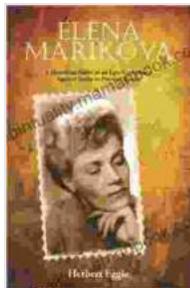


Elena Marikova: The Woman Who Inspired Charles Dickens' Greatest Characters

Elena Marikova was a Russian noblewoman who had a profound impact on Charles Dickens' life and work. She is believed to have inspired some of his most famous characters, including Miss Havisham in *Great Expectations* and Madame Defarge in *A Tale of Two Cities*.



Elena Marikova by Charles Dickens

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1619 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 644 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Hardcover	: 118 pages
Item Weight	: 5.9 ounces
Dimensions	: 4.19 x 0.84 x 6.81 inches
Mass Market Paperback	: 336 pages
Lexile measure	: 750L



Marikova was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1795. Her father was a high-ranking official in the Russian government, and her mother was a lady-in-waiting to the Empress. Marikova received a privileged education, and she was fluent in several languages. She was also a talented musician and artist.

In 1819, Marikova married a wealthy Russian nobleman named Nikolai Demidov. The couple had two children, but their marriage was unhappy. Demidov was a cruel and abusive husband, and Marikova eventually left him.

In 1836, Marikova met Charles Dickens in Paris. Dickens was immediately smitten with Marikova, and he began to write her love letters. Marikova was initially hesitant to return Dickens' affections, but she eventually fell in love with him.

Marikova and Dickens had a passionate but secret affair. They met regularly in Paris, and they exchanged hundreds of letters. Marikova's influence on Dickens' work is evident in many of his novels. Miss Havisham in *Great Expectations* is based on Marikova's unhappy marriage to Demidov, and Madame Defarge in *A Tale of Two Cities* is based on Marikova's revolutionary sympathies.

Marikova and Dickens' affair lasted for several years, but it eventually came to an end. In 1841, Dickens married Catherine Hogarth. Marikova was heartbroken, but she never forgot her love for Dickens. She died in Paris in 1857, at the age of 62.

Marikova's Impact on Dickens' Work

Marikova had a profound impact on Dickens' work. She inspired some of his most famous characters, and her influence can be seen in many of his novels. Marikova's unhappy marriage to Demidov inspired Miss Havisham in *Great Expectations*, and her revolutionary sympathies inspired Madame Defarge in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Marikova was a complex and fascinating woman. She was intelligent, talented, and independent. She was also a victim of her circumstances. Her unhappy marriage to Demidov left her emotionally scarred, and her affair with Dickens was doomed from the start. Despite the challenges she faced, Marikova never lost her spirit. She was a survivor, and she left a lasting legacy on the world through her influence on Charles Dickens' work.

Elena Marikova was a remarkable woman who had a profound impact on Charles Dickens' life and work. She inspired some of his most famous characters, and her influence can be seen in many of his novels. Marikova was a complex and fascinating woman who deserves to be remembered for her own merits.



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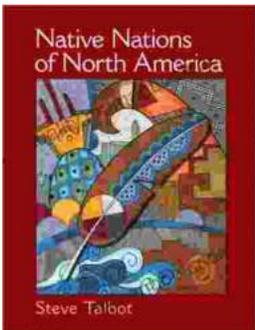
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