



Dodger's Guide to London

Terry Pratchett

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Dodger's Guide to London Terry Pratchett
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Ladies and Gents, Sir Jack Dodger brings you a most excellent Guide to London!

Did you know . . . ?

If a Victorian couldn't afford a sweep, they might drop a goose down their chimney to clean it!

A posh lady's unmentionables could weigh up to 40lbs!

Parliament had to be suspended during the Great Stink of 1858!

From the wretches of the rookeries to the posh nobs at Buckingham Palace, Dodger will show you every dirty inch of London.

Warning: Includes 'orrible murders, naughty ladies and plenty of geezers!

Dodger's Guide to London Details

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Author : Terry Pratchett

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Tria says

Fascinating stuff - lots of historical facts about Victorian London with a very well-dressed-up layer of fiction, both quite clearly defined (the factual bits are fully cited) that makes it much more than a list of facts and figures, and provides further reading among its quotations and bibliography to occupy one for months, especially those involving the characters featured in "Dodger" who really existed.

Neil says

An unremarkable collection of factoids about Victorian London, purporting to be an original period piece by the title character in Terry Pratchett's novel Dodger, but never convincingly so. Although there are some interesting facts here and there and some fiction.

Molokov says

Although this is a nice little book with some interesting factoids about Victorian London, presented in a way that a Pratchett/"Dodger" fan will find them accessible, there was one big thing missing from something you'd expect associated with Terry Pratchett - humour. There was maybe 2 or 3 giggle-worthy moments in the entire book, which is not enough. Also a point to note is that despite his name being in big letters on the cover, it's plainly obvious that this is /not/ written by Terry Pratchett. The Discworld Emporium (who've released this along with last year's The World of Poo and the upcoming Mrs Bradshaw's Handbook) may need to step up their game if they want to release /good/ Pratchett spinoff material.

Grond says

This companion book to Terry Pratchett's 'Dodger' is the kind of bathroom trivia book persons interested in Victorian London would enjoy leafing through to while away a few minutes here and there. Filled with facts about the Victorian age and asides from 'Dodger' himself it is an easygoing way to learn about minutiae of the period without slogging through heavier reference material.

Shaun Hatelly says

Love London. Love Terry Pratchett... and I liked Dodger, the novel. But this book really contained nothing I hadn't already read in other books, and it lacked the depth. Might be really good for somebody who hasn't already explored the history and culture of London, extensively, but left me a bit disappointed.

Not bad by any means. It was a good quick read. But my hopes were higher.

Joey Woolfardis says

Dodger's Guide to London comes as a companion to the novel Dodger and provides us with a casual look at what life was like for the lower classes of Victorian London.

It's a good place to start if you're looking to start researching Victorian London, as it has some very good references and recommendations for further reading. Paul Kidby provides the wonderful illustrations that always accompanies Terry Pratchett's work, as well as some real-life photographs that do not disappoint in bringing the era close to hand.

It does not contain much humour, though I would suggest this was a child-orientated book, and as such it can get a little boring. In-and-out reading would be best, and definitely it is a referenceesque book as opposed to any other kind. Be wary of the fictional elements that Pratchett provides, as these are not factual and may trip you up. Altogether an interesting read.

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meeners says

i loved "Did you know..." books as a kid, and reading this i discovered i still love them now. super fun stuff. not sure how much of it pratchett actually wrote, but the warm spirit and the enthusiasm are surely all his. sir terry, you are dearly missed.

Michael says

Although this book is aimed at younger readers (I am 25 years old) I found the book extremely enjoyable and picked up a lot of facts that I previously never knew about Victorian London. It is recommended that you read Dodger first before reading this book but for the casual reader it is a great read especially for all Terry Pratchett fans.

Karl Orbell says

There is a lovely book by Pratchett, called Dodger, I read it over Christmas and New Year 2014/15. Not the greatest of Pratchett's novels, but quite enjoyable. A novel centering around the life of the fictional inspiration for the Artful Dodger in Oliver Twist, complete with many real life Victorian characters, Charles Dickens and Henry Mayhew figure prominently. It worked acceptably well as a novel, the story was fun - this here book is a spin-off from it.

Now, this book isn't a novel, there's not a story contained within. It's more of a travel guide and historical account of the life and times of London in the Victorian era, as seen through the eyes of Dodger, one of its poorer inhabitants - an uncommon perspective for the time.

Really, the book in my eyes, is an attempt to make a funny and entertaining version of London Labour and the London Poor by Henry Mayhew. That is an iconic book detailing the struggle of the working classes in the city and this book covers similar territory and references that come quite heavily. It also continuously uses cartoons from Punch, a pioneering satirical magazine founded by Henry Mayhew again and illustrated by John Tenniel (who is also famous for illustrating Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. It is also peppered with adverts, both real and made-up, of the kind found in newspapers and other printed media of the time.

The overall effect is to form an informative and entertaining look at the underbelly of the city, just what regular life was like one and a half centuries ago. Pratchett obviously is enthralled by the subject matter and I can see why.

izzy horton says

For what this is, I found it very good and interesting! I don't have a 'passion' for History but recently I have found it more exciting (history used to bore me) and this book had a good amount of fact with a bit of made up characters but I have learnt a lot about Victorian London! It has been a great help for my dram project, where we are prodding a play based in Victorian London and has given us: fact to base lines and plot off, a feel for the scene setting, lines and a bit of dialogue to practice saying in an accent as well as using some in our drama! All in all I'm impressed for what it is! I wouldn't say it's really what I would read for leisure as it is mostly non-fiction, and also the layout/design was nice !! It has made me want to read Oliver and some more historical fiction!!

Mark says

This slim little volume is a companion book to Sir Terry's non-Discworld novel published last year, Dodger.

The original story is a Dickensian style tale of one Jack Dodger, who in the novel is an 'Artful Dodger' type character running around the rather mucky streets of Victorian London.

It's a fine old tale, involving characters based on people such as England's Prime Minister at the time, Benjamin Disraeli, originator of the English police force Sir Robert Peel, a journalist named Charlie Dickens, Sweeney Todd, the fictional butcher of Fleet Street and even Queen Victoria herself.

There's clearly a mine of material to work with there, and as you would expect, Sir Terry has done his

research to write the novel. (There's a long list of websites on the last page of Dodger's Guide for further research, should the reader be so inclined.) Dodger's Guide for London is obviously based on this research, and is presented as a collection of various details as a means of showing the perhaps uninformed reader what Victorian London was like.

It's a book that can perhaps be regarded as a Schott's Miscellany for Victorian London, or for those with younger people in their household, a Horrible Histories type romp through Victoriana. Most of the details inside are factual, though there are, peppered throughout, quotes and comments from the fictional Jack Dodger himself. As expected, there are lots of real details here that will surprise and perhaps revolt the reader. It's a book designed to be dipped into.

It is profusely illustrated throughout, with almost every page having a picture of some sort, and many more than one. Most of the drawings in black and white pencil throughout are drawn by long-time Pratchett collaborator Paul Kidby, although there are also 135 illustrations and photographs from the time, of places, magazines and key events.

You don't need to have read Dodger to get a lot from this book, although the comments from Dodger throughout may make more sense if you have.

Dodger's Guide to London is clearly one for the young enquiring mind, who wishes to know more about the real Victorian London, as well as a little of Pratchett's fictional one. In summary, it is a good way to pass a couple of hours, after which the reader is almost guaranteed to come away with something they didn't know before.

And coincidentally available just in time to accompany the paperback copy of Dodger for that most Victorian of celebrations, Christmas....

yuki says

Although I love Victorian London, I know nothing about it. I am familiar with historical fiction...but I'm no historian.

I am not familiar with Terry Pratchett nor Jack Dodger so I judged it by its cover....and was satisfied with it! I don't know if this book is supposed to be somewhat educational or based on other fiction novels, but it was in the Sci-Fi section so I'm guessing it is supposed to be fiction...and what I absolutely loved about it is the art. It contains retro visuals, which is a huge plus. I am definitely going to keep this book so that my future kids can read it too! And I'm not even married yet! :)

Retrovold says

Dodger was not my favorite book but it was enjoyable nonetheless, his guiding through London's dirty secrets was real joy and I have learned many interesting things :-) Lovely put and what a beautiful illustration, they don't make books like this anymore. Took me back :)

Nonethousand Oberrhein says

The reality behind the fiction

The reader is guided through early-victorian London by the witty character Dodger. More than a merry historical romp, this book principal goal is to transmit in a fun way part of the huge research work that Pratchett did to plunge the fictional novel *Dodger* in a very realistic setting. Didactic at the very least.

Meg says

This was a lot of fun...based on real studies of nineteenth century London. Did you know that the song Pop Goes The Weasel refers to pawning ones tools to buy food! A fun follow up to Terry Pratchett's Dodger
