

Samantha Silva

(AUTHOR)

Mr. Dickens and His Carol

(BOOK TITLE)

DATE

TIME

08 DEC 2020

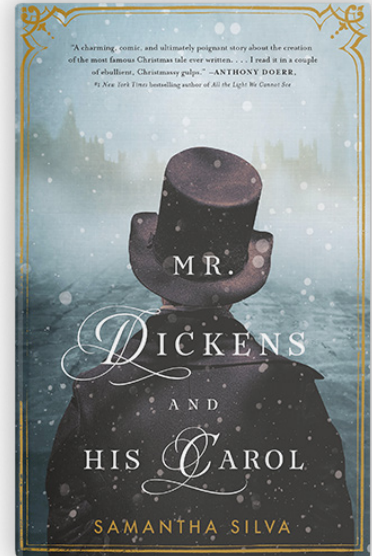
8:00PM EDT

HOLLY FURTICK

Book Club!

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Samantha Silva is an author and screenwriter based in Idaho. *Mr. Dickens and His Carol* is her debut novel.

ABOUT THE BOOK

The imagined backstory to the famous Christmas tale, *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. The book opens up with us feeling the immense pressure that Dickens is under to provide for his family and, most of all, produce another hit. Throughout the book, Silva weaves in character names and lines from a Christmas Carol that really open up your eyes to imagine how Dickens could have thought to create the details for this masterpiece.

FACTS ABOUT CHARLES DICKENS

- Massive celebrity
- Massive philanthropist
- Obsessed with prisons and workhouses
- Wrote in installments, ending chapters in cliffhanger
- “As the idea for the story took shape and the writing began in earnest, Dickens became engrossed in the book. He wrote that as the tale unfolded he ‘wept and laughed, and wept again’ and that he ‘walked about the black streets of London fifteen or twenty miles a night when all sober folks had gone to bed.’”

SETTING:

- London 1843

THEMES

- Christmas
- Family
- Generosity
- Love
- Forgiveness
- Time (clocks)

MAIN CHARACTERS

- Charles Dickens
- Catherine (wife)
- Chapman & Hall (publishers)
- John Foster (best friend)
- Mr. Bumble (toy shop owner)
- Eleanor Lovejoy (muse)
- Timothy (Eleanor's son)
- John Dickens (father)

MEMORABLE SCENES

- Chapman & Hall delivering news about his book.
- When people came and asked him for his autograph. The woman who said it couldn't be him, because Dickens was more handsome.
- Bumble's toy shop visit with the Dickens Children.
- Catherine & Children leaving.
- His first script being stolen.
- Walk with Eleanor
- Christmas Eve with Timothy

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Who was your favorite character (besides Dickens)?
- What was your favorite scene?
- Were you familiar with Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" before reading Mr. Dickens and His Carol? Did Samantha Silva's novel change how you viewed the classic? Discuss the ways in which Silva referenced and departed from Dickens' original story.

QUOTES

- "...a good biography tells us the truth about a person; a good story, the truth about ourselves."
- "Every book you've ever written is about Christmas. About the feelings we must have for one another, without which we are lost."