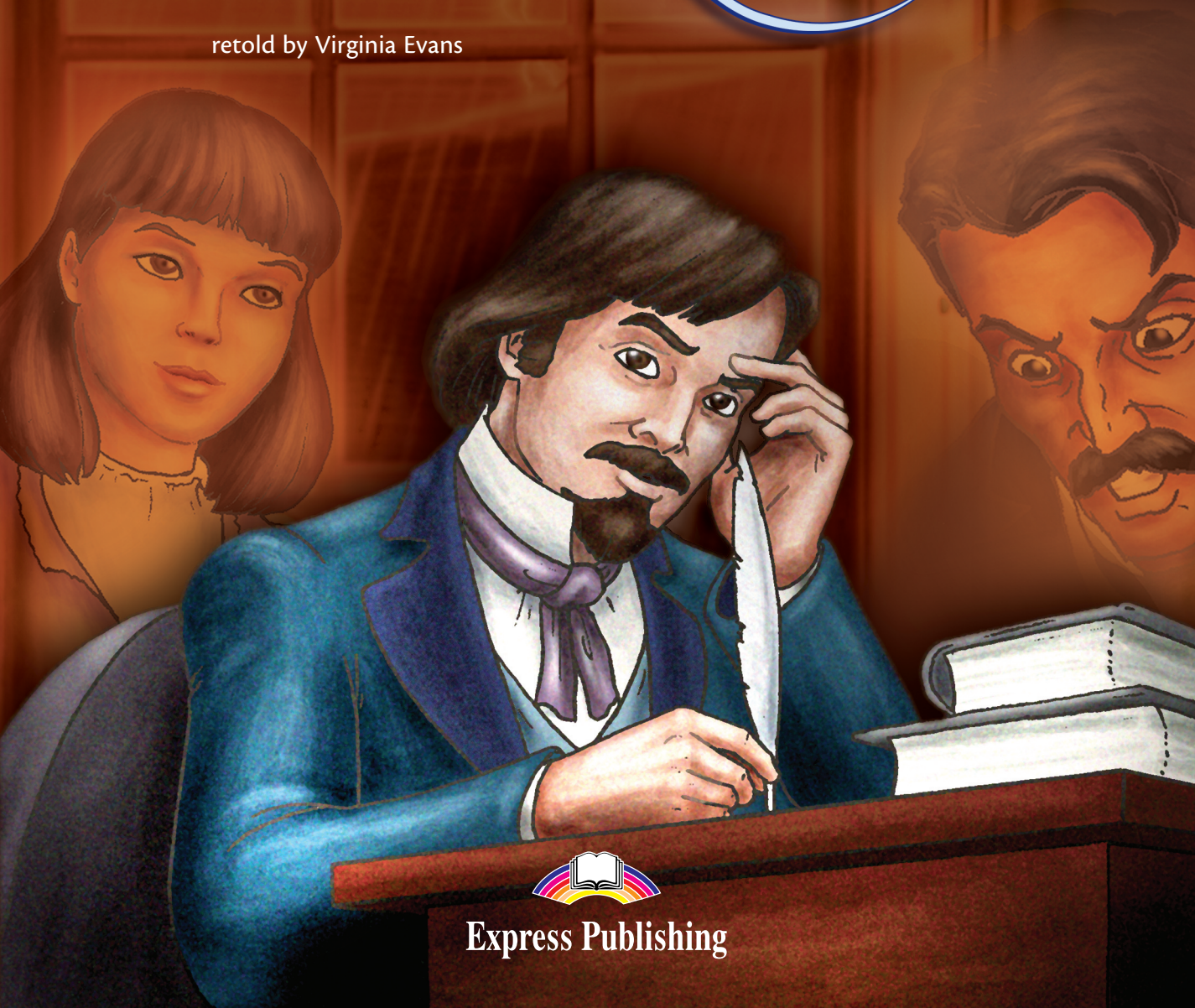


illustrated
READERS

CHARLES DICKENS

DAVID COPPERFIELD

retold by Virginia Evans



Express Publishing

The Plot

The story is about David's life. His father died 6 months before David was born, but David is happy with his mother and her servant and friend, Peggotty – that is, until his mother gets married again. She marries Mr Murdstone, who is cruel to David and sends him far away to school. David's mother dies when he is ten and his stepfather sends him to work in a factory in London. David is very unhappy, so he runs away to find his only living relative – his father's aunt – and make a new start. The story tells us about his life, and the people in it, as he grows up and becomes a man.



David Copperfield

is the hero of the story. David is a sweet and friendly boy who has an unhappy childhood, but grows up to be a good, kind and honest man.



Clara Copperfield

is David's mother, a gentle young woman who lets other people tell her what to do.



Betsey Trotwood

is David's great aunt. She sometimes shouts, and seems quite strict, but really she is a kind and caring person.



Agnes Wickfield

is a kind, caring girl who David first meets as a child. They are close friends from the start.



Peggotty

is Clara's maid and David's lifelong friend. She is loving, kind and generous. She loves David as her own son.

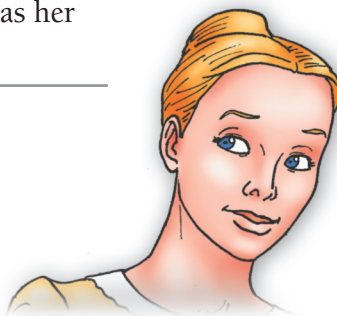
Emily Peggotty

is Peggotty's niece and David's childhood friend. She is kind, friendly and loving.



Mr Murdstone

is David's stepfather. He is very bossy to Clara. At first he is kind to David but later he is very cruel to him.



Dora Spenlow

is the daughter of David's boss. She is sweet, young and innocent, and she is not practical at all.



Mr Micawber

is a friend David meets as a young boy. He can never keep a job and always owes people money, but Micawber is still cheerful and hopes that "things will get better". He is a gentle, kind man who tries to help David and his other friends.



Uriah Heep

is an evil man who works for Agnes Wickfield's father.



Jane Murdstone

is Mr Murdstone's sister. She is even colder and nastier than her brother and she hates David.



1. MY LIFE BEGINS

My name is David Copperfield. On the night I was born, my great aunt, Betsey Trotwood, came to our house ...

This baby will grow up to be a good girl!

A BOY? Oh no!

But ... the baby is ... a boy!

My early life was happy. I loved my mother and our maid, Peggotty, very much.

So Aunt Betsey left the house and I didn't see her again for many years.

A boy! Bah! I don't like boys!

But one day Mother met a man and he came to our house to visit her.

I didn't like him at all.

David, this is Mr Murdstone.

Hello.

David, what's wrong?

You are too nice to him, Clara. You must be strict.

Then Peggotty took me on holiday to stay with her family. They lived on a boat by the sea in Yarmouth.

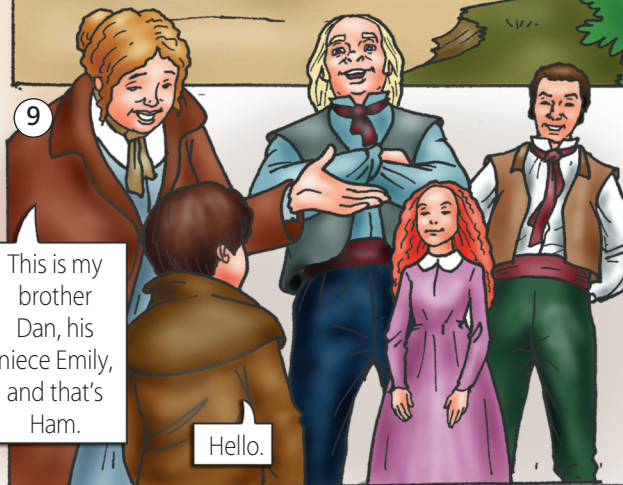
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This is my brother Dan, his niece Emily, and that's Ham.

Hello.

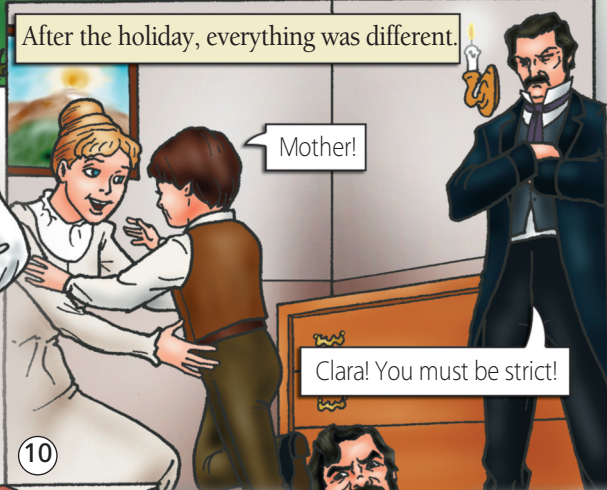


After the holiday, everything was different.

Mother!

Clara! You must be strict!

10



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Mr Murdstone and I are married now. His sister, Jane, has come to live here, too.



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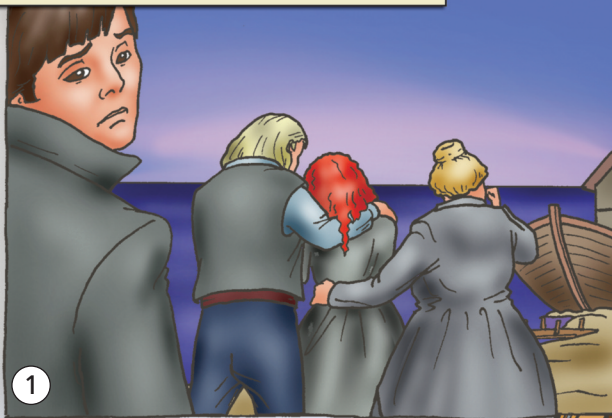
Now you must do what I say! Things are going to change in this house!



11. SAD GOODBYES

Ham disappeared in the sea while he was trying to save some drowning men.

Later, they found Ham's body on the shore.



I felt sad about what had happened, and I wanted to get back to Dora ...

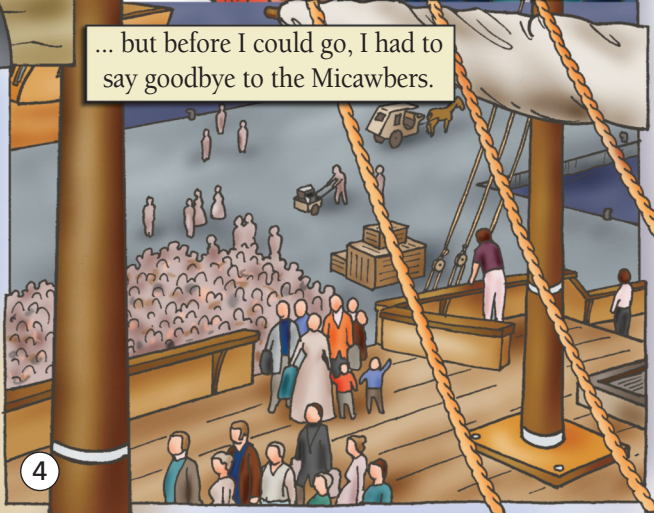


Emily decided to leave Yarmouth and start a new life.



Now that Ham's dead, I don't want to stay here. Uncle Dan and I are going to Australia.

... but before I could go, I had to say goodbye to the Micawbers.



Goodbye, Mr Micawber. I will miss you!

Goodbye, David.



We're going on the same ship. Goodbye, David.

Friends for ever?

For ever! Goodbye, dear Emily.



As I was waving goodbye,
Agnes was looking for me.



I must find David ...

Goodbye! Goodbye!

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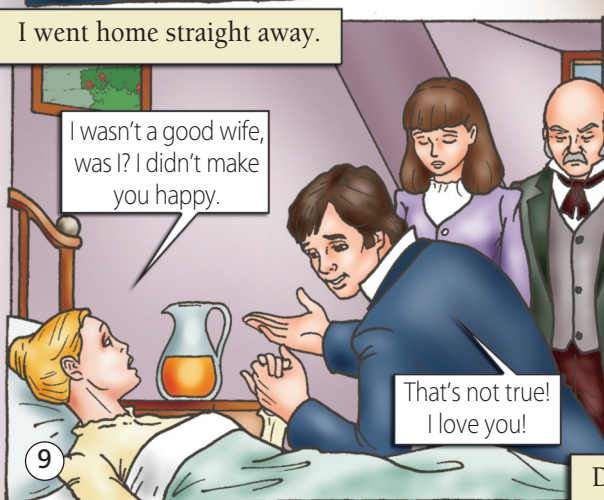
She had some bad news.



8

David - you must come
home. Dora is very ill.

I went home straight away.



I wasn't a good wife,
was I? I didn't make
you happy.

That's not true!
I love you!

9

10

I want to talk
to Agnes
now - alone.



Dora's death made me very sad. I
left England and went far, far away.

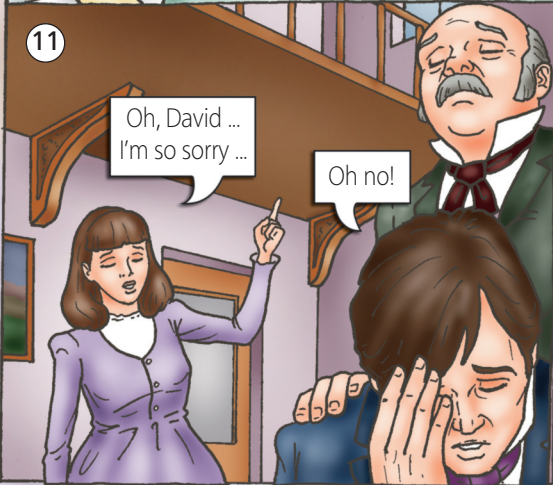


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11

Oh, David ...
I'm so sorry ...

Oh no!



DAVID COPPERFIELD

His father dies before David is born, but he is a very happy young boy – until his mother marries cruel Mr Murdstone. This is only the first of many changes, both good and bad, that David faces as he grows up and finally becomes a famous writer. This well-loved story invites us to share David's happiness and sorrow, and get to know all the fascinating people, both good and bad, he meets along the way.

Components:

- Reader
- Audio CD



Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

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