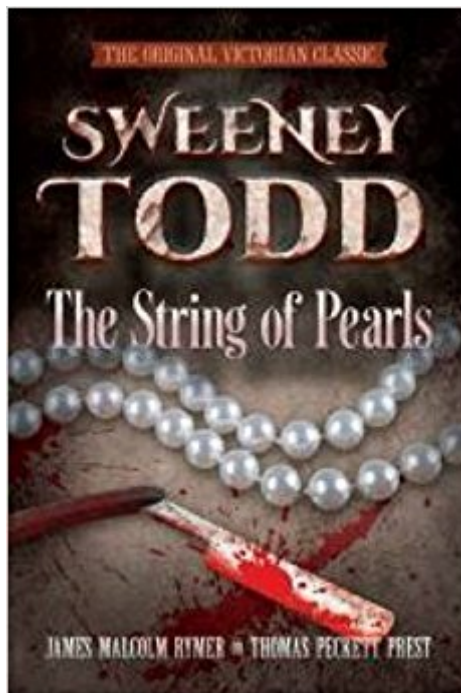




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SWEENEY TODD The String Of Pearls: The Original Victorian Classic (Dover Horror Classics)



Synopsis

In the early years of the Victorian age, a newly literate class of readers turned to "penny dreadfuls" for escapist fun. Blood-curdling tales, published in installments and costing only a penny, offered gripping episodes of romance, mystery, and horror. The notorious penny dreadful *Sweeney Todd: The String of Pearls* recounts a young woman's desperate search for her missing sailor sweetheart—a quest that ends in a Fleet Street barber shop, where the proprietor has an unsavory connection with a local baker and the secret ingredient to her delicious meat pies. Authorship of this tale, which was printed anonymously in 1846-47 in eighteen weekly installments, remains in doubt. The story's serial publication ensured an abundance of cliffhangers, and its dark humor made it an especially appealing source for the long-running Broadway musical *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. A delight for fans of the modern play, this gripping yarn remains a treat for readers of Victorian mysteries.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These types of stories may be called "penny dreadfuls" but I would never say my experience with this novel was dreadful. In fact, I enjoyed this classic from the great age of horror, which may seem disturbing to some but then again I have always been fascinated with the late 18th century and entertaining dark social examinations in fiction form and I know I'm not alone. It may take a special kind of reader to look past the gruesome and see the unexpected mysterious value in this

book though, the introduction to Sweeney Todd: The String of Pearls explains this point and immediately captures the reader's attention and rightly prepares them for the wild ride they are about to experience through the mean and cruel streets of 18th-century London with a character who commands the scene and strides into the reader's imagination refusing to leave for days. So don't skip the opening pages. I was very excited when I was offered to read this novel. I have watched the cinematic adaptation that although very entertaining is more of a revamped lite version of this story but I am happy I watched that version before reading this novel because I dare say I prefer the original story to any movie. The characters are evil and ugly, there is no redemption to be found here and I dare anyone to fall in love with or find sympathy for this edition of the Demon Barber of Fleet Street. The only negatives in this tale I can say that somewhat irritated me but may be explained by modern sensibilities was the repetitive scenes and speeches.

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