Charles Dickens – Great Expectations

An honest, humbling read. Dickens’ celebrated bildungsroman will always remain as one of my favourite works of the Victorian period. The story takes you on the turbulent life journey of a young orphan boy turned gentlemen named Pip, as he experiences many contrasting fashions of Victorian life. Pip learns the pangs of a teenage heart as he meets the notorious Miss Havisham and her puppet young Estella, who just like Pip, is revealed to be in fact an example of an individual torn across the stratification of the Victorian class system. Miss Havisham! Who could imagine a woman so cruelly alive yet frozen forever in time?

*‘It was when I stood before her, avoiding her eyes, that I took note of the surrounding objects in detail, and saw that her watch had stopped at twenty minutes to nine, and that a clock in the room had stopped at twenty minutes to nine. “Look at me,” said Miss Havisham. “You are not afraid of a woman who has never seen the sun since you were born?’*