

Barnaby Rudge

This fiction, placed in the Gordon Riots, takes its name from its central character, good but simple, who plays no significant role. Long ago his father, steward of the Warren, near Chigwell, had murdered its master and the gardener and disappeared. The story starts and ends at the Maypole inn, Chigwell. Barnaby Rudge senior visits his wife as a stranger, demanding money. She tries to escape by taking Barnaby to London, where he is persuaded to join the rioters. Barnaby is captured but spared hanging; and he and his mother live out their days on a farm attached to the Maypole.

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