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## **Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series** ***Critical Insights: A Tale of Two Cities***

*A Tale of Two Cities* has long been valued as one of Charles Dickens' most important and fascinating novels. Set during a time of great historical turmoil, presenting a fascinating cast of memorable characters, and exploring some of the most important themes (particularly moral issues), this book has long commanded the intense attention of anyone who has read it. This volume explores the novel from various deliberately diverse perspectives, setting it in historical, critical, and aesthetic contexts and examining how its impact has been kept alive to the present day.

This volume, like all others in the *Critical Insights* series, is divided into several sections. It begins with a discussion titled 'A Tale of Two Cities and Me' by Ruth Glancy, perhaps the leading expert on Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, in which she surveys many of the most important topics relevant to understanding the novel in numerous relevant contexts. This is followed by a Biography of Charles Dickens written by volume editor Robert C. Evans.

A collection of four critical contexts essays are intended to treat the novel

- 1) From a historical vantage point
- 2) In terms of its critical reception
- 3) Using a specific critical lens
- 4) And by comparing and contrasting it with another important work.

This section opens with an essay by Jeremy Tambling titled, "Shadows, Secrecy, and Violence: *A Tale of Two Cities*," followed by a piece written by Robert C. Evans, "Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*: A Survey of Modern Editions," This essay discusses the importance of introductions in classic literature and the impact they can have on readers. The following two articles are both written by John Rignall. The first, "Fleeing to Freedom, Driving to Death: The Motif of the Journey in *A Tale of Two Cities*" discusses the emphasis on travel in many of his books where characters shuffling between cities, as well as the imagery associated with the change of one day to the next. The final essay, "Sydney Carton and Charles Darnay, and the Doubling of Characters in the Historical Novel," Rignall compares and contrasts Dickens' novel with works by Walter Scott and the parallelism between them whether intentional or not.

Following these four Critical Context essays is the **Critical Readings** section of this book, which contains the following essays:

- Urban Intelligentsia in *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Leona Toker
- Sydney Carton Goes to His Death: Five Visualizations of the Famous Ending of Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Jordan Bailey
- The 1935 Film of Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*: A Survey of Reviews, by McKenna Odom
- The Ways of Looking at *A Tale of Two Cities* (1935): Historical and Stylistic Analysis of a Classic Hollywood Adaptation, by Darren Harris-Fain
- The 1958 Film of Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*: A Survey of Reviews, by Robert C. Evans
- The 1980 Television Film of Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*: A Survey of Reviews, by Kelly Snyder
- The 1989 Film of Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*: A Survey of Reviews, by Robert C. Evans
- Recent Critical Responses to Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* Part 1: Contexts, by Joyce Ahn
- Recent Critical Responses to Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* Part 2: Adaptations and Interpretations, by Joyce Ahn
- *A Tale of Two Cities*: A View from France, by Nathalie Vanfasse

In the final section, **Resources**, easy-to-follow lists are provided to help guide the reader through important dates and moments in the author's life. A selection of further reading is then provided. Each essay in *Critical Insights: A Tale of Two Cities* includes a list of **Works Cited** and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume is a **Chronology of Charles Dickens's Life**, a list of **Additional Works by Charles Dickens**, a Bibliography, biographies of the **Editor** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: A Tale of Two Cities* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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