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# **Terry Pratchett's Portrayal of Victorian London in Dodger**

Obraz Londýna viktoriánského období v  
románu Terryho Pratchetta Dodger

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## **Poděkování**

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## **Anotace**

Předmětem zkoumání bakalářské práce je román autora současné fantastické literatury pro mládež T. Pratchetta *Dodger* (Filuta). Práce si klade za cíl porovnat obraz viktoriánského Londýna na základě Pratchettova románu a podle sekundárních pramenů včetně Pratchettova průvodce Londýnem (*Dodger's Guide to London*). Práce v úvodu podává stručnou charakteristiku viktoriánského období a zaměřuje se na londýnské osobnosti viktoriánské Anglie, které se objevují jako literární postavy Pratchettova románu (B. Disraeli, Robert Peel, Charles Dickens, královna Viktorie, Sweeney Todd aj.). Práce dále posoudí vliv Pratchettovy literární inspirace románem *Oliver Twist* a v popisu zápletky románu *Dodger* se soustředí na téma a motivy příznačné pro poetiku anglického gotického románu (napětí, tajemství, zločin, přítomnost dámy v nesnázích a motiv hrdiny zachránce).



## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis focuses on the novel *Dodger* by **T. Pratchett**, who is an author of contemporary fantasy literature for youth readers. The work aims to compare the portrayal of Victorian London based on the Pratchett's novel and based on secondary sources which include Pratchett's *Dodger's Guide to London*. In the beginning, this work is providing in a brief characteristic of the Victorian era and bring focus on London's personalities of Victorian England, which occur as characters in Pratchett's novel (B. Disraeli, R. Peel, Ch. Dickens, Queen Victoria, S. Todd etc.). The thesis will also consider the inspiration of Pratchett's novel with Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist* and in the description of the storyline will concentrate on the themes and motifs significant of poetics of English Gothic novels (a tension, a mystery, a crime, a damsel in distress and a motif of the hero and the saviour).

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## **Introduction**

This bachelor thesis deals with the analysis of Terry Pratchett's novel *Dodger*. The large majority is dedicated to the description of the Victorian Era based on secondary sources. The main goal of this thesis is to compare Pratchett's vision of Victorian London in *Dodger* with the historical portrayal of Victorian London and to analyse themes and motifs that are typical for the poetics of English Gothic novels.

The first theoretical part provides an introduction to the Victorian Era, a brief overview of significant events and focuses mostly on the life of inhabitants of London and their problems like social status, work, money, illnesses, education, family life and culture. Additionally, the literature in the Victorian era is examined with an emphasis on well-known authors of its time, like the Bronte sisters, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Thomas Hardy and others. The following pages are dedicated to significant personalities of Victorian England who also occur as characters in Pratchett's book *Dodger*.

The practical part focuses on the analysis of Terry Pratchett's book *Dodger* in detail, providing a brief biography of Terry Pratchett and a summary of the plot. Additional chapters examine the composition which is characteristic of Pratchett's writing, settings and language which is unique thanks to the usage of slang. Many pages are devoted to a description of characters, that are important for the book and their characteristic features. Lastly, it focuses on themes and motifs that help us to understand the connection with the English Gothic novel.

# 1 Victorian era

## 1.1 Brief Overview of the Era

Victorian era is qualified from 20<sup>th</sup> June 1837, when a young Queen Victoria ascended the British throne being only 18 years old, until her death on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1901. Reigning for 63 years and 7 months, she was the longest serving British monarch until Queen Elizabeth II. had surpassed Queen Victoria as the longest-reigning British monarch in 2015.<sup>1</sup> The British Empire bloomed during Queen Victoria's reign and became the main political leader of its time.

On the other hand, many historians oppose this opinion on periodization by saying that in the political realm the beginning of the era was five years earlier in 1832 by establishing the Reform Bill. This reform has doubled the number of men eligible to vote and has started a process of gradual movement towards free democracy. Until then, only men with property had the right to vote for members in the House of Commons.<sup>2</sup>

This age can be best described as an era of transformation. Previous events had an impact on newly ascended Queen Victoria's reign. Napoleon was not a threat to British Empire anymore when he had been defeated at Waterloo by Duke of Wellington in 1815. For the first time in English history, every soldier was awarded. This created a new form of patriotism along with national pride and confidence.<sup>3</sup>

The second event with even bigger impact started during the 18<sup>th</sup> century with an enhancement of technology and an increasing amount of manpower. Britain was the place where the process began and the first country that transferred from dependence on agricultural way of living to being an industrial superpower. This process was possible due to stable financial system, global trading networks, lots of raw materials available in the territory of Britain and a political system that was keen on technology. We can see the progress by looking at numbers of people living

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<sup>1</sup> *Elizabeth Set To Beat Victoria's Record As Longest Reigning Monarch In British History* [online]. [cit. 2022-02-09]. Available from: [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/09/06/elizabeth-set-to-beat-victorias-record-as-longest-reigning-monarch-in-british-history\\_n\\_5777134.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/09/06/elizabeth-set-to-beat-victorias-record-as-longest-reigning-monarch-in-british-history_n_5777134.html)

<sup>2</sup> MITCHELL, Sally. *Daily Life in Victorian England, 2nd Edition*. Greenwood Press, 2009. ISBN 9780313350344. p. 3

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 2

in London during the first census in 1801 which were about 959,000 people in inner London and about 1,000,000 in Greater London. In 1861, the number increased by nearly 1,900,000 people in inner London and by 2,000,000 people in Greater London.<sup>4</sup> In 1780 the industrial revolution in the cotton industry just started, machines replaced actions that were made by hand, mostly weaving, spinning, and dyeing. Thanks to traveling overseas, the British cotton became very cheap compared to those in other countries. The main working power became women and mainly children in these textile manufactories because their labour was very inexpensive.<sup>5</sup> These machines were firstly powered by an old technology of waterwheels in windmills and horsepower. Thanks to an invention of steam powered engines the work has become more effective, and less strength was needed.

The building of railways was undoubtedly one of the most innovative ways to speed the transportation at this time. Although it was very expensive to build paths it was definitely a step forward because it was faster since steam powered locomotives were slowly substituting less effective horses. Main use for it was for transporting materials like coal than transporting passengers on daily basis. That changed in 1825 with opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, which was first public railway for passengers. Five years later, the railway from Liverpool to Manchester was opened and operated by express services that allowed a return journey the same day.<sup>6</sup> Manchester was the centre of trading with cotton and Liverpool was still the second most important seaport in Britain. Both railways quickly celebrated international success and set the baseline for development of railway industry. Locomotives used on these paths were able to carry 13-ton loads and speed up the transport which caused decrease of transport charges. In years 1830-1841 construction of about 2,000 km railways was approved by the British Parliament. The most important were railways connecting London with other significant cities in monarchy like Bristol, Birmingham, and Southampton. By 1870 the British network of railroads was the largest one in Europe, with length around 21,000 km.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> HIBBERT, Christopher. *The London Encyclopaedia*. 3rd edition. London: Pan Macmillan, 2010. ISBN 978-0-230-73878-2. p. 1842-1848

<sup>5</sup> MITCHELL, p. 3

<sup>6</sup> CASSON, Mark. *The World's First Railway System*. Oxford University Press, 2009. ISBN 978-0-19-921397-9. p. 1

<sup>7</sup> BEREND, T. Iván. *An economic history of nineteenth-century Europe: diversity and industrialization*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2013. ISBN 978-1-107-03070-1. p. 137

As the population grew in London, the traffic was digested most of the time by cabs, omnibuses, and carts, so there was a sudden urge to come up with a solution to this problem of how to easily transport people through city.<sup>8</sup> The first concept came in 1840s but permission to build a subway was granted to the Metropolitan Railway in 1854.<sup>9</sup> On the day of the opening, on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1863, the train transferred about 30,000 people from Paddington to Farringdon. There was an interval of 15 minutes between each ride operated by 120 trains but that soon turned out to be not enough, so the running company had to borrow locomotives and carriages from other railways to cover the demand.<sup>10</sup> Soon there were problems with ventilation in tunnels because of smoke from locomotives and smell from gas lightning, that resulted in installing ventilation shafts but that seemed not enough until electric trains has overcome this problem at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>11</sup> Tunnels in London underground can be sorted into two categories: tunnels just below the ground (also called cut-and-cover) and tunnels deep underground. To this day, there are 272 stations served by the London Underground and with the length of total 402 km it is in top 10 longest metro systems in the world.<sup>12</sup>

The second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century was a great time for developing many scientific and social theories, that parasite on human belief in religion and superterrestrial forces and ignited a religious revolution. The most controversial theory was Darwin's *The Origin of Species* that provoked polemical debates in all areas of living – sociology, politics but mainly in religion. The work concerning evolution was one of many factors weakening the importance and values of religion, so the faith was endangered by developments in science and technology.<sup>13</sup> Darwin's theory explains the evolution of living organisms as a result of accidental mutations and survival of the fittest organisms. That deeply shattered Church and upholders of Bible, many new faiths that partly accept the evolution theory arose and there was an emphasis on progress in other sciences like anthropology, philosophy, or ethnology.

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<sup>8</sup> WOLMAR, Christian. *The Subterranean Railway: How the London Underground Was Built and How it Changed the City Forever*. Atlantic Books, 2004. ISBN 978-1-84354-023-6. p. 22-23

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. p. 29

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. p. 47

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. p. 51

<sup>12</sup> *Tube trivia and facts – Made by TfL* [online]. [cit. 2022-03-03]. Available from: <https://madeby.tfl.gov.uk/2019/07/29/tube-trivia-and-facts/>

<sup>13</sup> TUCKER, Herbert F., ed. *A companion to Victorian literature and culture*. Blackwell, 2014. ISBN 9781118624494. p. 26

Blooming society and facade could not cover the real indigent life of inhabitants and their social problems like poverty and lethal diseases. These two problems were tightly connected, and a general rule was applied – the higher social class you were, the easier was your access to hygiene.

Beside regular outbreak of cholera and other diseases, another great problem for Britain was Irish famine. In 1845, a case of ‚potato famine‘ occurred in Ireland. Inhabitants were dependent on potato production to the point that it made a great amount of their daily dishes because there were hardly any other crops that would benefit from local soil. Irish production supplied the rest of the kingdom.<sup>14</sup> Potatoes were not prosperous because of a disease called potato blight which contaminated it with mould. The harvest did not turn out well in next years, British Parliament had not made much effort to help Ireland and not even corn supply from America could cover the demand of people that were slowly starving to death. That emerged to a wave of immigration of Irish people to the USA, mainly to New York, and to an attempt to tear apart from British supremacy that resulted in an inception of movement struggling for independence in 1860‘.<sup>15</sup>

National unemployment was a question that needed to be answered quickly. Local farmers were crushed due to an increased import from abroad and were left houseless with no income. Price of food was raising exponentially as opposed to salaries that remained stable. British parliament tried to come with a resolution with establishing *the Poor Law*, which was made to increase living conditions and help those in need. The only help consisted of creating workhouses, a place for poor that provided them with work and bed. Workhouses were available to anyone who was physically healthy but greeted them with dreadful working conditions. For the poorest, Workhouses were the only legal way to gain income. People were separated by their sex and age and were forced to work all day in inhuman conditions. Many people tried to avoid this by running to larger cities where there were more opportunities.<sup>16</sup> During the whole

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<sup>14</sup> KINEALY, Christine. *The Great Irish Famine: Impact, Ideology and Rebellion*. Red Globe Press, 2001. ISBN 978-0333677735. p. 18

<sup>15</sup> MORGAN, Kenneth O. *Dějiny Británie*. Přeložil Ivo ŠMOLDAS, přeložil Jana SPURNÁ, přeložil Michal KALINA. Praha: Nakladatelství Lidové noviny, 1999. ISBN 80-7106-347-9. p. 391

<sup>16</sup> MCDOWALL, David. *An illustrated history of Britain*. Longman Group, 1991. ISBN 058274914X. p. 132



century, this situation was slightly improving, free trading allowed decreasing of subsistence wage to minimum and from 1850, the wage of workers raised.<sup>17</sup>

Expanding cities were now overcrowded with people, poor people living on every corner meant higher crime rate. Until 1820s there had not been any centralised police unit that would protect inhabitants of London. Some forms of protection resided in voluntary work. Increasing demand finally led to approval of a proposal to create a new police force called Metropolitan police in 1829. The man who made it possible was Sir Robert Peel, at that time the Prime Minister so police officers were famously nicknamed *bobbies* or *peelers* after him. In the next 30 years in the manner of London there were other forces forming in other big cities. The effect was soon to be seen – the crime rate conspicuously dropped.<sup>18</sup>

Not even this force ever really found out who was the mysterious killer of prostitutes known as Jack the Ripper. He killed probably 5 prostitutes in year 1888, mainly in London. Prostitution was plentifully expanded in London and considered a social evil, there was no law restricting so even though policemen knew about the profession, they could not do much more than tolerate them until they committed a crime. According to statistics this ancient profession and running brothels was tied to the poorest parts of London like Whitechapel, Ratcliff, Spitalfields and others, opposite to Whitehall where there was not a single brothel.<sup>19</sup>

The life changed for women in the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century, even though all the time the focus was on men, back then women began to draw attention to themselves. Poor women still had jobs to do because there was no housework at slums. One could work at a restaurant and washed dishes, made matchboxes, swept, some of them even dared to compete with boys selling newspaper.<sup>20</sup> Many new working opportunities opened to women in London, about 33 % during years 1851-1871.<sup>21</sup> Women in higher classes were allowed to be men's wives, have children, and stay at home.<sup>22</sup> What they had in

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<sup>17</sup> MAUROIS, André. *Dějiny Anglie*. Praha: Nakladatelství Lidové noviny, 1993. ISBN 80-7106-058-5. p. 415

<sup>18</sup> MCDOWALL, p. 136

<sup>19</sup> PICARD, Liza. *Victorian London: The Life of a City 1840-1870*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2006. ISBN 978-0753820902. p. 314

<sup>20</sup> PICARD, p.308

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. p. 310

<sup>22</sup> Ibid. p. 325



common is that not a single woman had any economic or politic rights. Women even had not had any legal rights over their children and no rights to own property when got married because of coverture – a common law that enabled husband to act upon his wife. That changed in 1882 when *Married Women's Property Act* was in force and allowed women to possess property that they got hold of before and during marriage. An *Education Act* passed in 1870 and resulted in the fact that every child had to attend school up to the of age thirteen, this opened many new job opportunities to women along with them running for membership on school board and voting in it. As a part of this, the first college accepting women was founded in 1869 and enabled them to have a degree and the same examinations as male students.<sup>23</sup>

Life of people in 19<sup>th</sup> century London demonstrably improved since one of the greatest ruler Victoria got on the throne. Living standard got higher, social, and economical changes created a whole new transformed country that was much more similar to the London we know today. At the end of the century, British empire was falling apart, their international status declining over time and other nations having advantages against Britain. Germany became extraordinarily strong economically and nationally with a larger produce of coal and iron. Britain is lacking in technological and scientific sphere with no expectation to improve it soon. At the edge of the war at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, Britain got into alliance with France because they would not be able to survive long without food and suppliance. At that point everybody still believed that the war would not simply happen.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> TUCKER, p. 38-39

<sup>24</sup> MCDOWALL, p. 156-157

## **1.2 Life in Victorian London**

### **1.2.1 Social Classes**

The concept of social classes in Victorian England is not as simple as it looks. It did not depend on how much money you have or the amount of property you own. The way you talked and dressed was a part of who you were as well as education, your family and job. And if you wanted to be someone else? That was unacceptable. If you suddenly had won a large amount of money and had wanted to take a ride with train for first class, that would have been against the unwritten rule. Everyone knew the place where they belong whether it was in the working class, middle class, or upper class.<sup>25</sup> You can imagine these classes as bubbles with its own written rules about how to live and if you had broken any of it, the bubble would have simply popped, and you were left with nothing.

#### **The Working Class**

In this largest group there were plenty of unskilled workers working in factories, on fields, households, and many other manual jobs. Most workers earned just enough money to survive and were most productive at about 20 years of age when they were at the peak of their physical condition. When married, women most likely worked too, but with children they could only have some side income so when children were small the life would be quite poor. Once the children were able to work, the family income would increase above the poverty level and family could do some savings, mostly for their children's weddings. If you were luckier, you skilled in some trade like shoemaking, masonry, printing or dressmaking and teaching if you were woman. The line between working class and poverty was very thin and just a simple illness or injury could leave you without any income in no time.<sup>26</sup>

If we focus on clothing, one thing is the most important for every class in general – headwear. For men it was a hat, women usually wore its counterpart – a bonnet. Almost nobody in working class had money to buy new clothes, so charity shops and second-hand shops bought worn clothes from middle class people and resold them. Many

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<sup>25</sup> MITCHELL, p. 17-18

<sup>26</sup> Ibid. p. 19

families struggled to clothe their families at basic level and keep clothes clean and fresh.<sup>27</sup>

### **The Middle Class**

The Middle Class interfaced the working class and the higher class which was about 15 % of population in 1837 but during the century the numbers grew quickly. Even there we could differentiate two subgroups. In the upper-middle class would be clergymen of *Church of England*, manufacturers, bankers, and engineers that made profit from Industrial Revolution and even farmers, engineers, and doctors. The lower middle class was made of small shopkeepers and business managers. The children in middle class families were sent to schools instead of work at young age until age 12 and after that they would start working in family business or found their own job. The base of the middle class was anyone who was more educated and had more money (even though that was not always true) to have a comfortable lifestyle.<sup>28</sup>

### **The Higher Class**

This class could also be separated to two groups, one with titles which were aristocracy and those with inherited lands whose income came from the property renting. The aristocracy had an important function for nation was divided into five grades – from highest to lowest rank – duke with duchess, marquess with marchioness, earl with countess, viscount with viscountess and baron with baroness. Bearer of another two titles, specifically knight and baronet were more of a commoner without any significant privileges but with one difference - the title of knight was earned and not pass down to sons like other titles. With title came responsibility - being a member of the House of Lords. While aristocracy was based in London and their surroundings, the countryside was handled by landed gentry. They took part in active solving of local affairs on their property and took care of his labours.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> PICARD, p. 204-210

<sup>28</sup> MITCHELL, p. 19-21

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. p. 21-25

### 1.2.2 Employment and Money

What are regular working conditions in modern day work? Regulated hours, vacation days, a contract and maybe some benefits, but nothing like this existed during Victorian period. Working days were usually really long, when working outside it was usually from sunrise to sunset so during summer it was about 12-14 hours a day with only two breaks for meal. Working conditions were not regulated by law the same applied for wages and job security. This progressed during the century for better and laws made organization of work possible so working hours reduced gradually to working about eight hours a day by 1900s. There was a system of six days working and one rest day, so Sunday was dedicated to resting and attending church services.<sup>30</sup>

At the beginning of the century the numbers of agricultural workers were high, but these workers slowly transferred to work in factories so in 1871 census only 14.2 % people worked in agriculture. Work in agriculture came with a benefit which was a tied cottage which workers got for low rent along with ground. Still these jobs were the lowest paid ones – adult man got a wage of about eleven shillings per week. Men were used for the hardest physical labour like ploughing, digging, planting, and harvesting, women were engaged in smaller undemanding jobs around, and children picked up stoned before ploughing or looked after animals.<sup>31</sup>

Another major area of employment was working in factories. Conditions were brutal as in other manual jobs, but there was one great advantage – the work was strictly defined and ruled but their free time after work was not supervised by anyone. The main industries where factories operated were mostly textile industry, iron, and steel, crafting and mining along with another minor branches. Work safety was something non existing at that time, so polluted air contaminated with particles of metal and chemicals had been damaging for worker's health until 1888, where girls from match-making factory conducted a strike and publicized about terrible conditions in factories.<sup>32</sup> One of the other branches was manufacturing of pianos. The demand for pianos was huge, it was a piece of furniture that was required in almost every home.

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<sup>30</sup> MITCHELL, p. 39-41

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. p. 46-47

<sup>32</sup> Ibid. p. 56-59

Also, brewery was very specific for London industry with some of the breweries were working from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>33</sup>

Probably the largest area of employment at that time was working as a servant. It was estimated that every third person living in London was employed as a servant because of the still growing middle-class families' wealth and need for servants. This area provided jobs for both men and women but was very exhausting, as maids in house had been up long before the sun came up to prepare breakfast, heat water and light the stove and finished their duty when everyone was asleep.<sup>34</sup> Their only free time was a half-day off to attend church and regularly one full day off every month.<sup>35</sup> Despite the lack of free time, the living conditions were high above average, every servant in the house had their own room under the roof or in separate building dedicated to them, their dishes were warm, women were able to learn how to cook and take care of the house and save money for her future. If they were lucky, they would even find a husband when they met with tradesmen or apprentices. There was a certain hierarchy among the servants in richer properties. Workers in the house were supervised by a butler, a housekeeper, and a cook. Each of them had maids working below them around the whole house.<sup>36</sup> Finding the loyal and good servant was a long and difficult process so it was usual that a servant like this was employed for years.

Even with industrial revolution rising, there was still a need for experienced manual workers in trades, either those who worked by themselves like jewellers, hatmakers, glassblowers, or those working in workshops where more competent traders were needed as bookbinding, typesetting, building and wheelwrighting. If you wanted to serve one's apprenticeship, your parents had to pay a fee and sign you at a young age to the master that was obliged to teach you and take care of you. After the apprenticeship was done, you could remain at master's shop, or take over his shop or build your own shop. If you were skilful, you could make a big profit. Working as a dressmaker or milliner was more suitable for women.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> PICARD, p. 116-117

<sup>34</sup> PATERSON, Michael. *A Brief History of Life in Victorian Britain: A Social History of Queen Victoria's Reign*. London: Robinson Publishing, 2008. ISBN 978-1845297077. p. 56-57

<sup>35</sup> MITCHELL, p. 40

<sup>36</sup> Ibid. p. 49-52

<sup>37</sup> Ibid. p. 62-63

Times were tough, so children often helped their parents by contributing to the family budget when they were only five or six years old. When children were small, they would often find simple jobs like holding horses or doing errands or working in their family businesses. For other jobs, the child had to find a place where to sell papers or matches, black and polish shoes, sweep or sell flowers. The competition was tough in this area, so the child had to protect his/her spot. As the child labour was not controlled by any laws, children were used in many jobs that were unwanted by adults like working in mills and mines, working as chimney's help boy.<sup>38</sup> At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the birth rate was high but poor society could not take care of them, so many of them ended in orphanages where, if they were lucky, were adopted by childless couples. Some of them were 'adopted' (with the agreement of local authorities) by mill owners to work for them. They were provided with bed and food and worked every day for twelve hours. These conditions were no longer sustainable and first protective steps were taken by Parliament to restrict and define child labour. *The Factory Act* of 1802 came into force and applied for orphans under the age of twelve and set certain boundaries, but it was not much of a use until 1833. That year the act extended and prohibited working in textile mills for children and restricted working hours per week. As the years passed, many journalists and writers published terrible stories about child labour and other jobs as working in mines, chimney sweeping and working in factories were added to the list of forbidden jobs. By the end of the century, strict rules were applied to child labour and they could only work part-time in permitted jobs.<sup>39</sup>

Money as in every culture is one of the most highly valued media of exchange. But the currency has changed a lot alongside the development of the UK into its present state, not just in inflation but the system itself. Back then the monetary system's base coins were a penny (pl. pence) which was a large copper coin, then the silver shilling worth twelve pence and the gold pound worth twenty shillings or equals two hundred and forty pence. Then there were other coins for certain amounts like twopence, threepence, sixpence, then florin (which equals to two shillings) and crown (which

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<sup>38</sup> PATERSON, p. 53

<sup>39</sup> MITCHELL, p. 41-43



equals to five shillings). Now Britain uses decimal currency system that is used all around the globe in many countries.<sup>40</sup>

### 1.2.3 Healthcare

The quality of healthcare in Victorian times was immature, we cannot say not advanced, if we compare it to healthcare in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Education of medical doctors had different forms. A doctor could attend a university and study there for several years, where the classical Greek method about a system of body fluids was taught, or he could become an assistant of the local apothecary or a surgeon. Assistance in local hospital or attending a short course was also possible. Even hospitals were not the same as they are now, at that time it rather served as a charity – they took the ill and poor and took care of them. If you were in higher social class, you had the privilege to call a doctor to your bed and pay for his care. The doctor could only prescribe various tonics and ointments, there were no other choices than extracts from natural sources.<sup>41</sup>

Even the source of the patient's illness depended only on what the patient told the doctor or what the doctor could see himself. Without modern machines the diagnostic was very strenuous and most of the time far from the real cause of illness. Doctors used their patients as guinea pigs – they showed their cases to students at universities and continuously publicised about their problems.<sup>42</sup> Diagnostic improved with the invention and development of instruments like the x-ray machine, the stethoscope, the microscope, the thermometer, and others.

Operations were made only when needed, only in cases like pulling a tooth or maintaining fractures. The fear of infection was tremendous because there was no reliable cure that would get rid of it. The probability of haemorrhage and infection after operation was so high and lethal that bigger operations were not performed.<sup>43</sup>

Industrialized, populated, and still growing British cities were ideal for culminating and spreading diseases. Streets were filthy, clean water for drinking was rare and

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<sup>40</sup> MITCHELL, p. 30

<sup>41</sup> CARPENTER, Mary Wilson. *Health, Medicine, and Society in Victorian England*. Praeger, 2009. ISBN 9780275989521. p. 4

<sup>42</sup> Ibid. p. 5

<sup>43</sup> Ibid. p. 4

houses were overpopulated. Britain as an island state was cut off the rest of the Europe, but the prevalence of international transport contributed to a transmission of diseases (like cholera) between states and their infectivity among people.<sup>44</sup>

### ***1.2.3.1 Cholera***

The first time cholera was reported in another country than India was in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was an unsearchable illness occurring among poor and even higher class. Sometimes it struck the whole family, sometimes just one person in the building. Long thought opinion was that the illness is a God's punishment for those who sinned and the only cure for it is praying the God. Today we know that this illness is caused by a bacterium and the signs of it are heavy diarrhoea, so people quickly die of dehydration. Calamity caused by this disease showed the real cause which was needed to fight with and that was pollution. During the last epidemic of cholera, scientists were able to trace back the spring of disease into polluted water in local pump with drinking water.<sup>45</sup> The still-occurring epidemic was a threat to Britain causing panic among people, because there was no working cure for it and no one could predict where and when it will strike again.

### ***1.2.3.2 Tuberculosis***

Tuberculosis was one of the most lethal diseases in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is a bacterial illness causing most frequently inflammation of lungs' tissue, accompanied with strong coughing, dyspnoea, and a pain in chest. The transmission is possible through droplets of body fluids, but individuals with strong immune system do not need to be infected. The epidemic occurred regularly in whole Europe, during the colonisation era even in Africa and America where colonizers brought it with them. Even though this illness was far deathlier than cholera, the cure (antibiotics killing bacteria were not found until 1929) was easier than treating cholera – with a better life standard, specifically better nutrition and subsequently better immunity, many inhabitants of England were safe from this horror.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> CARPENTER, p. 7

<sup>45</sup> Ibid. p. 35-36

<sup>46</sup> CARPENTER, p. 54-56



### ***1.2.3.2 Syphilis***

Unlike other diseases at that time, syphilis was plentifully spread between men in middle and higher classes, and about 10% of inhabitants of every larger city were infected. This disease left its mark on infants' mortality at that time, it harmed them when they were the most vulnerable. Out of every fifty deaths in London at that time, thirty of them were of children. During the first latent phase, the disease could be easily spread without anyone noticing. When the second phase attacks, it is very inconspicuous, the infected people feel muscle and joints pain, have rash, or slightly enlarged lymph nodes. These symptoms can be confused with common diseases and when they are not treated with the right medication, can cause paralysis, cerebral disorders and in the end a neurological failure. This disease is sexually transmitted, so its origin was connected mostly with prostitutes and their degenerated bodies. Restrictions were imposed on prostitutes and there were attempts to control their activity along with mandatory medical examination of soldiers and their genitals when enlisting them.<sup>47</sup>

### ***1.2.3.3 Smallpox***

Smallpox was not such a grave illness thanks to the invention of the first vaccination that an English doctor Edward Jenner performed for the first time in 1796, when he infected a healthy small boy with mild germs of cowpox virus. This process has expanded into the entire world. Throughout the years, one of the most lethal diseases has become the controlled one.<sup>48</sup> The defeat of smallpox was one of many victories achieved in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The effect of vaccination could be proved by the decrease of the epidemics and almost a complete disappearance of this disease after Parliament had made the vaccination against smallpox mandatory.<sup>49</sup>

## **1.2.4 Education**

Children's education in Victorian London was not the same for everyone. During the century it was an ongoing process of evolution and improvement. Education depended on several factors – firstly the sex of a child, the financial situation of parents, religion

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<sup>47</sup> CARPENTER, p. 71-74

<sup>48</sup> Ibid. p. 8

<sup>49</sup> MITCHELL, p. 200

and other. The education of boys was favoured over girls', but not even education of poor and homeless children was ignored, because it was an instrument to improve their future and also the future of their family.

For these children there were ragged schools that originated in 1780 by Robert Raikes in Gloucester, where he taught children in Sunday School how to read from the Bible. After more than 50 years, the idea spread to London and first ragged school was founded here.<sup>50</sup> Children from upper classes were educated at home or at private schools but fees were usually higher than at elementary schools. Another category of schools were public schools. Those were more exclusive because of their expensiveness. Big advantages of these schools were determined classes and long tradition of education.<sup>51</sup> Boys were educated in classes that depending on the grade accomplished so they could skip classes in different subjects. All boys were educated in classical languages like Latin and Greek, which took almost the whole schooling time. These schools served as boarding schools, the boys stayed there for whole year and came home only for holidays. The system of classes consistently changed into system of houses with respectable appointed prefects. Discipline, responsibility and their sense for leadership were developed by regular sport and team activities, which helped them with their temper, verve, character and to keep their bodies healthy. Corporal punishment was still used to gain discipline. Boys that left these schools were perfectly prepared to work for army or in offices.<sup>52</sup>

The education of girls was very unlike from boys. It was taken for granted that girls would stay at home like their mothers, so little to no attention was paid to their education. There was no political or social life waiting for them that would need further education other than basic competences. Families had the need to protect their fragile souls from evils of society, so if girls were educated, it was mainly only in private schools that were led by other women in their own houses, or if they came from middle class or upper-middle class families, they were educated home by the governess.<sup>53</sup> Subjects (also known as accomplishments) like singing, playing a musical instrument, French, English, drawing and needlework were taught by the governess, but sometimes

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<sup>50</sup> PICARD, p. 289-290

<sup>51</sup> MITCHELL, p. 169

<sup>52</sup> Ibid. p. 176-179

<sup>53</sup> MITCHELL, p. 181-182

she was forced to teach more technical subjects like geography, arithmetic or history even though they only what their own governess had once taught them.<sup>54</sup> The governess was expected to be a moral model for girls, so it really depended on the origin of the governess that lived with the family in their house. When the girl was in her teen years and expected to get married, she was taught to dance, maintain a conversation and her social grace.<sup>55</sup>

In 1870 Parliament ratified the *Elementary Education Act* (commonly known as Forster's Education Act) which enacted elementary education for all children in England, so they had to attend school compulsorily until 10 years old. To the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century this age limit was shifted by two more years. With many new schools opening and expansion of the old ones, there were open positions for new more qualified teachers. It also lengthens the childhood for many working-class children by postponing their employment.<sup>56</sup>

Universities were dedicated only for men from upper classes and teaching positions only for professionals. During 1830s, the two most ancient universities in Britain were Oxford and Cambridge which remained the most prestigious ones despite the later founding of new universities. But they were still fossilized institutions where only education in mathematics and classic studies took place with religious function added. After reforming the teacher's status at universities by establishing careers, mastering their own subjects and cancelling of celibacy, these universities had a more professional status.<sup>57</sup> Each university had their own colleges and students were accepted by the college. The academic year was divided into three terms and students could attend lectures, but not necessarily. After about 10 terms, the student had a complex final examination consisting of an oral exam and written test that covered a list of set topics like Latin and Greek studies, mathematics, physics, modern history and theology. The primary purpose of studies at universities was not to have a degree, but more likely to make connections. Colleges were full of young men from higher society that had a potential to occupy the representative positions in law or government.<sup>58</sup> Women were not welcomed at universities until the last thirty years of

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<sup>54</sup> TUCKER, p. 206-207

<sup>55</sup> MITCHELL, p. 182-184

<sup>56</sup> TUCKER, p. 36-38

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. p. 198-199

<sup>58</sup> MITCHELL, p. 190-191

the century. They were banned from studying because it was assumed that their temperament and intellect is not suitable with the rigorous work expected from a university. Thanks to women reformers and the newly established feminist movement, colleges for women were opened on Oxford and Cambridge. Despite not being able to take their degrees, women were allowed to attend regular courses and lectures in men's colleges just for the recognition and equality. In women's colleges they were named into teaching positions and by the start of the new century, over 50 women were teaching at four colleges opened for women.<sup>59</sup>

If we compare data from two censuses in 1845 and in 1871, the percentage of illiterate boys dropped from 33% to 19% and illiterate girls from 49% to 26% which was a huge success.<sup>60</sup>

### **1.2.5 Family Life**

The cult of family was very important in Victorian England. Queen Victoria and her husband Albert were the ideal exemplary model of family and moral values for the nation. She gave birth to nine children. Her position as the Queen that ruled autonomically made her marriage unique among others – she had all the power over her husband and even though their gender roles were kind of confusing it took a new to an ideal equality in marriage.<sup>61</sup>

Tradition at these times preached that marriage should not be just an act of transaction between families but to be more pleasurable for both the wife and the husband which made them freely choice for love. Many marriages in Victorian England's upper class were happy, couples had similar interests, a satisfied sexual life and were a support for each other.<sup>62</sup> Educated men were raised to show their gallant regards towards women and their sexual demands changed into tenderness. The proof of this behaviour could be seen in many letters between spouses that overflow with sharing, assurance, and a mutual trust.<sup>63</sup> A man was looking for a wife that he could trust with his anxieties,

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<sup>59</sup> TUCKER, p. 201-202

<sup>60</sup> PICARD, p. 306

<sup>61</sup> PHEGLEY, Jennifer. *Courtship and Marriage in Victorian England*. Praeger, 2012. ISBN 978-0313375347. p. 3-5

<sup>62</sup> PHEGLEY, p. 324

<sup>63</sup> TOSH, John. *A Man's Place: Masculinity and the Middle-Class Home in Victorian England*. Yale University Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0300123623. p. 58

ambitions and thoughts and home was an ideal place where to put down your mask. Woman was advised not to await the same privilege from her husband. When her husband came from work, all her attention focused on him and him only. Her troubles were insignificant, and her priority was husband's well-being in exchange for the material security that he obtained.<sup>64</sup>

Based on ancient traditions, a son is always a successor of his father in leading his family and a bearer of the family name. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, for men was still important to beget a son that would inherit everything. Naming of children, particularly son's naming was a matter of fathers. It was believed that men are the creators of children and women are just an instrument to carry them, but since 1840s it was common that a father was part of child delivery. Husbands wanted to show their commitment to marriage and also to offer comfort for their wives.<sup>65</sup>

In late Victorian period, a father worked mostly out of home and his coming home was fulfilled with small rituals like gift giving, reading to children and small games. From the point of view of the father he was not spending his free time, but it was his time dedicated to family and strengthening his father-child bond. Fathers could be really playful, but still the emphasis was on authority and discipline. As well his role in family was based on authority, he had a domination over his children and also his wife.<sup>66</sup>

### **1.2.6 Culture in London**

As the time went on, more and more time after work was dedicated to leisure. With technology and more money, people were given many opportunities to enjoy themselves in comparison to previous generations. Apart from the traditional entertainment like theatre and newly arose cinema, Britons started traveling from Britain to Europe and overseas. The ease of traveling by the railway and the steamships led indirectly to an organized sports and creation of championships. Sports like cricket, football and rowing were extremely popular.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> TOSH, p. 54

<sup>65</sup> Ibid. p. 82

<sup>66</sup> Ibid. p. 80-89

<sup>67</sup> PATERSON, p. 208-210

Apart from theatres and operas that were more suitable for higher classes, working class had their own way of amusement. Music halls had origin in pubs where customers were attracted to stay for a drink. Exceedingly popular was a parody with singers, dancers and small comic acts accompanied with animal performances. Exceptionally ridiculous was a puppet show called *Punch and Judy* ridiculing authorities that appeared along with other street performances.<sup>68</sup>

Queen Victoria cared deeply about education and how to incorporate it in common life. Many museums and galleries built at that time were notable, like *National Gallery* on Trafalgar Square, *The Victoria and Albert Museum* in South Kensington, *The British Museum* on Great Russell Street (which is the oldest national public museum) had expanded during this period enormously and last but not least *Kew Gardens* that is a royal botanic garden.

The communal activity shared across family and friends was reading. Literature became extremely popular and new books were quickly and cheaply produced and read by masses as more people were literate.<sup>69</sup>

### **1.3 Literature in the Victorian Era**

#### **1.3.1 Books**

Most works of Victorian literature can be described as the works of critical realism. Unlike Romanticism that had its roots in Gothic novels and was a movement of idealization, individualization and emotionality, Victorian literature in terms of prose was focused on society and reality of the day. Mostly processed themes were labour, lower classes, science progress, women, and nostalgia. Literature at that time was mostly a reaction on industrialization and rapid changes of society. During the period, one genre transformed into the most significant one and became the prominent genre in written language – novel. It transformed from romance that was popular in 18<sup>th</sup> century and is sometimes confused together or that a novel is being just a sub-genre of romance.

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<sup>68</sup> MITCHELL, p. 231-232

<sup>69</sup> Ibid. p. 237-239



Becoming a writer was one of the good ways of living in Victorian period. One could make big money out of it and to raise the profit of writers and libraries that rented books, a serialization of books was proven to be profitable. If we take one of the greatest novels of that time – *David Copperfield* (1849) – it was published in twenty parts, one part per month. Each part was about thirty pages long and ended with interesting plot twists that made reader buy the next part. This publication was cheap, accompanied with illustrations and ignited the interest in reading.<sup>70</sup>

### 1.3.2 Authors

Three sisters, Charlotte (1816-1855), Emily (1818-1848), and Anne (1820-1849) Brontë were all famous poets and novelist. Their childhood was rough, dealing with death of their other siblings at young age and loneliness in isolation in the country. All this trauma the sisters transferred into their novels, which has become one of the greatest in history. For entertainment, siblings created their own imaginary worlds, drew maps, and read. They were first forced to public their poems under their pen names, Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell, from which Emily's ones stood out. A year later, in 1847, each one of the sisters published their own novel. The oldest one Charlotte published *Jane Eyre* (1847), where she projected her attachment to a Latin professor that she met during her studies in Brussel. *Wuthering Heights* (1847) was a novel by Emily Brontë, which was distinctive for its controversial subjects and the narrative style. Anne came out with a novel *Agnes Grey* (1847), which was mildly accepted. This reputation was set right with Anne's novel *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1848) that outsold her sisters' writing. Anne and Emily died of tuberculosis shortly after their publishing debut in 1849. Charlotte published two more novels *Shirley* (1849) and *Villette* (1853). The last novel *The Professor* was published after her death in 1857.<sup>71</sup>

Both Bram Stoker (1847-1912) and Mary Shelley (1797-1851) took inspiration from the fears of the time and created a living myth based upon these doubts. Both works show the hidden unknown in metaphorical way through monsters. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818) was appreciated for the scientific references that she unfortunately crossed out from the revised edition and it also influenced other major

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<sup>70</sup> MITCHELL, p. 238

<sup>71</sup> JAMES, Louis. *The Victorian novel*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006. Blackwell guides to literature. ISBN 0-631-22628-1., p. 107-108

works of Charles Dickens, Richard Melville Hall, and Joseph Conrad.<sup>72</sup> Where Frankenstein shows loneliness, Stoker's Dracula is crowded with people, society, and modern age.

Charles Darwin (1812-1870) was rather a scientist and influential thinker than a famous writer, but his ideas and thesis inspired other writers in their novels. The theory of Darwinism set off a wave of evolutionary writing and thoughts about God, society and life. Some opinions were being made based just on the publishment of his works, even though some of them had not read a single page of his books. His books *Origin of Species* (1859) and *The Descent of a Man* (1871) had a huge impact on big authors like George Eliot or Thomas Hardy.<sup>73</sup>

George Eliot (1819-1880) is literary pseudonym of Mary Anne Evans. Using a pen name was a common method to mask the real author (most of the time it were women who were gender-shamed). This practice was also used by men, whose reputation was damaged, for example by Oscar Wilde, who was a social outcast that used his prison name as his false identity.<sup>74</sup> Mary Anne Evans chose to publish her works under name George Eliot because of the scandalous situation that was surrounding her domestic situation. She was living with a philosopher named George Henry Lewes, who was married but lived in separation from his wife. He encouraged her to publish her first work *Scenes of Clerical Life* in 1858, under her pseudonym. But her later works uncovered her true writing identity in psychological analysis of her characters and the inspiration from her childhood. This was notable in *Adam Bede* (1859) and *The Mill on the Floss* (1860). In 1871, she published her masterpiece *Middlemarch* that restored her popularity. It is an overall view of society from the lowest classes to the highest, described through parallels and contrasts. Following works met with the displeasure of critics and that left her exhausted and the death of Lewes crushed her to pieces.<sup>75</sup>

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) was one of the early disciples of Darwin, whose influence could be seen in *The Poor Man and the Lady* (1867), but he later found another way of writing. His inspiration came from his childhood home in Dorset. By embracing the

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<sup>72</sup> JAMES, p. 153

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. p. 59-61

<sup>74</sup> SHATTOCK, Joanne. *The Cambridge companion to English literature, 1830-1914*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0-521-88288-0.

<sup>75</sup> JAMES, p. 115-117



natural motives, his description of realistic landscapes become a crucial element in his narrative and made some of the best captivating novels and poetry in Victorian age. His fame has not come until the publishing of *Far From the Madding Crowd* (1874) where tragic elements and idyllic rural setting made contrast. A series of historical novels *The Trumpet Major* (1880) and *The Laodicean* (1881) followed. In *Jude the Obscure* (1895) he proposed a scandalous story that caused an outrage of society.<sup>76</sup>

Despite being Irish, Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) fundamentally influenced literature in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His work is revolutionary in themes and motifs that Wilde processed and creates outstanding narratives that were inspired in gothic, mystic, and hidden homosexual allusions. His most famous works are *The Canterville Ghost* (1887), *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895).

Victorian detective story had a long history, but no contribution achieved the level of popularity as *Sherlock Holmes*, when Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) first introduced his stories in *Strand* in 1887. Doyle shows us a figure of a scientist and a detective in one person that is popularizing new techniques in forensic science, like examining particles under microscope, fingerprinting, and toxicology.<sup>77</sup> Doyle was surprised by the popularity of mysteries that Holmes solved with his loyal Watson and still tried to convince readers that his historical novels are more worthy.<sup>78</sup> These stories not only provided intellectual entertainment for readers, but also formed the light literature that was about to rule fiction stories.

Reading as a family activity brought younger and younger children into the magical world of literature. For writers it was a new source of inspiration, so children literature gained its position among the works of writers for adults. The line between adult reading and children literature was thin and imperceptible because books had not had an intended age group. English illustrated translation of *Grimm's Fairy Tales* triggered an interest in fairy stories and opened the door for fantasies, such as Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865).<sup>79</sup> Authors started to distinct reading for

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<sup>76</sup> JAMES, p. 120-122

<sup>77</sup> DAVID, Deirdre. *The Cambridge companion to the Victorian novel*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Cambridge companions to literature. ISBN 0-521-64619-7. p. 184-185

<sup>78</sup> JAMES, p. 115

<sup>79</sup> Ibid. p. 191-192

boys and girls separately. *Treasure Island* (1883) by Robert Louis Stevenson or *The Coral Island* (1857) by Robert Michael Ballantyne is an example of adventurous reading dedicated to boys.

Very popular among juveniles and lower classes were ‘penny dreadfuls’ (got their name because they have cost only one penny), a magazine that was about six to eight pages long, packed with horrible tales, stories about murders and crimes.<sup>80</sup> The quality of these serialized fictions were doubtful, but these magazines were published as long as there was audience reading them.

### **1.3.3 Press**

New machines and faster printing process were more efficient along with the increasing number of people that were literate and that made the massive production of papers across the country possible. In the second half of the century, papers were even cheaper, accompanied with illustrations and later with photographs and coloured pictures. The form of the papers was almost the same – the front and back pages were covered with advertisements for theatres, excursions, services, shops, and others. The important news was hidden inside.<sup>81</sup> These papers was an ancient history, long and boring, and people demanded another function – aesthetic and entertainment.

Pictorial papers were full of illustration, and with the development of camera, even with photographs. There papers were valued because of their accuracy and of the amount of detailing.<sup>82</sup> Entertaining papers could be considered a forerunner of nowadays tabloid press. The articles were short (not longer than one paragraph), trivial and sometimes gossipy. Journalists were interested in public interests and published paragraphs on sports, gardening and pages targeted to women, especially devoted to fashion and household. A few pages were dedicated for crosswords and puzzles to keep busy while waiting for train.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> PATERSON, p. 243

<sup>81</sup> Ibid. p. 231-232

<sup>82</sup> PATERSON, p. 233

<sup>83</sup> Ibid. p. 236

## **1.4 Significant Personalities of Victorian Era**

### **1.4.1 Queen Victoria (1819-1901)**

Queen Victoria's name is related with the age of great expansion and the national growth of Britain. In the end, the era when Queen Victoria reigned was called the Victorian era, which has become a synonym for change. She was the only child of Edward, Duke of Kent, but her father sadly passed away shortly after her birth in 1819. She was the only heir to the throne and became queen when she was only 18 years old. In 1840, she married Prince Albert who was her support throughout her distressful first years of reigning and taught her how to use her influence for the best.

Both of them participated in art and science interests and declared education as one of their top priorities. She was deeply moved by her husband's death in 1861 and since then she was seen wearing only black and rarely appeared in public. That changed during Benjamin Disraeli's function as the Prime Minister. The Queen Victoria gave birth to nine children, to the last one in 1857. During her reign, she tried to maintain peace and even begged her minister not to intervene in wars that occurred in Europe. She really showed the true nature of modern constitutional monarchy where the Queen's or the King's only role is to stay above politics but also to represent their own opinions. She also supported various charities, contributed to enhancing the rights of women and of the poor and continued her duties until the very end of her life in 1901. She is buried next to her husband Prince Albert at Windsor.<sup>84</sup>

### **1.4.2 Robert Peel (1788-1850)**

Sir Robert Peel was a conservative Member of Parliament and later the Prime Minister born in 1788. His father was very far-sighted and had great plans for Robert, funded his education and bought him his seat in House of Commons where he started his parliamentary career. In 1822, he became Home Secretary and immediately started looking into criminal law and passed eight legislative acts that changed it - less crimes were punished by death penalty and Metropolitan Police Force was established in 1829, leading to ridiculous nicknames 'bobbies' and 'peelers' for officers. His first

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<sup>84</sup> Queen Victoria. *The Royal Family* [online]. [cit. 2022-05-11]. Available from: <https://www.royal.uk/queen-victoria>

time as PM was disastrous and when he became the Prime Minister for the second time in July 1841 it was a time of economic suffering, so he enabled liberal trading that recovered economy and drove down prices of food. He pushed through important acts that protected children and women from working in mines and limited working hours in factories for children and women. In 1845, his career suffered a fatal wound when Irish potato famine stroke. The Government was unable to send food to Ireland and debated over the repealing of Corn Laws. Despite the fact that Conservative Party stood against Peel, the approval came in 1846 and eventually Peel lost all his supporters and resigned from the post of Prime Minister. He died a few years after in 1850.<sup>85</sup>

### 1.4.3 Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)

Benjamin Disraeli was the British Prime Minister, writer and journalist born in 1804. He is famously known for his cooperation with the Queen Victoria who really depended on his opinions and publicly supported him.<sup>86</sup> Disraeli started his career as a writer with his first work being a novel *Vivian Grey*, published in 1826 when he was barely 20 years old. First, it was published anonymously but his identity was soon revealed. He tried to compete with *The Times* with newspaper *The Representative*, but this attempt failed rather quickly. His works continued in his utopic picture of England in trilogy *Coningsby* (1844), *Sybil* (1845), *Tancred* (1847). At the end of his life in 1880, he published partly biographical novel *Endymion*. He died a year later in 1881 of bronchitis.<sup>87</sup> He started his political career in 1837 when he was elected to represent Maidstone. He never forgot that Robert Peel had not offered him a position in his Cabinet. The Queen Victoria offered Disraeli a place of the Prime Minister first in 1868 but the Conservative Party suffered a defeat by the Liberal Party the same year. Conservative Party won elections after six years and Disraeli was entrusted to form the government and became the Prime Minister for the second time. His government passed many important social laws - in 1875 they banned the employing of small boys

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<sup>85</sup> History of Sir Robert Peel 2nd Baronet. *Government UK* [online]. [cit. 2022-05-11]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/history/past-prime-ministers/robert-peel-2nd-baronet>

<sup>86</sup> Queen Victoria. *The Royal Family* [online]

<sup>87</sup> JAMES, p. 114

as chimney sweepers and *Public Health Act* that provided sanitation on drinking water in urban areas.<sup>88</sup>

#### **1.4.4 Charles Dickens (1812-1870)**

Charles Dickens is undoubtedly one of the greatest writers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and his works have been acknowledged internationally until nowadays. He was born in 1812 into an impoverished family and had a hard time growing up, even ended up in prison. After he managed the skill of writing, he started working in a legal office and in journalism. That enabled him to look inside the filthy streets of London and dig deeply into social issues. His love for theatre directed him into the career of a writer. His first public work was *Sketches by 'Boz'* published in 1836, but his great success began with publishing of *The Pickwick Papers* the same year that showed a humorous and satirical observation of the society. This started a phenomenon of serialised publishing, that took over Victorian Britain like a storm. Only a year later, he wrote *Oliver Twist* (1837) that was a detached view of contrasting social underworlds in London. In 1843, Charles Dickens started a tradition of Christmas-tuned stories, the well-known *A Christmas Carol* (1843) and continued in *The Chimes* (1844), *The Cricket on the Hearth* (1845), and others. In these novels, he embraced the tradition of Christmas, the time of family and helping in Victorian society. The novel that was precisely planned and interlaced with cliffhangers and motifs from ordinary life was *David Copperfield* (1849). During his depression times when his point of view on England was darker, he published *Bleak House* (1852), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859) and *Great Expectations* (1861) that made the foundational piece for sensational novels. *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* was his last and unfinished novel, so Dickens took this mystery to the grave with him in 1870.<sup>89</sup>

#### **1.4.5 Henry Mayhew (1812-1887)**

Henry Mayhew was an English journalist and primarily a sociologist, who focused on London's lowest classes. He studied law but later switched to journalism. *Punch* is the most famous periodical that Henry Mayhew founded in 1841. Mayhew used his natural

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<sup>88</sup> History of Benjamin Disraeli, the Earl of Beaconsfield. *Government UK* [online]. [cit. 2022-05-13]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/history/past-prime-ministers/benjamin-disraeli-the-earl-of-beaconsfield>

<sup>89</sup> JAMES, p. 111-113

sensitive sense for questioning socially lowest people on streets to show the real life of poor in what was believed to be one of the richest cities, in London. He described their clothes, their homes and lifestyles, their economical situations and mostly listened to their life stories.<sup>90</sup> Beside this questioning, Mayhew arranged his own surveys, like when he asked young vagabonds what they are reading – their only reading were penny dreadfuls because it was the only things they could afford.<sup>91</sup> He published his research into four volumes of *London Labour and the London Poor*, first volume published in 1851. This book is inspirational even nowadays to other authors writing fiction about Victorian times, because of the accuracy of information provided by Mayhew.

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<sup>90</sup> *Henry Mayhew: Encyclopedia Britannica* [online]. Britannica [cit. 2022-06-02]. Available from: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Henry-Mayhew>

<sup>91</sup> SHATTOCK, p. 35

## 2 Literary Analysis of Terry Pratchett's Dodger

### 2.1 Author

Terry Pratchett was a British author born on 28 April 1948 in Beaconsfield to his parents David and Eileen. Terry Pratchett was always a curious child, crafting treehouses and even built his own shortwave radio with his father, so his passion for electronics continued throughout his childhood. On the other side, his mother supported creativity in him by reading and passing the Irish folklore onto him, so his later writing became his whole world and Pratchett expressed his interest in becoming a writer.<sup>92</sup> When Terry Pratchett was 13 years old, his short story was published in a school magazine *Technical Cygnet* and two years later commercially. He used money from publishing to buy his first typewriter. While studying with straight A-levels at school, he decided to take a job offer at the local newspaper *The Buck free Press* and happened to interview a local publisher Peter Bander Van Duren, to whom he mentioned a book that he had written. Bander then sent a manuscript to his employee Colin Smythe. He was charmed by Pratchett's writing, so his first book named *The Carpet People* was published in 1971. Colin Smythe then became Pratchett's literal agent and a lifelong friend. This was not the only important event of that year – the same year Terry Pratchett married his wife, Lyn.<sup>93</sup> In 1976, his one and only daughter Rhianna was born and many books were dedicated to her. In 1980, Terry was employed as a press officer for four nuclear power stations. He quit the job in 1987 to become a full-time writer because his series *Discworld* became really famous and successful. The first Discworld novel *The Colour of Magic* was published in 1983, quickly followed by another sequels. In 1990 Terry collaborated with Neil Gaiman on *Good Omens* and this book was on the 15<sup>th</sup> place of most re-read books in 2007, as discovered based on a survey performed by Costa Book Awards. 90s were a golden decade for Pratchett's Discworld. His books were on first places of bestsellers lists, the Discworld expanded into the world of video games and in 1996, *The Times* reported that Terry Pratchett was the bestselling author in the UK. His popularity gained him few honorary doctorates; the first one Terry Pratchett received in 1999

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<sup>92</sup> BURROWS, Marc. *Magic of Terry Pratchett*. Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Books, 2020. ISBN 978 1 52676 550 5.

<sup>93</sup> About Sir Terry. *Sir Terry Pratchett* [online]. [cit. 2022-10-12]. Available from: <https://www.terrypratchettbooks.com/about-sir-terry/>

from University of Warwick. The Discworld series expanded quite enormously; in 2004, the thirty-third novel named *Going Postal* was published and became the biggest-selling hardback novel for 2004. In 2007, Terry Pratchett publicly opened about his health and admitted suffering from a rare form of Alzheimer's disease and became the public face wanting to raise awareness of the disease. The Queen Elizabeth II. appointed him for knighthood in 2008 for his service to literature and Pratchett gained his title of Sir. Terry Pratchett was still busy despite his progressing illness and was still publishing book until his death in 2015.<sup>94</sup> He has 41 books in his Discworld series and loads of books related and unrelated to Discworld such as *Dark Side of the Sun*, *Strata*, *Nation*, *The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents* and *Dodger* accompanied with *Dodger's Guide to London*.

## 2.2 Summary of the Plot

The story starts in the middle of a rainy night in London and in the background a carriage could be heard through the rain. When it suddenly stopped, a screaming girl rushed out of the carriage and two men behind her. A slender figure scrambled from a nearby manhole to fight two men and save the girl. His mission is successful, but he is disrupted by another two men walking down the street, hiding from the pouring rain. The saviour raised suspicion that the wants to hurt the girl and brought her into a nearby house against his will with the girl. This is the first time we meet with the self-called Dodger and two men, Charles Dickens, and Henry Mayhew. Dodger is worried about the girl, but Charlie later soothes him that girl is all right but sadly lost her baby. In the meantime, Dodger thinks about Charles and his intentions, and later Charles offers Dodger money to help him find the ones who hurt the girl and to search for him in the Morning Chronicle. Dodger is caring deeply about the girl and accepts his offer. Dodger is interested in seeing the young woman and spends the whole night beside her bed. When she woke up in the morning, Dodger asks her about her name, but she refuses to tell him.

When the drama in Mayhew's house is over, Dodger is beyond happiness to go into the sewers and find the treasures that were left after the storm. Luck brought some coins his way but also a frightening discovery of his friend's body. Dodger spends

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<sup>94</sup> Terry Pratchett: A biography by Colin Smythe. *The L-Space Web* [online]. [cit. 2022-10-12]. Available from: <https://www.lspace.org/about-terry/biography.html>



a few last moments with his fellow tosher Grandad talking about life and Grandad's seeing of Lady of the Sewers. After his death Dodger head off home to Solomon, where he tells him everything about what happened that day. Solomon advised Dodger to take this opportunity and hope for the best and the first thing to do is find more suitable clothes. Dressed in second-hand clothes, Dodger visits his occasional friends to announce Grandad's death and search if somebody has not seen anything last night. Messy Bessie tells him that she saw the girl earlier that day on the market. Dodger is excited to finally inform Charlie with some new info and head to Fleet Street. He stops a robbery inside the Morning Chronicle's office and becomes a hero of the day which has its article in the newspaper.

The next day is very special to Dodger. He gets to meet his unnamed lady again at Mayhew's house, but Mrs Mayhew takes him by surprise when she names her Simplicity until the girl decides to tell them her name. Dodger cannot stop thinking about her beauty all day and concern himself with thoughts about her cruel husband. Solomon is insisting on another step of Dodger's change to a gentleman – polishing his shoes and managing his beard and hair, so his next steps are heading again to Fleet Street to a barber named Sweeney Todd. Dodger becomes a hero of the day once again when he disarms the barber and the killer in one person. He is adored for his praiseworthy courage and there is even a fund-raising organized for him. The only thing he can think about is his young lady to whom he promised a walk outside. Simplicity is excited to meet Dodger again and is delighted by his presence.

They are enjoying their healthy stroll when Dodger starts to get a feeling that someone is pursuing them. His suspicion is proved to be true; they are being chased by his long-time acquaintance Benjamin who got paid to find out who is Dodger and whether he is seen with some girl. Only one thing came up to his mind: transfer Simplicity to a safer place to Charlie. They later find him at Parliament in the middle of a discussion with Benjamin Disraeli, when Dodger finds out that there is a state interest in Simplicity's life. Together Charlie and Benjamin decide to smuggle her to their close friend Angela Burdett-Coutts and discreetly hide her at her house. Back in the London centre, Dodger meets with Charlie who hands the money from the fund over to him. In the evening, during a walk with Onan is Dodger assaulted by one of the guys from Sharp Bob, whom death threatens him if he will not tell who the golden-haired woman

is, but Dodger defeats him. He is expected in the office of Punch in the morning, where John Tenniel will be drawing his portrait for the magazine. Solomon is coming with him to buy new clothes that would make Dodger unrecognizable at the dinner that evening in Mayfair. Solomon got an idea of how to resolve Simplicity's problem with staying in England and Dodger wants to present it to Charlie at the dinner.

At the dinner, he gets to know new faces from the higher society of London and meets his Simplicity. In the end, he is introduced to Robert Peel and this introduction ends up at the toilets where Peel suspects Dodger of a murder that happened that morning in sewers. At the end of the evening, Dodger gets a strange note with the address of the embassy from Angela. He decides to visit the place at night and give their inhabitants a lesson. His reward is stolen jewellery and interesting documents, which Solomon helps him to get to the proper places.

Dodger starts to execute his plan for the alleged murder of Simplicity. He came undercover to the morgue on the other side of the river to look for a dead girl that could be passed off as Simplicity. The second part of his plan includes a certain Mrs Holland, famous around London for her favours and she revealed to him that a person named Outlander is asking about him around town. Dodger is invited by Angela to meet her at the theatre in the evening and he ends up telling her and Simplicity about the plan and both women agree. Dodger plans to perform the murder the next day and gets to hide the body in sewers. He is stopped by peelers outside his house and brought to Robert Peel that also warns him about the Outlander. When everything is prepared, Dodger meets with Mr Dickens, Mr Bazalgette, Mr Disraeli, and Angela's servant whom he had arranged a meeting with to walk into the sewers.

Mr Disraeli and servant Roger have beginner's luck, and each finds a golden ring. Dodger acts so that he could execute his plan, but he is interrupted by the Outlander and her accomplice. Thankfully, Roger, under whose clothes is Simplicity, runs down the sewer and helps him. The plan is successfully accomplished with small changes in details. After numerous interviews, Dodger is talking to Charlie, which is the only one to reveal the truth about what happened to Simplicity and assure of her safety. The story ends when Dodger come back from his trip with a new wife Serendipity who is suspiciously similar to Simplicity and is invited by Queen Victoria into Buckingham Palace, where he is named Sir Jack Dodger.

## **2.3 Analysis**

The novel carries the name after the main protagonist Dodger and was published in 2012 in London by the publishing house Random House Children's Books.

Dodger even has a sequel in *Dodger's Guide to London (2013)* which is cleverly based on alleged notes by Jack Dodger and as the subtitle announces: with an especial interest in its underbelly. Terry Pratchett is expanding his fictional world in Dodger with authentic historical information, interesting facts, significant personalities, and important places of its time in London. All of this is accompanied by illustrations, many of which were really used in the original release of the humoristic magazine Punch.

### **2.3.1 Composition**

It consists of 16 chapters, firstly the chapters are short, but as the story continues, the chapters are getting longer and longer. The second part of the book is squeezed into only five long chapters.

The title of each chapter is very simple, only numbered, but the subheading is telling us more about what is coming in the chapter. For example, in the title of *Chapter 14 A lighterman gets a surprise, an old lady vanishes, and Dodger knows nothing, hears nothing and – unsurprisingly – was not even there* tells us almost exactly what happened throughout the chapter but the next title of *Chapter 15 In the hands of the Lady* encourages us to read and builds the tension of the story.

### **2.3.2 Setting**

There is no defined date or year when the story takes place, but Terry Pratchett himself is telling us in the afterword that the story is placed into the first quarter of Queen's Victoria reign. That tells us roughly the period from 1837 to 1853.

The story itself is played out over seven days and the last chapter is taking place a few days after Simplicity's alleged death.

Knowing that this book is only based on historical events, the author took the liberty to change some historical details, so the characters could intersperse with the plotline.

Because of that, we could meet John Tenniel, an illustrator, which drew his first illustration for Punch at the very end of 1850. Sir Robert Peel is introduced here as a Home Secretary, which he was under the reign of William IV. The author is also mentioning the permanent setting of Morning Chronicle's editorial office in one place, even though the office changed address every now and then at that time.

### **Places in London**

The whole story takes place mostly in London, above and under the city. The first place mentioned specifically with a name is Seven Dials, where Dodger's and Solomon's tenement attic is located. Seven Dials is still a place in modern London, it is a crossway of Earlham St., Mercer St., Monmouth St., and Short's Garden.

Another place, not so far away from Seven Dials, is Fleet Street. This is a place of two heroic incidents of Dodger and a source of his new nickname the Hero of Fleet Street. In the book, it is a place where the office of Morning Chronicle is settled and a place of Sweeney Todd's business. It got its name after the small river Fleet that pours into the Thames. Fleet Street is associated since the 16th century with printing and publishing. The last publishing office of Reuters left Fleet Street in 2005.<sup>95</sup>

Bedlam or as known by its full name Bethlem Royal Hospital was a psychiatric hospital located in central London, which has its block for criminal maniacs. In the book, it is a place where Sweeney Todd was assigned to after his crimes. Historically it is a place with a poor reputation and a terrible, sometimes medieval, approach to patients.<sup>96</sup>

Dodger is mentioning Bow Street runners many times in the books, it was the first professional police gathering in London that consisted at first of six men and resided in Bow Street. This group was disbanded in 1839 when the Metropolitan Police replaced it.<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>95</sup> HIBBERT, p. 1200-1205

<sup>96</sup> Ibid. p. 283-285

<sup>97</sup> Ibid. p. 369-371

The last chapter of the book is taking place outside of London, in Somerset county, where is Dodger travelling alongside Simplicity, around Bristol and Axbridge.

### **2.3.3 Characters**

Dodger gets to know many people in the course of time, which influence his life. These characters could be separated into two groups – characters purely fictional and characters based on real-life personalities.

#### ***2.3.3.1 Fictional characters***

##### **Dodger**

Dodger shares the name with a character from Charles Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*. Jack Dawkins, also known as the Artful Dodger, is a pickpocket, a member of a child gang, who was raised by Fagin. He is an orphan whose only way to survive was to become a thief. This is a similarity he shares with Pratchett's Dodger; Dodger is also an orphan who tried his best to survive on his own until Solomon took him under his wings. The fate of both Dodgers splits from this point. Jack has been trained by Fagin to become a pickpocket, when he was just a vulnerable kid, taking him the opportunity to choose his path and robbing him of his future. On the other hand, Solomon took Dodger from the streets and only develops his good qualities and gave him the possibility to decide for himself. Jack's destiny is very dismal, after he is caught and put on trial, he ends up in a penal colony in Australia.

Dodger is like every other inhabitant of London's lower class – he makes effort to avoid poverty and starvation. He did chimney sweeping for a living as a small boy. Small boys were almost made for this job because they could fit into narrow spaces of the chimney and could precisely sweep out all the dirt and ash. This job came with severe health issues and boys had a low expectancy of surviving to adulthood. We know for sure only a few things about his history, one is that his mother abandoned him, and Dodger ended up in an orphanage, where he grew up until he was expelled for fighting. He even got his official name Pip Stick – surname Stick maybe because of his long and scraggy limbs, but we, unfortunately, do not know the real meaning behind his first name Pip. It could be probably another inspiration from Dickens, here from the novel *Great Expectations* where the main character is a small boy named

Philip Pirrip, domestically called Pip. Pip gets to a higher society thanks to a lot of coincidences, so his story is very similar to our Dodger, so Terry Pratchett could use another inspiration from Dickens's works.

Dodger tries to act and behave discreetly, as every tosher should, that do not want to be discovered by policemen. He has one great talent – he can read in people like in books, when he meets with Robert Peel for the first time, he knows exactly what to expect from him; “ *Yes, sir, I know what to do. And I know you are having a little game, sir. I am wondering what you want from me.* ”<sup>98</sup>. He is very mysterious and suspicious and never tells anyone more than they need to know; “*Never tell nobody nothing they don't need to know. That was what Dodger believed.* ”<sup>99</sup>, so nobody even knows his real name, he goes under the nickname Dodger. His nickname suits him well, dodger is someone who can avoid or dodge everything that stands in his way, someone who is clever and has sharp edges.

His natural ability is to be an actor. Since he was a little boy, he helped little flower girls to keep away eccentric and weird men in disguise. Later in the story, Dodger dresses up as an old lady to pick up the body of the dead girl. He is very convincing and enjoys this kind of theatre, he could cry on command and can trick everyone around. But the only work that is fulfilling him is toshing; “*[...] although strictly speaking Dodger always avoided anything that might be considered as being work. Of course, there was the toshing; oh, how he loved that. Toshing wasn't work: toshing was living, toshing was coming alive. If he wasn't being so bloody stupid he would be down in the sewers now, waiting for the storm to stop and a new world of opportunity to open.* ”<sup>100</sup>

By coincidence, he saved Solomon's life and became a friend of him. Solomon invited him to live with him in his attic and suddenly Dodger had a home after 17 years he spent on the street. Because Solomon felt obliged to Dodger, he is repaying his debt differently. He offered him a cosiness and warm home but also social education; hygiene, reading, and how to properly live his life.

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<sup>98</sup> PRATCHETT, Terry. *Dodger*. London: Doubleday UK, 2012. ISBN 9780385619278. p. 237

<sup>99</sup> Ibid. p. 69

<sup>100</sup> Ibid. p. 15

## Solomon Cohen

Solomon Cohen is a man of many secrets. Everything we discover is fragments of information and traces of adventures he experienced. He is an older Jew dedicated to his religion. The first information we get about him is that he is an experienced cook and a watchmaker. Throughout the book, we could find passing references that almost every other character heard about Solomon at least once in their life – Angela heard about him from Papal Nuncio and his name is not unfamiliar to Queen Victoria either (*“Mister Cohen, it is a great pleasure to meet you at last; I’ve heard so many stories about you.”* <sup>101</sup>). Even though he is living in poor conditions, he is well educated in humanities like philosophy, and languages (*“Mmm, I can read in most languages of Europe, with perhaps the exception of Welsh, which I find a tad difficult.”* <sup>102</sup>) and also, in astrology. He is like a father to Dodger; he helps him to maintain fundamental knowledge about the world and also gain every day habits.

## Simplicity

Simplicity is a girl that was saved from an attack during the stormy night by Dodger. Because the attack was really brutal, she lost her unborn baby during it. She got into what she thought was a happy marriage with a prince of the German Confederation, but this marriage was not approved of and that is why her husband wants to try to get rid of her. Her age is only guessed to be about sixteen. She is described by Dodger as one of the most beautiful girls he ever saw, with golden hair and is devoted to keeping her safe. This devotion is coming from his love for her. She is very kind and grateful to Dodger for her rescue and his affection is not unpleasant to her. We never find out Simplicity’s real name. She got this name from Mrs Mayhew after she got into their house after the attack. She is afraid to tell her name and after her alleged death, she buries her history along with her old birth name and accepts new name Serendipity, which is a word that could be described as a *‘happy accident’* or a *‘pleasant surprise’*.

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<sup>101</sup> PRATCHETT, p. 343

<sup>102</sup> Ibid. p. 261

## **Onan**

Onan is a furry doggy friend of Dodger, who is characteristic with his smell that it diffuses everywhere it goes. This characteristic similarity is with the character from the Hebrew Bible also names Onan. He was punished by God for not wanting to marry his brother's widow and have her children in order to continue the family line. Onan disobeys this command and rather spills his seed on the ground.

## **Sweeney Todd**

Sweeney Todd is a fictional character based on alleged murderer who raged in London, but this fact was never confirmed neither disproved. Peter Haining claims in his book *Sweeney Todd: The Real Story of Demon Barber of Fleet Street (1993)* that Sweeney Todd was a historical person who murdered around 1800s, but other researcher failed to confirm these claims. The story is about a barber named Sweeney Todd who ran his barbershop on Fleet Street in London. His neighbours noticed that many of his customers went missing, but what troubled them even more was the horrible smell that occurred in the church next to the barber's house. Todd and his partner in crime Ms Lovett use the flesh of his victims to make meat pies. This narrative was first published in novel *The String of Pearls (1846)* and it is believed to be heavily influenced by Dicken's *Martin Chuzzlewit (1844,)* where Dickens mentions meat pie made of visitors of London.<sup>103</sup>

In the book, Sweeney is not a cold-blood murderer but just a man with a tragic history unfortunately suffering from PTSD<sup>104</sup> after the war. He sees hallucinations of dead soldiers that he treated as a paramedic and only wants them to go away. His faith is very unfortunate, he is sent to Bedlam hospital for the rest of his life after Dodger defeated his attempt to murder him. Press described him as a villain but for Dodger, he was just a victim and he defended him "*It was as if he had been taking opium or something, 'cos he was seeing dead soldiers – dead men coming towards him, [...] He wasn't bad, he was mad, and sad, and lost in his 'eah. [...] An' that's the truth you should write down.*"<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> MACK, Robert L. *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. Oxford University Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0199543441. p. 17

<sup>104</sup> PTSD = Post-traumatic stress disorder

<sup>105</sup> PRATCHETT, p. 130-131



### 2.3.3.2 Characters based on real life personalities

#### Charles Dickens

Dodger meets with two real characters in the first chapter – Charles Dickens and Henry Mayhew. Charles Dickens is portrayed here mainly as a journalist who is working in Morning Chronicle, but a very snooty one. When something happens, Charlie, as he is familiarly called by Henry and later by Dodger, is the first one here to draft a report for the newspaper. Dodger is thinking highly about Charlie and his talent for people; “[...]Charlie – he looked the type who would look at a body and see right inside you. Charlie, Dodger considered, might well be a dangerous cove, a gentleman who knew the ins and outs of the world and could see through flannel and soft words to what you were thinking, which was dangerous indeed.”<sup>106</sup> and thanks to this talent, Charlie immediately saw through the plan of Simplicity’s death that Dodger came with and went on with it to protect her. He gave Dodger the opportunity to help him with his investigation because he saw potential inside him, that he is not another thief and that he truly deeply cares about the woman.

#### Henry Mayhew

Henry is described by his wife as someone who truly cares about the poor and those without a home, not just for his research but truly with his heart. Without hesitation, he and his wife took care of Simplicity and risked their lives. Dodger had a very positive relationship with Henry but had his reasons to think why they helped those in need; “Henry seemed like one of them do-gooders who felt guilty about having money and food when other people did not; Dodger knew the type.”<sup>107</sup>

Dickens’s dear friend Mayhew is not only important for the story but for the author himself. Mayhew’s lifework *London Labour and the London Poor (1851)* was a major source of information and inspiration for this novel, Mayhew is showing the reality of Victorian London through an interview with whoever he found on the street and statistics. Dickens also showed the reality of this era but unlike Mayhew, through the written fictions of his characters, to who is Dodger’s story very similar in some details.

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<sup>106</sup> PRATCHETT, p. 7

<sup>107</sup> Ibid. p. 6

In the end, Pratchett is mentioning Mayhew's work in the afterword and the novel itself is dedicated to Henry Mayhew.

### **Angela Burdett-Coutts**

Angela is yet another good soul that publicly helped people in the Victorian era. She contributed to society with the inheritance that she got after her grandfather, contributed to multiple charities, and supported the poor, and disadvantaged. She took care of the funding of multiple ragged schools to give children at least an elementary education and offered many outstanding pupils a chance to get to a university. She helped to protect Simplicity at her house and accepts Simplicity with the words "[...] *I am welcoming the daughter of an old friend from the country, who is staying here in safety[...]*"<sup>108</sup>. Dodger knew that he could trust her and used her help in his plan for alleged death of Simplicity and used her help.

### **Benjamin Disraeli**

We first meet Benjamin Disraeli during Dodger's visit to a parliament where he came to look for Charlie. We meet him here when he is just a young politician and dear friend of Charles Dickens who knows about Simplicity and tries to act in favour of the government to not ignite a war. Dodger has an opinion that he encountered a very similar personality as his own "*He was, yes, that was it: he was a dodger – not a dodger like Dodger, but another kind of dodger, and it took one to know one. He looked sharp as a knife, but probably the knife was his tongue; he was that kind of bloke – a smart person, but a definite geezer.*"<sup>109</sup>. Dodger meets with Disraeli at dinner at Angela's home and challenges him to go into sewers with him and Disraeli accepts. In sewers, Disraeli is quite sure that he recognized Simplicity dressed as a servant and so Dodger indirectly used him in his plan to later identify the dead body as Simplicity.

### **Robert Peel**

Dodger's first meeting with Robert Peel is strictly funny in the book when Dodger shows up in the same clothes as Peel because he got them at a discount from a tailor. Peel is suspecting Dodger of a murder that happened in sewers the same day. Dodger

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<sup>108</sup> PRATCHETT, p. 166

<sup>109</sup> Ibid. p. 155

is also very suspicious of him because after all, he is the boss of peelers “*Toshers were small fry, but in the rookeries, well, peelers were the enemy. [...] you would do yourself no good mixing with the peelers, and now here he was in the same room as their boss and, as sure as sixpence, Angela was going to introduce Dodger to him.*”<sup>110</sup> and don’t know what to expect from his side. Peel is not the bad guy here; he warns Dodger about the attacker named Outlander and also sends a few police officers to keep an eye on Dodger’s safety.

### 2.3.4 Language

Terry Pratchett is mentioning in the afterword that he tried to stick to Victorian slang but tried to incorporate words and phrases that he liked from modern language. In *Dodger’s Guide to London*, there is a small dictionary of Victorian slang that is very useful for confused readers.

Language in this book is as diverse as are people speaking it. If we stick to the characters, Salomon is a Jew so we could find a few Yiddish words like *schmutter*<sup>111</sup> or *bubele*<sup>112</sup>. Then there is Marie Jo, who is a woman making soup on the streets, is from France and occasionally uses her mother language when it’s fitting; she mumbles a lot in French, but Dodger doesn’t understand what she’s saying but one phrase he understands is *Cherchez la femme?*<sup>113</sup>.

At the end of the book, Dodger is taking his time of in Somerset, where he picked up the Somerset dialect; “[...] *Dodger said to his girlfriend in the pure, rustic tones of Somersetshire, ‘Oi reckon we oughta be moving along now, moi goyirl.’ She, smiling like the sun, said, ‘Where bi’st to, my lover?’ Dodger smiled and said, ‘Lunnon.’ And she said, ‘Where folk be so queer, not like ussun.’*”<sup>114</sup>.

The language and allusions in this book are made for readers with a broad range of extensive knowledge, so many jokes could stay unnoticed by ordinary readers. Terry Pratchett tries to help those readers with almost overusing of footnotes that help to understand some figures of speech and slang, like on page 85 – “*What about other*

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<sup>110</sup> PRATCHETT, p. 225

<sup>111</sup> *schmutter* = a Yiddish term referring to any type of clothing, like shirts, pants, dresses etc.

<sup>112</sup> *bubele* = a Yiddish term meaning *darling*, mostly used by parents on small children

<sup>113</sup> *Cherchez la femme* = a French phrase meaning *look for the woman*, in Czech *za vším hledej ženu*

<sup>114</sup> PRATCHETT, p. 335

*street noises, like horses or honey wagons – they tend to rumble a lot?*<sup>115</sup> – the author is explaining that honey wagons are carriages used for emptying septic tanks.

## **2.4 Themes and Motifs**

### **2.4.1 Themes**

#### **Hero and a Saviour**

The main theme of the story is the protagonist of the book Dodger and his progression from an ordinary tosher to a Sir. We don't get to know a lot about Dodger because we meet him when he becomes the saviour thanks to a coincidence that he was around. And that applies to every other occasion when he became a hero – he is a hero because of an accident and mostly luck. He is not a person searching for the occasion, he is the opposite, he tries to lay low as much as possible. This archetype of character is typical for English gothic fiction, someone brave who challenges villains in the novel.

Dodger is a real saviour, not only for Simplicity. If we take the incident at Morning Chronicle, where he meets with his acquaintance Stumpy Higgins, Dodger knows that Stumpy is not a villain and criminal, but just a poor fellow doing crime to keep himself alive and Dodger wants to save Stumpy before he would do something which he would regret in the future; “ *‘Stumpy Higgins!’ he said. ‘Blow me down if you aren’t the dumbest thief I’ve ever met. You know, next time you come up before the beak you will end up with the screws swinging on your ankles, you bloody idiot!’* ”<sup>116</sup>

### **2.4.2 Motifs**

#### **Tension and mystery**

The book has a lot of motives from English gothic novel which includes tension and mystery that could be apparent in every chapter of the book. We know that somebody is searching for Dodger not to just search for information about the girl but if he would stand in the way, they will kill him and with that in mind, the reader is waiting where the killer would show up in the book. The tension is supported by the small and tight

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<sup>115</sup> PRATCHETT, p. 85

<sup>116</sup> Ibid. p. 62

atmosphere of sewers where is Dodger working most of the time and that many scenes happen at night.

### **Damsel in distress**

Damsel in distress is another classical motive of gothic literature. Typically portrayed by a weak and powerless woman that is abused by a sadistic man or some supernatural creature. However, she can't defeat herself but has the power to offer a threat to the patriarch, like in Dodger. Simplicity's marriage to the prince is a thorn in his father's side and a threat to German Confederation and that is why her husband wants her dead. We don't know if her husband was aware of the fact that she was pregnant at the time of the attack, but that would also be scandalous for the family.

### **Crime**

Crime is a repeating motive in the book, and with every crime, we encounter in the story, its seriousness is increasing. The smallest ones are just theft, pickpocketing, and robbery, of all, Dodger himself is guilty. The worst one, murder, is something that Dodger thinks about in some situations but never sinks so low to commit one. Even someone like Solomon, who is the symbol of wisdom and kindness, is guilty of murder; *"You are looking at a man, old and creaky as he is now, who once got out of a jail by garrotting a gaoler with his bootlaces."*<sup>117</sup>. That shows us that every character in this book is not just black and white, and strictly good and evil, but somehow a shade of grey, not purely innocent.

### **2.4.3 Symbols**

#### **The River Thames**

The River Thames is a symbol pushed to the background but still a very important symbol. It is a symbol of Dodger's home, he comes down to sewers to feel safe here after a long day, to find reassurance that he is still a tosher and this is his job. The river washes up not just dirt and waste but also a lot of treasures that could be found by toshers in sewers. Many miserable young women find their end at the bottom of the river when they commit suicide, so the river is carrying their sorrowful stories and tries

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<sup>117</sup> PRATCHETT, p. 281

to cover up these crimes “ *‘He reckoned she’d jumped off the bridge in Putney,’ said Mary. ‘Probably up the duff.’ [...] They usually were with child, he thought: the girls from faraway places with strange-sounding names like Berkhamsted and Uxbridge, who had come to London hoping it would be better than a life among the hay seeds. But the moment they arrived, the city in all its various ways ate them and spat them out, almost always into the Thames.* ”<sup>118</sup>.

## **Ring**

In the book, there are two important rings. Simplicity is having her wedding ring as the last evidence of her marriage to the prince since their witnesses and the priest are dead. This ring represents her past, her love for someone and her shame that she truly believed he loved her back. The second ring Simplicity’s ring, which she got from Dodger, is the exact opposite – it shows her that Dodger is deeply in love with her and cares about her and the future he wants to spend with her. Dodger is having it custom-made from stolen gold, rubies, and diamonds and this ring forces Simplicity to go back into sewers to help him “[...] *‘Why did you come back here? It’s dangerous!’ Simplicity gave Dodger a bewildered look and said, ‘You know, I looked at the ring that I found, and on it I saw it said in tiny writing: To S, with love from Dodger. So of course I had to come back, [...]’*”<sup>119</sup>.

## **Newspaper**

A great amount of Dodger’s fame is thanks to the press and to what Charlie wrote about him which made him a hero even though Dodger hadn’t thought so. His fame arose around the city and people thought that he is worthy of all the appreciation.

## **Lady of the Sewers**

For Dodger, she is his source of faith, a goddess to which every tosher is believing and praying because she is keeping an eye on every one of them. Dodger believes that he will see her someday at the end of his life as Grandad did, and that she will bring a tosheroon to his life – a ball that would give a fortune of a lifetime. Dodger gets his

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<sup>118</sup> PRATCHETT, p. 49

<sup>119</sup> Ibid. p. 313

to sheroon at the end of the book, he got a new life with Serendipity which is more than he ever could think of.

### **Razor**

Dodger took the razor from Sweeney Todd after he had defeated him in his shop and carried it with him everywhere, even to the Parliament. It gives him power, just the thought of the razor gives him courage; *“Now, in his hand Dodger had – yes! – Sweeney Todd’s razor; he had brought it with him not so much as a weapon but as a talisman: a gift from fate that had changed his life, just as it had changed that of Sweeney Todd.”*<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> PRATCHETT, p. 310

## Conclusion

The primary aim of this thesis was to compare the portrayal of Victorian London in Terry Pratchett's novel *Dodger* and compare it with secondary sources.

The theoretical part focused strictly on Victorian London and how it is described in secondary sources, mainly from the perspective of lower-class inhabitants of London and their problems, which made up the majority of dwellers. One subchapter is dedicated to literature of the Victorian era, which influenced the next generation of modern writers.

The practical part concentrated on the analysis of Terry Pratchett's novel *Dodger* and provided a description of the main characters which were divided into characters that are based on real-life personalities and those that are purely fictional. The emphasis was put on themes and motifs that help the book to exceed to an adult world with some serious topics like suicide, death and poverty that are not typical for a children's book.

Although Pratchett's Victorian London is slightly changed here and there it is pretty much a portrayal of real London with brilliantly inserted real-life personalities as characters. Terry Pratchett took his inspiration from Henry Mayhew's research and it is visible throughout the whole book, mainly in the character's features. The novel offers several themes and motifs that I found that correspond with English Gothic novels, like a damsel in distress, crime, heroism, mystery and others.

The main character *Dodger* took inspiration from Charles Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*, the development of these two characters is parallel to a certain point where the inspiration ends and Pratchett offers an alternation of the same characters but in contradiction to the tragic ending of Dickens's *Dodger*.

The novel *Dodger* is drastically different from Pratchett's other works. Terry Pratchett's distinctive symbol was fantasy and he was a master in this area. So it is surprising that he got down to a completely different field. Still, this novel is very fascinating due to the circumstance that Pratchett suffered from Alzheimer's disease. Terry Pratchett enriched the world of literature with yet another great work and his legacy shall not be forgotten.



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