

preface

For the likes of me, who are more likely to get lost counting the leaves on the trees than to see the whole wood, many of Dicken's novels are a confusion, in which, by and large, good prevails, humble origins are no bar to success, the baddies get their just deserts and social injustices are exposed, one loses track of what happens where. I think of these snippets, as I remember learning at prep school the dates of the Kings and Queens of England: neither of any intrinsic value, but all useful as pegs on which to hang the wider picture.

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