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Hunted Down: The Detective Stories of Charles Dickens

By Dickens, Charles. Haining, Peter, Editor.

Peter Owen. 1 Paperback(s), 2013. soft. Book Condition: New. Though few consider this to be the case, Charles Dickens was a pioneer of detective fiction; indeed, it was with Inspector Bucket, who appears in Bleak House to solve the murder of an unscrupulous lawyer, that Dickens created the first significant detective in English literature, argues Peter Haining. Bucket himself was presaged by Mr. Nadgett in Martin Chuzzlewit, and by an undercover officer known simply as Tom in Dickens's "The Drunkard's Death," all inspired by his observations of London's fledgling detective force when he was a solicitor's clerk and reporter. Haining assembles a dozen such stories and excerpts from novels here, and explores the profound effect of Dickens's detectives on crime fiction. As P.D. James wrote in London's Times, "This collection reaffirms that the influence of Charles Dickens on the development and achievements of detective fiction is unchallengeable." Dickens was fascinated both by crime (especially murder) and the growing skills of the new detective force in tracking it down, and Peter Haining casts his net wide in this collection of stories that embody that fascination. He is justified too in his emphasis on their influence on crime fiction and detective stories of...



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