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Hard Times (Paperback)

By Charles Dickens

Penguin Books Ltd, United Kingdom, 2003. Paperback. Condition: New. Revised ed.. Language: English . Brand New Book. A damning indictment of Utilitarianism and the dehumanising influence of the Industrial Revolution, Charles Dickens's *Hard Times* is edited with an introduction and notes by Kate Flint in Penguin Classics. In *Hard Times*, the Northern mill-town of Coketown is dominated by the figure of Mr Thomas Gradgrind, school headmaster and model of Utilitarian success. Feeding both his pupils and family with facts, he bans fancy and wonder from any young minds. As a consequence his obedient daughter Louisa marries the loveless businessman and bully of humanity Mr Bounderby, and his son Tom rebels to become embroiled in gambling and robbery. And, as their fortunes cross with those of free-spirited circus girl Sissy Jupe and victimized weaver Stephen Blackpool, Gradgrind is eventually forced to recognize the value of the human heart in an age of materialism and machinery. This edition of *Hard Times* is based on the text of the first volume publication of 1854. Kate Flint's introduction sheds light on the frequently overlooked character interplay in Dickens's great critique of Victorian industrial society. Charles Dickens is one of the best-loved novelists in the...



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