



## Manga Classics: Great Expectations

*Stacy King (English Dialogue Adaptation) , Nokman Poon (Illustrations) , Crystal S. Chan (Editor) , Charles Dickens (Original Story)*

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Great Expectations has it all: romance, mystery, comedy, and unforgettable characters woven through a gripping rags-to-riches tale. Naive Pip, creepy Miss Haversham, beautifully cold Estella, terrifying Abel Magwitch, and the rest of Dicken's fantastic cast are perfectly envisioned in this new adaptation in this 300-plus page volume featuring artwork by artist Nokman Poon. Manga Classics editions feature classic stories, faithfully adapted and illustrated in manga style, and available in both hardcover and softcover editions. Proudly presented by UDON Entertainment and Morpheus Publishing.

## Manga Classics: Great Expectations Details

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Author : Stacy King (English Dialogue Adaptation) , Nokman Poon (Illustrations) , Crystal S. Chan (Editor) , Charles Dickens (Original Story)

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## From Reader Review Manga Classics: Great Expectations for online ebook

### Jamie says

3.5

Art was good, but story drags a times, especially the last third.

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### Gully says

This is an interesting adaptation of Dickens's bildungsroman...

The characters look very different to what I had imagined, having read the original a few times; a large part of this could be attributed to the aesthetic element of the manga medium. Young Pip looks well groomed, and Joe looks attractive and delicate—quite unlike what I expected the poor blacksmith to look like. At the beginning of the manga, Magwitch looks worn and innocent, hugely contrasting the harsh and frightening appearance I had expected.

The manga discounts the vernaculars that distinguish some of the characters. Joe and Magwitch, for example, appear unrefined through their eating habits, but their speech is relatively normal.

I like how the visual element demands readers make inferences rather than receiving explicit and detailed descriptions—but this also presents an adverse effect: characters often seem two-dimensional. Granted, a lot of the characters in the original are caricatures that merely help Pip grow and develop, but they do not lack depth to such a degree. Moreover, due to the lack of description, some characters seem superfluous, like Wemmick and Drummle. That said, I am aware that this could be ascribed to the abridged and visual format of the manga.

On the whole, an enjoyable read, but lacking the mystery and excitement of the original.

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### Mallory (toweroftomes) says

*Find this review and more fantastical things at [The Leaning Tower of Tomes](#).*

The mini-review:

Manga Classics adapt the classics we all know and love in the manga comic format and art style. I've read and loved the manga adaptations of *Les Misérables* and *Pride and Prejudice*, so I was thrilled that my library had *Great Expectations*! These are hefty books, around 300 pages, but they fly by so quickly! This one happens to be an adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, and, while it obviously had to cut a huge amount of the original story, it does a very good job of remaining (relatively? I'll get to that in a moment) faithful to the original story.

Back to the "relatively" from the previous paragraph: I haven't actually, uh, read *Great Expectations*, so I'm

perhaps not the best judge of how much was cut for this manga. But I have watched the 2011 BBC miniseries, which I liked for the most part (Douglas Booth's cheekbones and jawline are unreal), and which garnered generally positive reviews. From what I remember of the miniseries, the manga mirrors it well. But... I guess I should go and read the real Great Expectations? Because I totally missed out on that in high school. (I have read A Christmas Carol, however, so you can't say I've never read Dickens.)

I think the main gripe I have with Great Expectations, in any format, is how unlikable Estella is, and how arrogant and different Pip becomes. I like the mystery behind Miss Havisham, Magwitch, and Compeyson, as they are far more interesting characters, despite being strange and quite hard to decipher.

But besides the fault of Dickens, and not this manga, which I am reviewing today, this is a great visual adaptation to ease readers into Great Expectations or give those who have already read the book a new way to look at the story. The illustrations are simply gorgeous, and the dialogue, for the most part, is pretty straightforward. (There was one instance, though, where Pip called Orlick a "punk" and I had to laugh. Did "punk" even exist in the early to mid-1800s?) Anyway, I highly recommend the Manga Classics series. They're also a terrific way to get into manga in general, as they tell familiar stories most of us are familiar with. ♦

So tell me...

Have you read Manga Classics: Great Expectations? If you haven't, would you be interested to? What is a manga you've read and recommend? I want your suggestions! Comment below letting me know!

*Follow me @ toweroftomes on Twitter / Instagram / Goodreads / and Bloglovin'!*

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### **[Shai] Bibliophage says**

Whenever I visit a bookstore, I always check the classics book corner and the story of Great Expectations always catch my eye. I want to purchase a copy but what's holding me is that aside that it's thick – the size of the font is quite small – which made it hard to read. Thanks to this graphic novel, I've finally read the beautiful and poignant story of this classic.

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### **Sarah Marie says**

Manga Classics: Great Expectations by Charles Dickens, Stacy King, & Nokman Poon

**3.25 stars**

The tale of Great Expectations is a famous one, but most people only hear it and passing and don't realize that it is a Dickens novel. It follows the story of Pip, a young man living in poverty and destined to follow his sister's husband's footsteps as a blacksmith. He stumbles upon a convict and is scared that this will lead to his arrest and shame. He stumbles into the great rooms of Miss Havisham's mansion and the lovely Estella. Miss Havisham has been secluded into her house for more than twenty years and still wears the

wedding dress she was abandoned in. Estella is her revenge against men for the wrong she faced. Pip loves Estella with all his heart, but is a poor boy. That is, until Pip comes into his Great Expectations and an anonymous donor funds his ability to rise into London's high society as a young man. It's a simple story and it is wonderfully adapted in this edition. I liked this adaptation so much that I picked up the audiobook of it and bought myself a personal copy. Since then, I have read Great Expectations and I think that is what is so wonderful about this series. It introduced me to a story that I knew was famous, but didn't necessarily want to read. However, this story is vast and it struggles as a manga. There was a lot cut and this is a very abridged version of the story. This is particularly due to Dickens' writing style. It is simple, but it doesn't feel complete without seeing the words on the page. The art is quite nice, but it isn't the strongest of the manga classics and for that reason it didn't hold a special place in my heart.

### **Art Scale: 2.5**

My biggest problem with Great Expectations is Pip. He is a rather boring character in this adaptation and notions are silly and quite frivolous. However, after reading the source material, I think this intentional as the story is told by a much older Pip who is reflecting on this time in his life as a silly young boy and man.

Estella is a real piece of work. She isn't redeemable by any means, but she was nurtured to be cruel, unforgiving, and cold. It makes an interesting nature versus nurture debate. The majority of Great Expectations characters are detestable. That's what makes them so memorable! Ah, Mrs. Havisham is one of my favorites in classical literature.

### **Character Scale: 4**

Overall, this adaptation made me interested in picking up the original work and I think that it did its purpose. It was also nice to finally be introduced to Dickens outside of A Christmas Carol. I would recommend this if you are unsure about whether you would like Dickens or if classics intimidate you, but you want to know what people in literary discussions are referencing. You could be pretentious without a lot of effort (or just pick up the actual novel because I preferred it more).

### **Plotastic Scale: 3.75**

**Cover Thoughts: It's interesting, but not a favorite.**

*Thank you, Netgalley and Udon Entertainment for providing me with a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **? Garima ? says**

It is safe to say that I am not Charles Dickens fan. The story was full of drama and some quite unsettling moments so I struggle to understand some of the things, there are so many interpretations out there but for me it didn't work.

The art was great and so was the pacing. Great work!

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### **Ishmeen says**

3.5 stars! I am so glad I found these adaptations of classics in manga form because I have always been interested in these stories but not a fan of reading the actual classics so this series works out perfectly for me! The Great Expectations is a very interesting story I'd say, I wasn't sure what to expect going into it but the characters and plot are very well written. The ending didn't quite satisfy me and I wish there had been more romance but it was nice to see a change in Pip's character, considering how much of a brat he was at some parts of the story ? The art is absolutely beautiful and I will be definitely be picking up more of these books in the future ❤?

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### **Nicole says**

Manga Classics: Great Expectations!!! First things first: I received this book through NetGalley. I'm going to start with saying once again, how much I love these Manga Classics. Seriously. If you want to read a classic but you are scared of them, try these Manga Classics. They are such a fun and easy way to dive into these stories (and they probably, most of the time, make you wanna pick up the original story). This one wasn't for me. Towards the end I really got into the story and the journey the main character Pip went through and how much he grew. But overall, the whole story didn't work for me. I have to admit that I even forgot about the book for a bit until I saw it on my currently reading shelf on goodreads and on booklikes and remembered, oh right, I'm still reading that. Like always, the art work was amazing.

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### **Giselle says**

**\* I received an eARC of this manga from the publisher (UDON Entertainment) via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.**

**UDON Entertainment** takes us again to a new literary landscape through the publication of one of Charles Dickens's finest novel in a Manga format titled, The Great Expectation. I have yet to read any of Charles Dickens's great literary works so I don't have any idea about his original work so this review will not be compared against the original version. Apart from the two Manga Classics I've read (**Austen's Emma and Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter**), the adaptation of The Great Expectation by Charles Dickens was

probably my favorite. I particularly liked the portrayal of characters in this manga edition, everything were so on point: the emotions, the artwork, the story line and the setting coupled by the artist's and writer's unique interpretation.

**The Great Expectation** is the thirteenth novel scrupulously written by Charles Dickens and is set in the mid-1800s. Compared to Jane Austen's Emma, this one is a bit dark and delivers a poignant look on love and loyalty. The story is centered around themes like *revenge, betrayal, forgiveness, secrecy, family relationships, one-sided love, indifference and selfishness*.

When the dialogue says Estella is a beautiful girl, the graphic artists literally mean it. I couldn't picture her in any other way but this:

I didn't know that art could be this powerful. By looking at Miss Havisham, it gives me a creepy feeling I couldn't understand. I was seemingly moved by how beautiful and very intriguing Charles Dickens' story was.

## THE GREAT & FAVORITE PART

**MISS HAVISHAM:** "*I want your love.*"

**ESTELLA:** "*I am what you have made me. What would you have from me?"*

**"I am beginning to understand. If you raised you adopted daughter in the dark confines of this room, and hid from her the existence of sunlight; and then expected her to know all about the sun, would you be not disappointed? I must be taken as I have been made."**

## THE INTERPRETATION

I perceived these lines like this: "**Who give you the right to ask for something you didn't even give to me? You are asking me for love when you yourself, didn't show me what love truly is. You are asking me of something I was denied for. Take me as I am. As you wanted me to be.**"

Simple response yet so powerful.

## THE VAGUE ENDING

**"And will continue friends apart."**

I've learned that there were two endings in the original book of Great Expectations. In the Manga Classics version they chose to have an open ending; an evil cliffhanger that will depend on reader's imagination. I was greatly satisfied with the Manga's indistinct ending. Whatever the ending would be, I was contented with the clear message behind the conflict resolution regardless of the absence or presence of happily ever after. The creators decided to have an open ending because according to them and I quote, "We wanted to make the point that the romantic relationship between Pip and Estella (or lack thereof) is not the most important part of the story." In the manga edition, the writers and artists weaved and presented **Pip and**

**Magwitch** relationship pivotal to the story.

The entire story was not only focused on the unrequited love of Pip and Estella's indifference but it also teaches us about the ugly side of **BETRAYAL & REVENGE**; the beauty of **FORGIVENESS**; the value of **ACCEPTANCE**; the importance of FRIENDSHIP and how great **SELFLESS LOVE** can be.

I love the graphics, the writing style and the entire book in general. I think I enjoyed this one more than the Manga Classic Emma. The artwork was just so beautiful. The authors and the artists handled Dicken's novel remarkably well. I loved how they covered almost all of the essential parts.

Here's the thing, if you wanted to learn or to know something about one of the greatest literary piece of all time but you don't have so much time, read this manga. In less than an hour, you will have a glimpse about the original work filled with artistic visual graphics.

I would highly recommend this manga to anyone. The artists and the authors behind this manga made the literary classic novel accessible to everyone.

*\*Thank you UDON Entertainment for sending me an advanced copy of another Manga Classics! :D*

Review also posted here: HARDWORK BOULEVARD

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**Aneela ?the\_mystique\_reader? says**

*Wow! This Manga Classic is superb!  
It made me want to read the original work.*

**Basic Plot:**

Pip is an orphan and he lives with his elder sister and brother-in-law, Joe. Pip's sister always complains about Pip. She finds bringing him up as a burden. Joe is a blacksmith and a super sweet guy.

Mrs. Havisham is an old woman and is very peculiar. She was betrayed by the guy she was madly in love with and since then she lives in that moment of heartbreak. She is bitter and filled with anger and hatred. She has adopted a daughter - Estella who is breathtakingly beautiful but proud and rude.

Mrs. Havisham is using Estella as her revenge from men. She wants men to fall in love with Estella so she can break their heart just like Mrs. Havisham's heart was broken.

Poor Pip falls in love with the rich and beautiful Estella, not knowing how cruel is she. He has great expectations for his life. He wants to be rich like Estella so he can marry her.

Honestly, there is more to this story than all the things I have mentioned above. This was just the basic plot and I don't want to give away spoilers.

**What I Loved in this Manga Classic:**

**1.** Obviously, the story. Although, the original story is written by Charles Dickens and I can't wait to read it. I do give credit to the manga creator for fluent and coherent adaptation. The story just flowed smoothly making me sway with its ups and downs.

**2.** The characters. OMG! I love all of them.

*Pip* for his innocence and helpful nature. He was ambitious but was soon lost in the world of riches. I loved how he bounced back with dignity.

*Joe* for his cheerfulness in despite of hard times. His compassion for Pip and his sick wife

*Biddy* for her compassion

Poor *Mrs. Havisham*. She was rich but so poor by heart. I feel bad for what happened to her. Heartbreak can snatch your soul away leaving nothing but a gaping hole in your chest. You get stuck in that moment forever.

*Estella*. The most pitiful character of the story. She didn't know what was love for she was raised without it.

*Pumblechook* for I have an uncle just like him :-/

**3.** The gorgeous artwork!

#### **What I Didn't Like:**

Absolutely nothing!

It was awesome and too good.

*An eARC of this book was provided by Udon Entertainment via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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#### **Flor says**

Wow! What a thrilling ride! I received the book from the publisher via NetGalley. Thank you.

This book was great! I hadn't read the original before but I surely was not expecting that, it was dark, filled with plot twists and gripping.

A really good read, and I'm not talking about the plot because it was better for me that way. However what I am going to talk about it's the magnificent way in which they made it to manga.

The art is beautiful and meaningful. All the emotions that I was supposed to feel were felt, and I was amazed with how well detailed every page was.

As I have not read the original work I cannot say if it was well adapted, but in my opinion it was. I understood the whole story and felt it complete, so I'm guessing that at least all the important details were

there.

Again, I'm so grateful that these books exist, a wonderful way to reread or read (if you're overwhelmed by the original) the classics.

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### **Joanna (joreadsalot) says**

\*\*\* Disclaimer: Received this from the author/publisher via Netgalley for an honest review\*\*\*

I had read Great Expectations early on in my life. It was a mass market paperback that had a page count of well over 500 pages, if I remember clearly, which made it a beast of a book. I really hated that book then and never thought I would pick up the story once more. I was glad to find the manga for review on Netgalley because it allowed me to explore the story of Pip and Estella again as an older reader but in a timely fashion.

Let me start with the fact that the art is lovely. It is very dynamic and each frame was artfully placed. The progression of the plot is where I found it to be a bit choppy. I think that a lot of the beginning was spent with Pip as a child and because of that the ending had to get crunched in the last third to try and get in his adult years. I also felt that the relationship Havisham had with both Pip and Estella could have been flushed out more. I couldn't feel their reasoning for entertaining her throughout all the years. It is a very subtle thing explored in the actual book over a lot of pages so I kind of understand why it couldn't be done in the smaller page count here however I feel because it wasn't done I wasn't sold on their inherent connection to her. Without this connection you couldn't feel empathy for Havisham even in a small capacity.

The ending was very open ended and I really appreciated that. The author's notes at the end of the manga explained why they decided to go that route and I agree with them about it because the ending of the book I read (as the original Great Expectations had two endings written by Dickens) just irritated me greatly.

In the end I think this was still a terrific way to present this story and introduce people to Dickens' usually very large and long winded classics. I am excited to read more from the Manga Classic series as it allows me to read a lot of classics in a more engaging format.

Happy Reading

Jo

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### **Michael Jandrok says**

In the fall of 1985, I was a freshman at The University of Houston, taking mostly core classes. This, of course, meant English 1101. I remember being assigned several readings, "Great Expectations" being among them. Now you must understand that "Great Expectations" is not a slim volume, it clocks in at 500+ pages of fairly dense, classical writing that requires deft attention if you want to keep up with the story. As I recall, I ditched the text itself and went straight for the Cliff's Notes summary, which netted me a perfectly reasonable "C+" on my paper. That was way good enough for me, as I had much better things to do in my freshman year. I was batting leadoff for my intramural softball team, and there was beer to be downed after games, so you KNOW where my priorities were.

Definition of bildungsroman: a novel or story dealing with one's personal formative years and/or spiritual education and experience.

“Great Expectations” is quite possibly THE definitive bildungsroman. It is truly one of the classic pieces of literature, and its characters and plot tropes have entered and influenced so much of Western culture that it almost seems counterintuitive to try and document how important the book is to literature as a whole. And if you think that I’m going to try and review the work itself, you are quite incorrect. For one, I STILL haven’t read the book itself, as I’m perfectly happy with that “C+” that I got in freshman English. Even my desire to catch up on classics that I have missed over the years can’t overcome my hesitation to pick up the tome. Besides, I know all the basics.....main character Pip recounts his story of growth and redemption as he navigates the prides and pitfalls of English society through the course of his life. There is action, drama, humor, pathos....this book literally has it all. And of course the side characters have made their mark as well....the eccentric Miss Havisham, the cold and ruthless Estella, the kind but lowly blacksmith Joe, the evil Compeyson....all of these enduring characters have entered into the literary canon and been examined and written about and psychoanalyzed to death. No, there is no point whatsoever in trying to review a work like “Great Expectations.” You either know it and accept it for what it is, or you don’t.

That said, I couldn’t resist picking up a copy of “Manga Classics: Great Expectations” one day when I was at the used book store. It was on sale, I had a coupon, and I figured that I could at the very least expand my Cliff’s Notes knowledge of the source material. It seemed to be a perfectly good way to engage with this massive classic without having to wade into the water itself, so to speak.

And by gosh, I think I made a pretty good decision. The story adaptation by Crystal S. Chan is solid and covers the main parts of the story well, and the art by Nokman Poon is lively and totally in keeping with established manga styles and conventions. The text was adapted into English by Stacy King. It’s difficult to conceive of how a book as massive and sweeping as “Great Expectations” could be condensed into 295 pages of dialog boxes and artwork, but here it is. I think Chan and Poon should both be congratulated for doing such a good job of keeping the bones of the story intact while maintaining a narrative thrust.

The manga begins at the same place as the book does, with the iconic graveyard confrontation between the young, orphaned Pip and the escaped convict Magwitch. From there it careens through the tale at a breakneck pace. Pip’s introduction to a world beyond the commoner lifestyle when he first meets Miss Havisham and her adopted daughter, Estella. Pip’s change of fortune that allows him to escape poverty and study in London to become a proper gentleman. The eventual outing of Magwitch as Pip’s benefactor and the consequences of that fateful action. The constant theme of the growth of Pip as a human being with a conscience and an unwavering sense of honor. It’s all there, though in abbreviated form. There is no way that all of the bases could have been covered in an adaptation this short, but the STORY is there, complete and full-bodied enough to satisfy anyone interested. I can see where this volume would encourage a reader to pick up the source material and dive in, but I can also see where this would be enough to carry the general reader through this enduring work of literary art.

There is also a valuable section at the end of the book that goes into some background detail of how “Great Expectations” made it to the manga format, and these extra features add some depth and explanation to the exercise as a whole. What to leave in? What to leave out? What to leave to the reader’s imagination? All this and more is brought to the table as Chan and Poon take the time to talk about their adaptation. Most readers will be aware that Charles Dickens wrote two endings for “Great Expectations.” The ending in this manga is smartly left open-ended, allowing the audience to imagine whichever ending they wish with no repercussions.

All in all, I was very happy with this manga adaptation. I wish that something like this had been available back in 1985 when I was working on that paper. This beats Cliff's Notes all to hell and back. I'm not sure whether or not I will personally feel compelled to pick up the book itself. This is probably as complete an understanding of "Great Expectations" as I will ever really need. There are other classics in this particular series, "Emma," "The Scarlet Letter," "Les Miserables." I can see a lot of value in collecting more of these adaptations, especially for those who would like a basic understanding of just what makes a classic book a classic in the first place.

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### **Yzabel Ginsberg says**

*[I received a copy of this book through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.]*

This series of classics turned to manga remains interesting. I read *Great Expectations* some 9 years ago, so I admit I forgot a lot of details, and it's difficult now for me to properly decide if this adaptation is faithful enough or if it culled through a lot. However, I think that for someone who never read Dickens's original story, this manga version covers the essential parts: Pip's feelings towards his class as he grows up and moves up the ladder, his relationship with the beautiful but cold Estella, and the mystery about his benefactor. For those who have read Dickens, well... it's a good reason to read him again, I say.

The artwork is similar to that of the other adaptations in this series: not by the same artist, but nonetheless quite pleasant to look at. Miss Havisham's dress is plain gorgeous, and her dusty, spiderweb-covered room definitely creepy. Estella's posture and attitude reflect the way she was brought up. Joe isn't like the character in the novel, physically, yet no matter what his design still conveyed that he's a good man. Actually, it's easy to detect who is "nice" and who is "evil" from their features—and while it may be considered a graphic shortcut, it also quickly allows the reader to picture who does (or will do) what, something that would be more difficult to achieve here anyway than in the original prose form.

The pace was rushed in places, though, especially when it comes to how Pip's take on life, people and events changed: it was wrapped up a little bit too fast, and as a result, Pip mostly came off as bratty most of the time (which he is, alright). And as the format demanded the story be restricted to 300 pages, some of its depth was lost along the way; the novel left room for more development, whereas in the manga, most characters felt rather one-dimensional.

Still, I would recommend it if only for the artwork and for its ability to make one want to (re)read *Great Expectations* itself. 3.5 stars.

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### **Sue Moro says**

This manga edition did a great job of capturing the main story in an abridged illustrated format. The artwork

and panneling was well done and I really liked the portrayal of the characters, in particularly Ms. Havisham. Classics in manga format are a wonderful way to make the genre available to a larger audience that might otherwise find the language difficult.

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