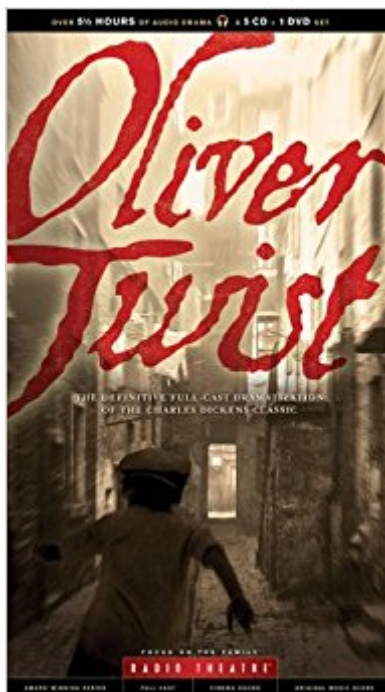


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# Oliver Twist (Radio Theatre)



## Synopsis

An audio drama of the highest quality, *Oliver Twist* was recorded on location in London with an award-winning cast. This classic story will steal your heart as the timeless characters are brought to life in Focus on the Family Radio Theatre's edition of Charles Dickens's beloved tale. This amazing audio production comes on five CDs, with a bonus DVD that includes behind-the-scenes production footage and the documentary *Modern Day Oliver*. Purchase of the product also benefits Focus on the Family's "Wait No More" adoption initiative. With cinema-quality sound and an original soundtrack, this audio drama tells the story of a young orphan sent from a child farm to begin life in a workhouse. After committing the unpardonable offense of asking for more food, Oliver is sent off to apprentice with a coffin-maker whose wife mistreats him. He runs away to London, where he meets the Artful Dodger and Fagin, who trains kids to be pickpockets. Despite his many trials and hardships, he finally gets his happy ending, bringing hope for redemption to all around him.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The classic story as you've never heard it before! Experience Charles Dickens's timeless tale of one orphan boy and the lives he impacted. *Oliver Twist* should not have survived his difficult beginnings. Cruel and oppressive forces worked against him at every turn. Yet a persistent hope gave him the courage to pursue the truth of his life. Faithfully retold in this powerful full-cast audio production, *Oliver Twist* captures the compassion, corruption, and redemption of

Oliver Twist's world in 19th century England and gives it a fresh relevance to our world today. 5 CDs + 1 DVD Includes Bonus DVD Behind-the-scenes documentary of the making of the Oliver Twist Focus on the Family Radio Theatre production, including interviews with today's experts on Charles Dickens An emotive and compelling look at the "modern Olivers" of our age, with dramatic true stories of today's orphans Dramatization based on Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens, which was first published as a book in 1838.

I thought I'd never buy anything from Focus on the Family, but the production is really good. Fans of British sitcoms will recognize actor Geoffrey Palmer as Mr. Brownlow. He played Lionel Hardcastle in *As Time Goes By* (1992-2002) with Judi Dench. Of course, all the voice actors do an outstanding job communicating the intrigue, sarcasm, moral conflicts, and social inequalities of the novel. However, the production does reflect an additional, curious irony: lots of violence, but no cussing. In the book, Oliver suffers physical and psychological abuse as an orphan, a child laborer, and a child criminal. The audio presentation is unsparing in its depiction of this sadistic underworld of Industrial England, but don't expect the novel's occasional profanity. Most of the time, the intensity of the criminal characters, such as Fagin, Monks, and Bill Sikes, covers the fact that all the actors are minding their verbal manners, but it does seem odd that Mr. Bumble isn't allowed to famously protest "...the law is a ass --a idiot," (sic). Instead, Focus on the Family uses the lesser known novel quote "...the law is a bachelor..." At any rate, the five CDs include an interpretive foreword and afterword, which serve as bookends of the Radio Theatre production. There's also a DVD of a behind-the-scenes look, as well as a documentary about the "modern day Olivers" of the foster care system. The set makes a great gift --for yourself, as well as someone else.

I've listened to several of Focus on the Family's radio theatre dramatizations of classic novels and, while all are excellent, *Oliver Twist* is definitely their best production yet. It has the elements that make FOF's dramatizations so good: top notch voice actors and sound effects. But what makes this one better is the length -- 5 full CDs. Before now FOF has kept their dramas to just 2 CDs, occasionally 3, which sometimes makes for too much abridgement (I'm thinking in particular of *Les Misérables*). But with *Oliver Twist* they gave wider scope, including more of the story so that even someone who has never read Dickens' novel will have no trouble following or understanding the storyline. Dickens' novels are always peopled with characters who are, though interesting and often quirky, nevertheless one-dimensional. The same is true with *Oliver Twist*; even the main character

Oliver himself has just one mood which never changes from the beginning of the novel until the end. (The one exception is Nancy; she is that rarity among Dickens' characters, someone who is conflicted and more than one-dimensional). But FOF's dramatization is so good and the actors so talented that they manage to make the listener almost forgive and forget the flatness of the characters they're portraying. Even the packaging of this book is far better than anything FOF has done before, with brief bios and photos of the main actors. Highly recommended.

Focus on the Family's production of Oliver Twist is phenomenal - definitely for audiences ages twelve and up - but phenomenal. All of my tweens/teens loved this story. The characters are portrayed beautifully and the music/sound effects are flawless. We just finished it today, and my kids are ready to start it all over again . . . and to be honest with you, so am I. Great story - wonderful production!

Another wonderful production by Focus on the Family. This is a tough story; so you hang on waiting to see how things work out for Oliver. The only down side to all of their stories is that some voices are used from story to story and sometimes my brain jumps to the wrong story because the voice is so strongly associated with another character from another story. The voice of Dietrich will always be Dietrich regardless of where I hear it. :) The same with the voice of Corrie Ten Boom.

Another absolutely splendid job by Focus on the Family Radio Theatre. Amazing acting and sound effects. Even my seven year old was held, and the story is a little complicated as you know if you are familiar with it. It is fairly intense, so we talked about it together, and my ten year old got the most out of it. I would recommend it for 9 or 10 and up since I feel that age child can really deal with and appreciate all of the issues presented. I looked forward to listening every day as we drove to school and was sad when it was over. Really well done.

Any production from Focus on the Family Radio Theatre is high quality. Although I have seen the 1968 film, I have never read the actual book so I don't know how closely this dramatization follows the original. A little surprised that Ron Moody (Fagin from the film) wasn't cast as Fagin for this production as he has done work for other Focus on the Family radio dramas. 5 1/2 hours of listening helps make time in my car more enjoyable.

We have many, if not all, of the Focus on the Family Radio Theatre productions. They are great

quality productions. Long car rides don't seem so long anymore. Great for plane trips too. I find myself putting one on when I craft when I don't want to listen to music.

Well done drama. My daughter and I enjoyed listening to it.

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