

# The Diary of a Nobody

*George and Weedon Grossmith*  
*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*

 Download

 Read Online

#15109794 in Books 1979 #File Name: B003X84FJS | File size: 68.Mb

**George and Weedon Grossmith : The Diary of a Nobody** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Diary of a Nobody:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Undiluted Late-Victorian BrillianceBy Alexander GayIf you, like myself, are a neo-Victorian, you will "laugh till the bed shakes", as the hero of this 'diary' (and yes, 'hero' is the right word) himself does at his own punny jokes. Ten pages in and half as many persons have tripped over the mud scraperan unmanageable young son with 'forward' slangsquabbles with servants, old friends and unpleasant new acquaintancetrouble at worksocial embarrassmenteverything a lover of Dickens could ask for and more. Even if you don't live and breathe top hats (Posh three-shilling hats, rather), you will probably get a kick or two out of this, especially if you erupt in mirthquakes whilst paging through it in a public library or at the doctor's office.The edition by Wordsworth Classics, besides being a steal at the price, is splendid in every respect. The footnotes are somewhat overattentive for me, but will serve most readers very well; it is far better to have a footnote too many than a footnote too few. The introduction by Professor Michael Irwin (University of Kent at Canterbury) is \*excellent\* (and should be read, like most introductions, after completion of the main contents).I heartily endorse the sentiments expressed on the back cover: "If you don't recognize yourself as some point in 'The Diary' you are probably less than human. If you can read it without laughing aloud you have no sense of humour."8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Falling down funny, perfectly pitched satireBy C. EbelingMr. Charles Pooter, a middle-class, middle-aged suburban Londoner in the late Victorian Era, decides to keep a diary. After all, it seems like everyone is publishing their diaries, so why shouldn't he? His only regret is that he had not begun the diary sooner. When part of the way through this hilarious

story related through his daily entries it seems that someone ripped out several pages to use for fire kindling, he says to his loyal wife and impudent son that he had hoped the diary would be a fond remembrance of him after he died and possibly that having it published could bring them some remuneration. His loved ones cannot suppress their laughter. The biggest joke is that in fact, this diary of a dedicated clerk in an old-fashioned accounting firm, who has done little else in his life and is quite comfortable with the status quo, is eternally priceless for its comedy and what it reveals about the Victorian middle-class life and preoccupations that it satirizes. If Mr. Pooter and his friends represent a culture that has grown complacent and overly interested in its own hobby horses and etiquette, his adult son Lupin is the brash younger generation that seeks entertainment and gratification without apology, shaking off musty traditions. The Grossmith brothers--George largely wrote this and Weedon illustrated it as a magazine serial--had no idea that they were creating a historical document as much as a giddy entertainment. The comedy is absolutely winning. The Grossmiths don't sell Mr. Pooter down the river entirely--they allow him competence at work, some self awareness and wounded dignity--but every diary entry usually sets up his hopes and schemes only to be reported as dashed in the next. Long before Rodney Dangerfield complained that he didn't get respect, Mr. Pooter had every right to cry that out as younger clerks, the neighbors, his son, his son's friends and the servants feel free to regularly contradict and insult him. There is plenty of physical comedy and fashion gone bad. And there is that voice of Mr. Pooter, at once plaintive, hopeful, clueless, sweet but not stupid, who always picks himself up after a fall.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. You will - eventually - like this character!

By John the Reader

In my youth there was a BBC Radio program called ITMA - It's That Man Again. I kept running across a certain Charles Pooter and references to his diaries in much of my reading. Eventually I realized, from the comments that indicated sheer pleasure, that this was a book I should own and read, even if it was just fiction. I very quickly read and enjoyed this little book that I shelved it, for a later reread, and forgot to review it. Why is that important - just another reader's review after all - because people who enjoy reading, and have a sense of wit, need to know of it ... do read it!

"I fail to see" said Mr. Pooter to himself one day, " - because I do not happen to be a 'Somebody'-why my diary should not be interesting and published." So publish he does, or rather two brothers, George and Weedon Grossmith created and publish a series of humorous articles for the magazine Punch that were eventually published in 1892 as the book *Diary of a Nobody*. Mr. Pooter soon proves to us that he certainly is not a "Somebody" but the little details of his so little life are surprisingly engaging and eventually, as you close and shelve the book, you find that you can feel at least a "warm regard" for this character. Of course, few of us will be able to hold him in the highly pretentious regard he holds himself, or enjoy his "puns" and little jokes quite as much as he does! But most readers will find they have a chuckling sympathy for Mr. Pooter's struggle for a decent life.