



The Hoydens and Mr. Dickens: The Strange Affair of the Feminist Phantom: A Secret Victorian Journal

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Someone is threatening Angela Burdett-Coutts, the banker, feminist, and philanthropist, one of the richest, most powerful women in England. Soon after she alerts her friend Charles Dickens to the threats, the Coutts Bank is robbed, and a member of the Women's Emancipation Society is found strangled inside. The murder brings the burgeoning feminist movement under scrutiny. Inspector William Field of the Metropolitan Protectives begins his investigation, aided by the eager amateur detective Dickens and his apprentice Wilkie Collins. Yet Dickens's own reputation and career are threatened by his love for the striking young actress Ellen Ternan. Ellen is a liberated "hoyden" herself, and a prime suspect in the murder. In order to prove her innocence, the two novelists may have to expose their own secrets.

The Hoydens and Mr. Dickens: The Strange Affair of the Feminist Phantom: A Secret Victorian Journal Details

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Diana Sandberg says

Well....not bad. Supposedly the account by Wilkie Collins of his adventures with Charles Dickens, solving crimes, a la Watson and Holmes. In an interesting switch from some of the other historical mysteries I've been reading lately, this one seems very well researched but is not terribly engaging, somehow. There are a couple of others in this series, I'll probably try another.

Rosemary W says

If you like 19th Century prose, you're likely to enjoy this book. The characters - Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins - seem to be historically accurate, and the examination of the role of women and suffragettes during this time seem genuine. And the plot twists were numerous and entertaining.
