A Victorian Novelist?

William Wilkie Collins
(1824-1889)

Queen Victoria
(1837-1901)
Topics

- Collins’s Family
- Collins’s Friends
- Collins’s Lovers
- Collins’s Writings
- ‘The Black Cottage’
Collins’s Family

Father - painter
William Collins

Mother - confidante
Harriet Collins

Brother - painter & writer
Charley Collins
Collins’s Friends

Writers

Charles Dickens

Holman Hunt

Painters

Charles Reade

John Millais
Collins’s Lovers

Caroline Graves
(1830-1895)

Martha Rudd
(1845-1919)
Collins’s Writings

- Fiction
  - Over twenty novels
  - 6 novellas
  - 5 collections of tales
- Plays
  - With Dickens
  - Adapted from novels
- Journalism
  - Dickens’s magazines
  - Travel writings
- Letters and Memoirs
  - Life of his father
  - c. 3500 personal letters
What Kind of Stories?

Sensation Fiction
* 1860s
  - Miss Braddon
  - Mrs Henry Wood

Everyday Settings
  - Bourgeois homes
  - Conventional Families

Mysterious Events
  - Violence
  - Sex
  - Insanity

Dubious Sources
  - Sunday Newspapers
  - Penny Dreadfuls
‘The Black Cottage’

1) Publication


B. Next published with nine other tales in Collins’s second short story collection *The Queen of Hearts* (3 vols, October 1859)

THE QUEEN OF HEARTS.

WILKIE COLLINS,

AUTHOR OF
"THE DEAD SECRET," "AFTER DARE,"

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.
‘The Black Cottage’
3) Textual Differences

*HNMM*: Frame narrative (3 paras at start, 1 at end) addressed by the narrator in middle-age to a curious young lady

*QofH*: New general frame narrative encompassing all ten stories, with an elderly guardian and his two brothers telling stories each day to detain the beautiful young ward; specific preamble of lottery, Brother Owen at London church, and narrative in letter from married lady

*CSF*: No frame narrative, apart from fragmentary remains in final paragraph
Wilkie Collins

- Any questions?
- Any comments?