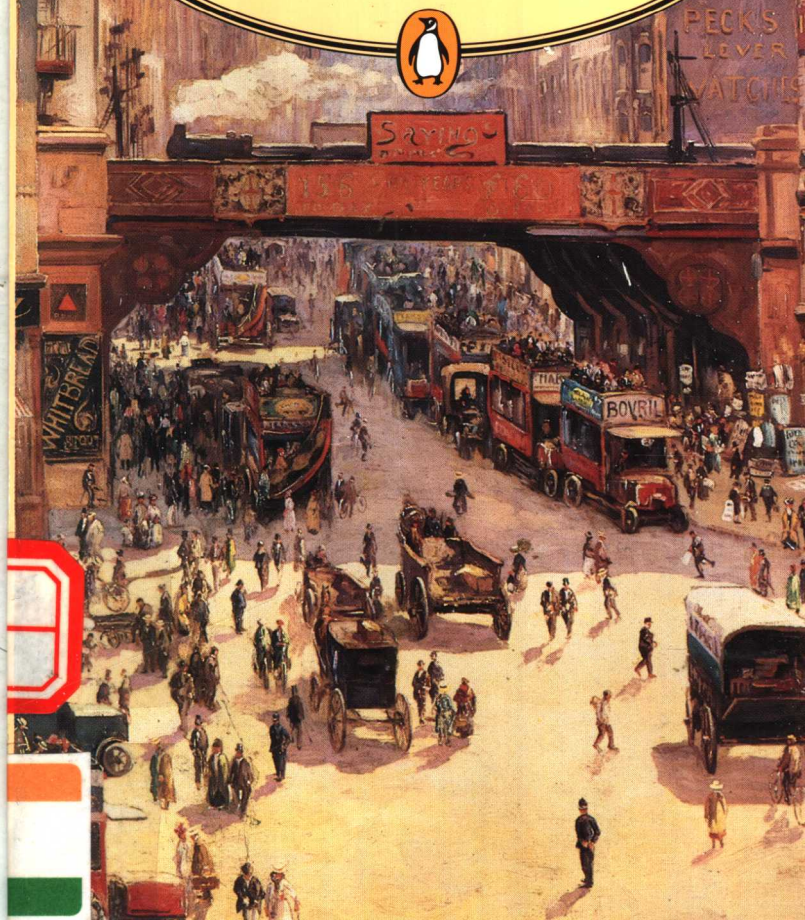


*Penguin Popular Classics*

# THE DIARY OF A NOBODY

GEORGE and WEEDON GROSSMITH



Penguin Popular Classics

# THE DIARY OF A NOBODY

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COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED

Why should Mr Pooter's diary not be immortalized in print  
– merely because he is not a Somebody?

*The Diary of a Nobody*, with words by George Grossmith and illustrations by his actor-manager brother Weedon, first appeared in *Punch* in 1891–2. Writing, he hopes, in the great tradition of Pepys and Boswell, Mr Charles Pooter regales us with choice anecdotes and domestic crises from life at 'The Laurels', Brickfield Terrace, Holloway, and from his chequered career as a City clerk. The wayward behaviour of his son Lupin – intermittently engaged to the unsuitable Daisy Mutlar – is only one of the burdens he has to bear. When, against all the odds, Mr Pooter triumphs, we cannot help rejoicing in his good fortune.

'This marvellous book is the jewel at the heart of English comic literature' – William Trevor in the *Mail on Sunday*

The cover shows *Ludgate Hill* by C. P. Snijders from Gavin Graham Gallery, London (photo: Bridgeman Art Library)

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GEORGE AND WEEDON  
GROSSMITH

*with*  
*illustrations by Weedon Grossmith*



PENGUIN BOOKS



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# THE DIARY OF A NOBODY

BY GEORGE AND WEEDON GROSSMITH

GEORGE (1847-1912) AND WEEDON GROSSMITH (1854-1919). Sons of a law reporter, both brothers gained notoriety as entertainers and authors. George worked for some years as a journalist, mainly reporting court proceedings for *The Times*, before becoming a singer and entertainer in 1870. He was closely associated with Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and during his twelve years with them he 'created' many of the leading roles. With them he toured Great Britain and the United States, becoming a popular figure. He also wrote music for the shows. In addition to *The Diary of a Nobody* he is the author of two volumes of memoirs: *Reminiscences of a Clown*, published in 1888, and *Piano and I* in 1910. He died in 1912.

Weedon, George's younger brother, was educated at the Slade and other art schools with a view to becoming a painter. Although he did exhibit at the Grosvenor Gallery and at the Royal Academy, he decided in 1885 to follow his brother on to the stage. Joining a theatrical company he toured the provinces and America, specializing in the representation of small, unhappy men who stand on their dignity and consequently become figures of fun - in fact very much like Mr Pooter in *The Diary of a Nobody*. In addition to his success on stage Weedon was a capable theatre manager, who eventually took over the management of Terry's Theatre in London. He was well-known as an author and playwright: his novel *A Woman with a History* was published in 1896, and of his many plays *The Night of the Party* (1901) was probably the most successful. Weedon continued to act until 1917. He died in London in 1919.

*The Diary of a Nobody* (1892) was written jointly by the brothers and first appeared as a serial in *Punch* magazine. Almost immediately, this comic saga of Mr and Mrs Pooter and their misfortunes proved itself to be a great success. The illustrations which accompany the diary entries were drawn by Weedon Grossmith.





THE DIARY OF A NOBODY originally appeared in *Punch*, and is re-published by permission of the publishers, Messrs Bradbury and Agnew. The Diary has been since considerably added to. The excellent title was suggested by our mutual friend

F. C. BURNAND,

to whom we have the great pleasure of dedicating this volume.

GEORGE GROSSMITH

WEEDON GROSSMITH

London, *June, 1892.*



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WHY should I not publish my diary?  
I have often seen reminiscences of  
people I have never even heard of,  
and I fail to see – because I do not  
happen to be a 'Somebody' – why my  
diary should not be interesting. My  
only regret is that I did not commence  
it when I was a youth.

CHARLES POOTER

*The Laurels,  
Brickfield Terrace,  
Holloway.*





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new home, and I resolve to keep  
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