhile, Durdles takes Jasper into the cathedral crypt. On the way there Durdles points out a mound of quicklime. Jasper provides a bottle of wine to Durdles. The wine is mysteriously potent and Durdles soon loses consciousness; while unconscious he dreams that Jasper goes off by himself in the crypt. As they return from the crypt, they encounter a boy called Deputy, and Jasper, thinking he was spying on them, takes him by the throat - but, seeing that this will strangle him, lets him go.

the mystery of drood: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood Annotated* Charles Dickens, 2020-12-09 The Mystery of Edwin Drood is the final novel by Charles Dickens, originally published in 1870. Though the novel is named after the character Edwin Drood, it focuses more on Drood's uncle, John Jasper, a precentor, choirmaster and opium addict, who is in love with his pupil, Rosa Bud. Miss Bud, Edwin Drood's fiancée, has also caught the eye of the high-spirited and hot-tempered Neville Landless. Landless and Edwin Drood take an instant dislike to each other. Later Drood disappears under mysterious circumstances. The story is set in Cloisterham, a lightly disguised Rochester. The novel begins as John Jasper leaves a London opium den. The next evening, Edwin Drood visits Jasper, who is the choirmaster at Cloisterham Cathedral. Edwin confides that he has misgivings about his betrothal to Rosa Bud. The next day, Edwin visits Rosa at the Nuns' House, the boarding school where she lives. They quarrel good-naturedly, which they apparently do frequently during his visits. Meanwhile, Jasper, having an interest in the cathedral crypt, seeks the company of Durdles, a man who knows more about the crypt than anyone else.

the mystery of drood: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* Charles Dickens, 2021-04 The Mystery of Edwin Drood is the final novel by Charles Dickens, originally published in 1870. Though the novel is named after the character Edwin Drood, it focuses more on Drood's uncle, John Jasper, a precentor, choirmaster and opium addict, who is in love with his pupil, Rosa Bud. Miss Bud, Edwin Drood's

fiancée, has also caught the eye of the high-spirited and hot-tempered Neville Landless. Landless and Edwin Drood take an instant dislike to each other. Later Drood disappears under mysterious circumstances. The story is set in Cloisterham, a lightly disguised Rochester. Upon the death of Dickens on 9 June 1870, the novel was left unfinished, only six of a planned twelve instalments having been published. He left no detailed plan for the remaining instalments or solution to the novel's mystery, and many later adaptations and continuations by other writers have attempted to complete the story. The novel begins as John Jasper leaves a London opium den. The next evening, Edwin Drood visits Jasper, who is the choirmaster at Cloisterham Cathedral and also his uncle. Edwin confides that he has misgivings about his betrothal to Rosa Bud, which had been previously arranged by their respective fathers. The next day, Edwin visits Rosa at the Nuns' House, the boarding school where she lives. They quarrel good-naturedly, which they apparently do frequently during his visits. Meanwhile, Jasper, having an interest in the cathedral crypt, seeks the company of Durdles, a man who knows more about the crypt than anyone else. Neville Landless and his twin sister Helena are sent to Cloisterham for their education. Neville will study with the minor canon Rev. Crisparkle; Helena will live at the Nuns' House with Rosa. Neville confides to Rev. Crisparkle that he had hated his cruel stepfather, while Rosa confides to Helena that she loathes and fears her music-master, Jasper. Neville is immediately smitten with Rosa and is indignant that Edwin prizes his betrothal lightly. Edwin provokes him and he reacts violently, giving Jasper the opportunity to spread rumours about Neville's having a violent temper. Rev. Crisparkle tries to reconcile Edwin and Neville, who agrees to apologise to Edwin if the former will forgive him. It is arranged that they will dine together for this purpose on Christmas Eve at Jasper's home. Rosa's guardian, Mr. Grewgious, tells her that she has a substantial inheritance from her father. When she asks whether there would be any forfeiture if she did not marry Edwin, he replies that there would be none on either side. Back at his office in London, Mr. Grewgious gives Edwin a ring which Rosa's father had given to her mother, with the proviso that Edwin must either give the ring to Rosa as a sign of his irrevocable commitment to her or return it to Mr. Grewgious. Mr. Bazzard, Mr. Grewgious's clerk, witnesses this transaction.

the mystery of drood: The Mystery of Edwin Drood : with Original Illustrations Charles Dickens, 2019-09-07 Charles Dickens's final, unfinished novel, and one that has puzzled readers and inspired writers since its publication, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is edited with an introduction by David Paroissien in Penguin Classics. Edwin Drood is contracted to marry orphan Rosa Bud when he comes of age, but when they find that duty has gradually replaced affection, they agree to break off the engagement. Shortly afterwards, in the middle of a storm on Christmas Eve, Edwin disappears, leaving nothing behind but some personal belongings and the suspicion that his jealous uncle John Jasper, madly in love with Rosa, is the killer. And beyond this presumed crime there are further intrigues: the dark opium dens of the sleepy cathedral town of Cloisterham, and the sinister double life of Choirmaster Jasper, whose drug-fuelled fantasy life belies his respectable appearance. Dickens died before completing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, leaving its tantalising mystery unsolved and encouraging successive generations of readers to turn detective. This edition contains an introduction by David Paroissien, discussing the novel's ending, with a chronology, notes, original illustrations by Samuel Luke Fildes, appendices on opium use in the nineteenth century, the 'Sapsea Fragment' and Dickens's plans for the story's conclusion. Charles Dickens is one of the best-loved novelists in the English language, whose 200th anniversary was celebrated in 2012. His most famous books, including *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *David Copperfield* and *The Pickwick Papers*, have been adapted for stage and screen and read by millions. If you enjoyed *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, you might like Dickens's *Little Dorrit*, also available in Penguin Classics.

the mystery of drood: The Mystery of Edwin Drood Charles Dickens, 2021-04-02 Charles Dickens's final, unfinished novel, and one that has puzzled readers and inspired writers since its publication, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is edited with an introduction by David Paroissien in Penguin Classics. Edwin Drood is contracted to marry orphan Rosa Bud when he comes of age, but when they find that duty has gradually replaced affection, they agree to break off the engagement.

Shortly afterwards, in the middle of a storm on Christmas Eve, Edwin disappears, leaving nothing behind but some personal belongings and the suspicion that his jealous uncle John Jasper, madly in love with Rosa, is the killer. And beyond this presumed crime there are further intrigues: the dark opium dens of the sleepy cathedral town of Cloisterham, and the sinister double life of Choirmaster Jasper, whose drug-fuelled fantasy life belies his respectable appearance. Dickens died before completing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, leaving its tantalising mystery unsolved and encouraging successive generations of readers to turn detective.

the mystery of drood: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* Charles Dickens, 2021-04-25 *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*: Annotated by Charles Dickens Charles Dickens's final novel is *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. The novel was unfinished when Dickens died, and readers have frequently speculated on how it might have ended. The book is named after one of Edwin Drood's characters, but it is primarily about his uncle, John Jasper, a choirmaster who is in love with his pupil, Rosa Bud. Miss Bud is Drood's fiancée. She also caught the attention of the fiery and high-spirited Neville Landless, who arrives from Ceylon with his twin sister, Helena, and quickly becomes Drood's adversary. Although it is strongly implied that Jasper is the assassin of Drood, who is missing at the end of the extant text, it is unknown whether Dickens intended a surprise. Cloisterham, a lightly fictionalized Rochester, is the setting for the story, which vividly evokes the town's atmosphere and its streets and buildings.

the mystery of drood: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*(Annotated Edition) Charles Dicken, 2021-08-15 *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is the final novel by Charles Dickens, originally published in 1870. Though the novel is named after the character Edwin Drood, it focuses more on Drood's uncle, John Jasper, a precentor, choirmaster, and opium addict, who is in love with his pupil, Rosa Bud. Miss Bud, Edwin Drood's fiancée, has also caught the eye of the high-spirited and hot-tempered Neville Landless. Landless and Edwin Drood take an instant dislike to each other. Later Drood disappears under mysterious circumstances. The story is set in Cloisterham, a lightly disguised Rochester. Upon the death of Dickens on 9 June 1870, the novel was left unfinished, only six of a planned twelve installments having been published. He left no detailed plan for the remaining installments or solution to the novel's mystery, and many later adaptations and continuations by other writers have attempted to complete the story.

the mystery of drood: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (illustrated Classics) Charles Dickens, 2021-03-09 The final and unfinished novel of Charles Dickens, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* begins a tale that revolves around John Jasper, choirmaster and opium addict, who is the guardian of his orphaned nephew Edwin Drood. Before the death of his parents, Edwin was promised to marry Rosa Bud, but their affections have cooled upon reaching adulthood. This angers Neville Landless, twin brother of Helena and from Ceylon, who quickly develops feelings for Rosa. Helena soon becomes friends with Rosa, but it takes some time for Edwin and Neville to settle their differences over Rosa. Quickly following their reconciliation, Edwin disappears, and Neville is accused of murdering him. While uncompleted *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is a worthwhile work just the same whose conclusion, as Dickens intended, will be forever unknown.

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betrothal to Rosa Bud. The next day, Edwin visits Rosa at the Nuns' House, the boarding school where she lives. They quarrel good-naturedly, which they apparently do frequently during his visits. Meanwhile, Jasper, having an interest in the cathedral crypt, seeks the company of Durdles, a man who knows more about the crypt than anyone else.

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