You probably think of Victorians as having been incredibly prude. But the truth is they could be just as depraved as the rest of us—they were just far better at hiding it. Once you get inside their books, you quickly find out what they were really up to behind closed doors.

10 The Pearl
William Lazenby, 1879-1880. This first entry is a slight cheat: The Pearl was not actually a book, but a magazine published briefly in 18 volumes and two Christmas Annuals until the publishers were threatened with prosecution for distributing obscene literature. Title: Victorian Era Paper Mask Salvation Lass, Price: $25 USD, Category: Antiques & Collectibles, Shop: Blue Spruce Rugs and Antiques, Description: Full color lithograph of a mask of young woman from the Victorian era. The mask is on light cardboard. It was made by Raphael Tuck Sons and is titled Tucks Half Mask No. 2 Salvation Lass. Featuring a glimpse of Victorian Christmas traditions seen through the writings of three of the 1800's most famous authors. My chief purpose was, in a whimsical kind of masque which the good-humor of the season justified, to awaken some loving and forbearing thoughts, never out of season in a Christian land." [Preface to Dickens' Christmas Stories]. The Haunted Man was the last of the books, and the Christmas ghosts, of whom Dickens was so fond of, played a large part in this story. For a rollicking, joyous old-fashioned English Christmas, we must go down, with Mr. Pickwick and his friends from The Pickwick Papers, to spend Christmas at Dingley Dell with Mr. Wardle.