Newgate novels

Lewis Fletcher/ Cameron Cope

* A Newgate novel is a novel that glamorises the lives of the criminals in them.
* Oliver Twist is Dickens’s only novel that can be considered a Newgate novel.
* Dickens views characters like Oliver and Nancy as victims of criminality, and so cannot fully be called a Newgate novelist.
* Newgate novels are named after Newgate prison in London.
* They were often controversial and usually based on a true story, but altered for melodramatic effect.
* Writers like Dickens would read the biographies of criminals for ideas.