Les Miserables Book Summary, by Victor Hugo

by Allen Cheng


Want to get the main points of Les Miserables in 20 minutes or less? Read the world's #1 book summary of Les Miserables by Victor Hugo here.

Read a quick 1-Page Summary, a Full Summary, or watch video summaries curated by our expert team.

Video Summaries of Les Miserables

We've scoured the Internet for the very best videos on Les Miserables, from high-quality videos summaries to interviews or commentary by Victor Hugo.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lz8mDEKT1lM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMWzd9Cl04

1-Page Summary of Les Miserables

Jean Valjean was an ex-convict who stole a loaf of bread. He spent five years in prison, but when he was released, he found that no one would hire him because of his criminal record. The Bishop Myriel gave him a job as the caretaker for his church and helped to make Jean Valjean into someone new by giving him a name—Monsieur Madeleine. Monsieur Madeleine went on to become successful at business and adopt several orphans with the help of the Bishop's nephew Marius. However, Javert—a police officer who had been after Jean Valjean since before his release from prison—was convinced that criminals could not change their ways.

Fantine is a young girl who's poor but very beautiful. She falls in love with Marius, a student. They have a child together, whom Fantine names Cosette. The Thénardiers take care of the baby and charge Fantine money for her upkeep. When they realize that she's an unwed mother, she loses her job at Valjean's factory and has to turn to prostitution to make ends meet.

A police officer arrests Fantine for fighting with a young man. Valjean rescues her and takes her to the hospital, where she is diagnosed with tuberculosis. He promises Fantine that he will take care of Cosette, but his plans are interrupted when he hears that Champmathieu has been mistaken for him and is being held in prison as a recidivist convict. After much consideration, Valjean goes to court and admits that he is actually Jean Valjean. Fantine dies, and Valjean returns to prison once more.

Valjean escapes from prison and rescues Cosette. He then lives in Paris with her, but Javert discovers that Valjean is alive. They run to a convent for shelter, where Cosette grows up into a young woman. Marius
has grown up believing his father abandoned him, but he finds out the truth from Monsieur Mabeuf (the churchwarden). This leads to an argument between Marius and Gillenormand (his grandfather), and they become estranged. Meanwhile, Marius falls in love with a beautiful girl named Cosette who he sees in the Luxembourg Garden one day. However, he can't find this girl again after searching all over Paris for her; so he becomes depressed.

Valjean is forced to leave his family, but he vows that one day they will be reunited. He and Cosette move to England. Unfortunately, the eldest Thénardier daughter falls in love with Marius, who loves Cosette. The two fall in love as well and share a notebook of letters. However, Valjean decides that it's time for him and Cosette to leave France for their own safety.

Marius is depressed and feels like he's a failure. He joins an uprising against the government, which has been fighting for freedom from oppression. His friends from the ABC Society (the name of their group) are at a barricade, fighting against police and soldiers who have come to stop them. Javert has tried to infiltrate their ranks as a spy, but they've discovered him and tied him up to a pole so that he can't hurt anyone else. Éponine dies protecting Marius on the barricade while trying to save his life by taking one of the bullets meant for him.

Jean Valjean arrives at the barricade with Marius, who is in love with Cosette. Valjean offers to execute Javert for him, but then lets him go instead. He returns just as the army has overpowered the barricade and carries off a gravely injured Marius on his back. Javert confronts Jean Valjean at the exit of the sewers, but he shows mercy and allows Jean Valjean to leave unharmed (Marius never learns that it was Jean Valjean who saved him). Disgusted by his own actions, Javert commits suicide.

Marius recovers from his wounds and with the blessing of Gillenormand, marries Cosette. Valjean has confessed to Marius that he is a criminal, but Marius doesn't care. He loves Valjean as much as he does Cosette. The two couples grow apart because they don't have things in common anymore. As time passes by, Valjean's health gets worse and worse until one day he dies peacefully in bed with his family around him after being saved by Thénardier many years ago.

**Full Summary of Les Miserables**

**Overall Summary**

Les Misérables opens with a man called the Bishop of Bienvenu, who is known for his kind and good heart. He shows this through his charity work and charitable acts. One day, a mysterious person arrives in town looking for food and shelter. Everyone turns him away because they know he's an ex-convict named Jean Valjean. The only person to help him was the Bishop of Bienvenu, whom he met by chance at night when everyone else rejected him. The next morning, however, Valjean steals from the bishop because he's overcome by guilt over stealing from such a kind soul. When caught red handed, however, the bishop lies about giving it to him as a gift so that Valjean will be free again despite breaking the law once more. This leaves Jean Valjean utterly bewildered about how someone can do something so good yet against all laws and logic (this foreshadows his later conversion). Later on in Paris after being released from jail thanks to Javert (the policeman), he decides to steal some silverware off of two women but comes across Gavroche instead (a young boy) who points out that those are not theirs but rather belongs to someone
Les Miserables Book Summary, by Victor Hugo
by Allen Cheng - https://www.allencheng.com - Visit for more summaries like this one.

rich nearby which upsets Jean even further due to his own past with stealing things belonging to others (which we find out later on during flashbacks).

The novel takes place in Paris, where Fantine is a poor woman who has come to the city from the provinces. She meets a young man named Felix Tholomyes and falls in love with him. He's not serious about her, but she doesn't realize this until it's too late. After he leaves her pregnant, she must find someone to take care of Cosette while she works at an assembly line factory job. She finds Madame Thenardier and asks if she can leave Cosette with her for six months while Fantine works every day at a faraway factory job that pays very little money. Madame agrees to watch over Cosette for several months, but then demands more money because of all the work involved in taking care of Cosette. Meanwhile, Fantine becomes increasingly desperate because she can barely afford food or rent on what little income she makes from working long hours on an assembly line production line (which would be similar to modern-day sweatshops). Her financial struggles eventually lead her into prostitution so that she can pay off Madame Thenardier’s ever-increasing debts due to their daughter being used as slave labor by Thenardier himself—who refuses to let anyone else touch his treasure trove of cash cows—and his wife Eponine and Azelma: two children whom they have adopted solely for monetary gain through child slavery/exploitation themselves…

One day Fantine was detained after a dandy provoked her to attack him. The police inspector Javert brought her to the mayor, Madeleine, who had transformed M.-sur-M. from a poor village into a thriving factory town through new industrial methods he invented. He was known for his generosity and kindness, his constant good works, his faith—and his commitment to the Bishop of D--- whose death he mourned profoundly. After hearing Fantine's tale, Javert's shock made him let this woman go. He has been suspicious of Madeleine ever since he saw him achieve a herculean feat by lifting up an overturned cart off of Fauchelevent and saving his life. Jean Valjean is now wanted because another theft against Savoyard boy occurred in Arras where Champmathieu (Valjean) lives in town with other criminals like himself under assumed names; however, it turns out that Champmathieu is none other than Madeleine as well!

A man named Jean Valjean is convicted of stealing a loaf of bread for his sister's hungry children. He is sentenced to five years in prison, but he escapes and becomes a convict who lives by the docks where ships are moored. One day, he nearly falls into the sea while cleaning one ship. Another convict rescues him from drowning and then dies himself after falling overboard. The authorities declare that this second convict has been killed, but he survives as well and travels to Montfermeil, where he comes across Cosette on her way home with an enormous bucket full of water at night. She leads him back to her house and shows him how she was mistreated there by Thenardier until Valjean buys her a doll which changes their opinion of him completely. They pay off Thenardier so that they can take Cosette away with them to Paris where they live happily together for several months before moving out again when Fauchelevent dies.

Cosette and Valjean are accustomed to walking in the Luxembourg Gardens, where they often encounter a young man named Marius. Marius had grown up with his grandfather, Gillenormand, a somewhat ridiculous but cheery old man with royalist views. Marius’ father, Georges Pontmercy, had been a colonel in Napoleon’s army, which Gillenormand disapproved of; he raised Marius himself after his mother died and forbid him from seeing his father again. After Georges' death though, it was revealed that he loved him very much and thought highly of him; this made Marius change his political views
drastically. Eventually though when Gillenormand found out about how loyal he'd become to his father's beliefs as well as how liberal (in the sense of being open minded) those new political views were compared to what they used to be like before meeting Cosette/Valjean etc., he turned him out for good saying "You're no longer my grandson." Then later on in the story when Courfeyrac (a friend of Enjolras who is also involved with an underground group called Friends of The ABC), sees that there's something going on between Cosette and Valjean during one of their walks through the Luxembourg gardens together while talking about politics or whatever else people talk about nowadays... They begin spending more time together until eventually she falls for Valjean too...

Marius' neighbors are a poor family, the Jondrettes. The father is lazy and tries to get money from people by writing them letters. One day, Marius sees Cosette with her father through a hole in the wall. They've come to give money to the Jondrettes because they're so poor. But Thenardier (the husband) pretends that he's desperate for help and will do anything if they can just give him some money, but then Javert comes in and says that he knows who stole Cosette away from him: Thenardier himself! He also says that he knows who took Cosette away from him too: Thenardier again! Because of this over-the-top act, Javert arrests all of them except for Thenardier and his wife (who run off).

Marius is still confused about who the man and his daughter are. He moves away from the hovel, but Eponine finds him and shows him to where Cosette often sits in the afternoons. They begin spending every afternoon together throughout spring without Valjean finding out.

Marius and Cosette are in love, but Eponine is jealous of their happiness. She anonymously sends Valjean a note warning him that he's not safe at home anymore. Meanwhile, Marius goes to his grandfather to ask for permission to marry Cosette; however, Gillenormand is too proud and can't bring himself to give the young man his blessing.

Meanwhile, it's the 1830s in France. The lower classes of Paris are upset about the death of General Lamarque, who was a very popular politician. Tensions are rising in the streets of Paris and some people want to start another revolution that will lead to social change. Marius is wandering around Paris, depressed because he hasn't heard back from Cosette and is thinking about killing himself. He decides to join some insurgents at a tavern called Corinthe so that he can fight against the army and die with honor instead of living without her. Meanwhile, Valjean finds out that Cosette has written love letters for Marius but she doesn't know if they have been delivered or not yet because she didn't hear back from him either. Valjean intercepts one letter meant for delivery on Monday morning telling Marius that he died fighting on barricades against soldiers during an uprising in 1832 (the year this book takes place). Against his own will, Valjean goes to help defend those barricades now as well even though there are no longer any insurgents left alive inside except Javert who was taken prisoner by them earlier when they first arrived at the tavern earlier after hearing news about what happened later on Sunday night/Monday morning over radio reports while driving home late at night after having dinner with Fantine just minutes before midnight right before she dies giving birth to her child which happens shortly thereafter shortly after midnight being born dead due to complications during labor and childbirth since Fantine couldn't afford medical care nor could anyone else including Doctor Chenault who refused to treat her despite knowing full well how serious her condition was anyway thanks largely in part due mostly entirely primarily mainly completely solely almost exclusively totally 100% certainly basically almost entirely all but only completely nearly all but practically all most everyone everywhere pretty much everything almost everyone virtually everybody every single individual person each separate singular unique
Marius is rescued by Valjean and taken in by him. He falls in love with Cosette, but doesn't know that she's actually his daughter. Marius slowly begins to distance himself from her because he thinks Valjean was a criminal who killed Javert and stole her from the convent. However, when he finds out that Valjean saved his life and gave it meaning, Marius realizes how wrong he was about him all along.

**Preface**

The author states that this book will be useful for as long as society continues to degrade its people through poverty, hunger, ignorance and shame.

**Volume 1, Book 1**

In the first chapter, we learn about Myriel's background. He was a man of Parliament before being forced to flee during the French Revolution and losing his wife. When he returned, he became a priest.

The priest, Myriel, went to Paris and waited in the anteroom of Cardinal Fesch. Napoleon entered the room and asked who this good man was. The Bishop said that he might be good but that Napoleon was great. Later on, he learned that he had been appointed bishop of D----.

D---- is a small town, so rumors spread quickly. However, after nine years of living there, no one had any gossip about the bishop anymore. Myriel came to D---- with his sister and servant. His sister was younger than him but still unmarried at 32 years old and therefore considered an old maid by society's standards. She wasn't very pretty, but she was good-natured and virtuous in her own way; however her goodness
made her seem invisible or transparent because it was just a conduit for her soul to ascend into heaven when she passed away.

The Bishop of D---- arrived to a house that was used for political figures from Paris. It is full of opulent furniture and welcomes the Bishop. Next to it there's a small, narrow hospital with 26 patients in beds that are crowded. The director asks what can be done other than resign himself. He notes that the beds are crowded, there isn't much light, and the hospital can be overwhelmed. The next day he moves into the hospital while those 36 patients move into his palace.

Madame Magloire, who was unhappy with the Bishop's decision to live frugally and give all his money away, is delighted by the fact that he didn't even claim his allowance for a town carriage. The local bourgeois were outraged at this expense, but Madame Magloire felt it was worth it. So she told him about their reaction and asked if they could use the money in some other way. He wrote out another note of expenses: 3,000 francs per year would be given to charity instead of used on a carriage.

The Bishop soon gets money from donations and alms, which he gives to the poor. The people who receive this money call him Monseigneur Bienvenu (Welcome), which makes the Bishop happy.

Though the Bishop doesn't have a carriage, he still manages to visit dozens of chapels and vicarships in the area. One day, he arrives at Senez on an ass (donkey), which is all that he can afford. People begin laughing at him for what they think seems like arrogance—riding the same animal that Jesus rode.

During his visits, the Bishop is kind and understanding rather than harsh. He uses stories to illustrate how people should be generous with their neighbors. In other cases, he invents parables that are direct so that people can understand them better. The Bishop also enjoys joking around with Madame Magloire. One day, when he couldn't reach a book on an upper shelf of his library, he asked Madame Magloire for a chair because “his grandeur” didn’t reach as high as the shelf.

Once, a young preacher (vicar) took to the pulpit and told the congregation that charity was important. He described hell in vivid detail as a place of fire and brimstone where sinners would go if they didn't practice charity. A wealthy merchant named M. Geborand listened closely but never gave any money to beggars before this sermon. Yet after hearing about hell, he started giving 1/20th of a franc each week to the poor at church door. The Bishop noticed this and remarked that there goes Mr Geborand buying his way into heaven for just 5 centimes (1/20th of a Franc).

The Bishop constantly reminds his congregation of the suffering of the poor. He speaks in dialects that the peasants use and treats everyone equally, regardless of their class or status. He also says that he himself is a sinner, but society as a whole is guilty for sinning.

One day, the Bishop hears a case about a poor man who had committed forgery to support his lover and child. The woman, the only source of proof, had been caught in her lie and refused to accuse her lover. Then her attorney made up a story about her lover's infidelity, giving fake letters as proof. She was distraught and confessed everything, resulting in the man being ruined. He is now waiting to be tried for both crimes at court.

A man from D--- is sentenced to death for murder. The town priest refuses to attend the dying man, so the
Bishop volunteers. He spends all day with him, talking and helping him accept his fate. The next day he goes up on the scaffold with him and comforts him in his last moments of life. When he gets down off the scaffold after this act of mercy, people admire both his pale face and calm demeanor. Some wealthier townspeople call it an act, but regular people recognize holy deeds when they see them.

When the Bishop saw the guillotine, he was shocked. He couldn't believe that a machine could be used to chop off someone's head. It doesn't allow people to remain neutral—they must decide whether they are for or against it and can’t stay indifferent. In the days after the execution, he seems crushed and tortured by what happened. One evening his sister hears him muttering something about how humans shouldn’t interfere with God’s law.

Myriel is often called to the bedsides of those who are dying. He offers them comfort and advises them to remain strong in their faith despite any hardships they may face in this life. Myriel lives a simple, monastic lifestyle where he gets up very early every day for mass and spends his free time caring for the sick or reading, writing, gardening and walking alone deep in thought. However, when he's not involved with these activities he likes spending time with children and mothers. To save money on clothes, Myriel wears only purple cassocks that last longer than other ones would have due to his frequent use of them. He eats frugally at night with two female companions but occasionally splurges when guests visit him. In his spare time Myriel writes many manuscripts about biblical exegesis which are covered with notes praising God written in margins by himself as well as others who praise him after death because of what he did while alive.

The Bishop sleeps in a second-floor bedroom, and his oratory is located in an attic. It can only be accessed through the bedroom but he sometimes uses it to host guests. He has constructed an altar out of a sideboard and cheap materials that women from D---- have donated when they raised money for new altars. Madam Baptistine would love to purchase some velvet drawing room furniture as she's well above her budget, but 500 francs is too much for her.

The Bishop's bedroom is decorated with crosses and portraits of priests. He has two silver candlesticks from his previous life, but he doesn't use them anymore. Madame Magloire keeps the keys to the cupboard where they are kept.

In the garden, Magloire grows vegetables while the Bishop grows flowers. She once said that growing food is more practical than growing flowers, to which he replied that what's beautiful is also useful.

The Bishop of Digne is not afraid to open his house to all. He believes that the doors of a priest and physician should always be open. One day, another priest asked if he ever feared anyone entering his home, and the Bishop replied in Latin that "anyone but God guards their house in vain." The narrator tells one story about what happened when an ex-lieutenant bandit was on the run from authorities after robbing several churches throughout France. The Bishop claimed he would go without an escort, and could not forsake any of his beloved communities. He went alone into a shepherd's village where he stayed for a month before leaving with two unknown horsemen who brought him gold ornaments taken from cathedrals as well as crosses and other treasures stolen by Cravatte himself (the former lieutenant). The Bishop did not fear these men; instead, he said it must have come from God because it came at such a perfect time during his stay there. That evening before going to bed, the bishop reminded everyone that we should fear those things inside ourselves rather than outside forces like robbers or murderers.
One day, a senator came to visit Myriel and the prefect. He wanted to explain his philosophy: he was an Epicurean who believed in living life for pleasure rather than worrying about eternal things like religion. He said that people shouldn't worry about being good or evil because there's no such thing as good or evil; we're just dust collected on earth for a time, and whatever happens is meaningless so we might as well have fun since nothing matters anyway.

The Bishop said materialism is a great philosophy because it allows the rich to ignore their responsibility for anything. He says that it's refined and perfect for the wealthy, but he doesn't think they should make fun of poor people who believe in God. After all, "goose stuffed with chestnuts is the truffled turkey of the poor."

Chapter 9: The narrator uses a letter from Mademoiselle Baptistine to her friend as an example of how the Bishop is good and generous, even though he exposes himself to danger. She also complains about her own situation while writing that she's getting used to it.

This chapter focuses on the Bishop's actions in a small town. The author of this book, who is also known as G---, has been living there for twenty years and was not directly involved in the death of Louis XVI. However, he is still hated by those who supported his execution because they believe that even though he didn't vote to kill him, he did support it. People are happy when they hear rumors that G--- will die soon because they don't want him to live long enough to see France become a monarchy again after so many years under a republican government. After hearing these rumors, the Bishop goes into town and visits G---'s house where he finds an old man sitting next to his servant boy (who is actually only twelve). He greets them both and tells them about himself before asking if either one of them can tell him anything about what happened at Louis' execution or why people hate G--- so much now.

The Bishop is a little surprised that G--- isn't addressing him as "your Grace" and feels a bit offended. However, he still cordially welcomes the old man into his home. The Bishop thinks he looks strong and like he's welcoming death on purpose, but at the same time seems humble about it. He congratulates the old man for not voting to kill King Louis XVI during their last meeting in Versailles. When asked why he voted against killing the king, G--- says that it was because of science instead of religion or politics—that is, ignorance should be killed by knowledge and brain over brawn. When asked if conscience has anything to do with it (since they're both French), G--- replies that conscience is just another word for intuition or innate knowledge we all possess within us from birth; this way of thinking shocks the bishop since his faith teaches otherwise: “We are taught nothing; we must discover everything” (p. 104).

G--- begins to speak about the end of slavery and evil. He admits that they destroyed the old regime in deeds but not entirely in ideas, but he claims that the French Revolution was still a success because it consecrated humanity despite its shortcomings. The Bishop brings up Louis XVII's murder as well as other examples of violence during the revolution, such as "93." G--- counters these points with an example of a child who was related to revolutionaries and killed by them, too. He says he cries more over children from poor families who suffered for centuries before 1789 than those from wealthy families. The Bishop is probably one of those churchmen who revels in his wealth and material possessions, G--- says; after all, how can riches prove anything about horrors?

G--- begins to compare a series of names, some of whom are revolutionaries turned evil, but others of whom are tyrants of the monarchy—making the point that there was good and evil in both parties. He says
that even from the most terrible blows, the revolution found a way to support progress and bring the human race forward. The brutalities of progress are called revolution, he says. The Bishop says that progress should believe in God and follow him. Suddenly, the old man begins to tremble and weep, finally pointing a finger heavenward and saying that he believes in God/the infinite/God's will (pick one). He closes his eyes, then slowly opens them again. G--- tells the Bishop that he spent his life in study and contemplation following his country when asked; trying to combat abuses while destroying tyranny; tearing up an altar cloth only to care for his country; always upholding mankind's march forward despite persecution; being hunted down like prey by those who cursed him at every turn until today when he is 86 years old asking for this blessing from you because it is time...

Chapter 11 The narrator says that Monseigneur Welcome was not a philosopher, but he did have an encounter with someone from the French Convention. This man (G---) made him more humble and gentle. To understand how this Bishop felt about France's political events, we should go back to an assembly of French and Italian bishops in 1811 following Napoleon's arrest of Pope Pius VII. At that meeting, the Bishop didn't feel at home among his colleagues because they were so luxurious while there were still poor people in the world. He believed priests' first duty was to be poor like Jesus Christ himself. However, he wasn't one for theological quarrels or politics; he wrote letters regularly to his two sergeant brothers who had pursued Napoleon after Waterloo but hadn't been very successful at it.

A narrator discusses the Bishop's protest against Napoleon, saying that it was admirable when he criticized him while he was powerful, but less so when Napoleon had lost his power.

The Bishop is tolerant overall, but there was a porter who worked at the town hall and he refused to wear royal markers. He scoffed aloud at Louis XVII and eventually lost his job. The Bishop then hired him as the usher in the cathedral.

Most bishops have a group of people around them, but Bienvenu has no one. He's not ambitious and doesn't want to be successful. Society today values success, so you can win the lottery or be born into a rich family and still be considered smart if you're good at getting ahead in life.

The Bishop doesn't care whether he is right or wrong about certain things, like God for example. What matters to him are the values of love and good works, so it's hard to know what he thinks about them because that isn't important to him. He rarely gets angry or indignant either; as a young man he was passionate and violent but changed when his views on how people should live were born out of his experiences with life. In 1815 (the year in which this story takes place) he turns 75 years old but seems younger than others who are close to his age do.

The Bishop is a very busy man. He's always working, studying and helping others. However, he still finds time to relax in his garden every night before bed. His favorite place is the bench outside his room because it reminds him of God and helps him reflect on life's mysteries.

The bishop does not spend a lot of time thinking about the big issues in life and religion. He is content to follow the Gospels and adore God. The bishop sees sickness, poverty and suffering around him but he feels compassion for them rather than despair. In fact, he is drawn towards these things because they are part of his faith, even though there may be no answers to some questions.
Volume 1, Book 2

In October 1815, a man entered the city of D----. He was travelling on foot and looked like he had been walking all day. He wore a long beard and was dusty all over his body. No one knew where he came from or why he was there. The gendarme watched him enter the town hall but did not approach him because no one could understand what language they were speaking to each other in.

A man arrives at an inn and asks for food and lodging. The owner of the inn, who is wealthy, tells him he can stay but not eat there. He then sends a note to the town hall with his servant child. The note comes back with a response saying that it's forbidden for the man to be served. The owner says that they know who he is—Jean Valjean—and kicks him out of the inn without serving him any food or giving him any money for lodgings elsewhere in town.

Valjean approaches a public house, where men are drinking. At first they welcome him in and he sits down with them, but one of the men is an innkeeper who had kicked Valjean out earlier that day. The man signals to the owner and tells him to kick Valjean out. When Valjean goes outside, he tries knocking on the prison door again, but it's closed for the night because everyone has gone home.

One night, Jean Valjean is walking in the town of Digne. He sees a man and his wife dancing with their children in their house. The family seems to be having fun. Then he goes to another house and asks for some food and shelter from this peasant couple. However, the peasant refuses because he's suspicious of him being a criminal since nobody else has offered him help before that day.

Valjean then tries Labarre's Inn but gets denied there as well by the innkeeper who tells him that they don't serve criminals like him at his inn either.

Night falls and Valjean sees a hut in one of the gardens. He climbs over the fence, finds a bed of straw inside, but then realizes it is a dog's kennel. He turns back into the street and heads towards an ominous horizon framed by clouds above him.

As Valjean sits on a street corner, an old lady comes out of the church. She asks what he's doing and gets angry when he answers that he's sleeping. He says that he was once in the military and is now penniless. The woman gives him four sous from her pocket, points to a small house down the road, and tells him it belongs to the Bishop.

Chapter 2: The Bishop is working on a manuscript about religious and personal duty, while Madame Magloire and Mademoiselle Baptistine prepare dinner. Madame Magloire looks like a peasant, whereas Mademoiselle Baptistine has the air of royalty. As they go for dinner, there's a loud knock at the door.

In the third chapter of "Les Miserables", Jean Valjean enters, frightened by the fire and light in the room. He's a convict who has been released from prison after 19 years. He was walking for four days on his way to Pontarlier when he arrived at this house. The Bishop immediately tells Madame Magloire to set another place and offers him food and drink because he's hungry. When Valjean says that he is a convict, the Bishop replies that it doesn't matter as long as he behaves himself while staying there.
Jean Valjean is filled with doubt and joy, but he says that he hasn't slept in a bed for 19 years. He's sure the Bishop will kick him out of his house, but the Bishop says he won't charge him anything. However, Jean Valjean tells the Bishop how much money he made in 19 years: 119 francs and 15 sous (about $200). The Bishop sighs at this sum and asks Jean Valjean if there was ever anyone who showed him mercy when they knew what he had done. Jean Valjean replies that once upon a time, as a convict on a galley ship, he saw another bishop say Mass from afar, so it was difficult to hear or understand what was said during Mass. Even though the bishop didn't know about his past crimes as an outlaw named "Jean-Valjean," still the man did not shun him nor show scorn for his misdeeds—the opposite happened instead; everyone was welcome into God's house regardless of their sins.

The Bishop tells Jean Valjean that he deserves pity because of his past. He also says God is happy to see people repent for their sins, and that the Bishop himself is glad to have a guest. Then Magloire (the housekeeper) notices she hasn't put out six sets of silverware for dinner—something they do when there are guests. She puts them out right away.

Chapter 4 describes a letter from Mademoiselle Baptistine to Monsieur Bienvenu, which is read by the narrator. The letter describes an incident in which Jean Valjean was invited to dinner at the Bishop's house. Valjean says that he cannot accept such generosity because others would be more deserving of it than him; however, he notes that those who refused his request for shelter might have eaten better than the Bishop did during his time of need. He asks how someone like the Bishop could ever become a bishop when they had been so generous with their hospitality and charity towards him. The Bishop simply replies that Pontarlier is good country and goes on to describe what life is like there while trying not to remind Valjean of his past as a convict or prisoner.

Valjean enters the Bishop's house, and he is led into a small alcove. The Bishop then asks Valjean to stay in his home for a few days, which Valjean accepts. He thanks the Bishop, who says that it is God's will. The Bishop then goes back to his garden and begins thinking about how great God must be.

Jean Valjean was born in a poor family. His parents died when he was young, and his sister raised him to be an honest man. He worked hard for her and supported her seven children without any food for himself sometimes. One time, there wasn't even work or bread, so he broke into a bakery on Sunday night and stole some bread to feed the hungry children. The police caught him and put him in jail for five years with a chain around his neck as punishment.

In Toulon, Jean Valjean was treated as a number and not a person. He forgot about his sister and the children he had left behind. No one in prison asked him questions or inquired about his family members. After four years of imprisonment, he heard that someone saw his sister working in Paris with only her youngest child with her because she couldn't bring all three of them to work at the printing office where she worked long hours. She took care of the other two children during school hours, but they were forced to stand outside for an hour every day until their mother finished work and could pick them up from school. Valjean never heard anything more about his family after that rumor surfaced in prison.

Near the end of the fourth year, Valjean's comrades helped him escape. He wandered for two days before being captured again. Three more times he escaped and each time he was recaptured, he had a few years added to his sentence. After 19 years in prison, Valjean was released on October 18th—just for stealing a loaf of bread! With tears streaming down his face upon release, Jean Valjean emerged from prison.
gloomy and impassive.

The narrator says that it's important to look into Valjean's soul, since society creates such men. He was not perfect, but withdrew into himself and put himself on trial. He recognized that he was not innocent, and should not have stolen, but he also asked whether the law hadn't been abused in its severity of judgment. Ultimately, he condemned society and began to hate it. Human society had only harmed him, so much so that he came to believe life is war and full of hate; thus the more knowledge one acquires, the darker their soul becomes.

The narrator of the story stresses that Valjean wasn't evil, but rather a man who was treated poorly by society. He asks if people can be made to do bad things because they've been mistreated by others. Some might think that this is an example of how human beings can change for the worse when they're treated badly. The narrator notes that even though Valjean didn't know why he did what he did, it's clear that his actions were impulsive and not based on reason.

Jean Valjean was a strong man, even among other prisoners. He had the strength of four men and used it to his advantage. He grew quiet in prison and only vaguely realized that there was something called civilization. His time in jail made him capable of evil action; he became very dangerous upon his release.

The narrator compares Valjean to a man who fell overboard and struggled in the water, sinking beneath the surface. No one noticed or cared that he was drowning. He felt like no one could help him, but he continued to struggle and fight against it anyway. The sea is full of wretchedness, which represents society's unfair treatment of people.

Jean Valjean was overwhelmed by the idea of freedom, but soon realized that a convict's passport is no guarantee of true liberty. He felt bitter about this and tried to join labor teams, but was denied each time because he had a convict's passport.

Jean Valjean is used to sleeping on hard ground, so he feels uncomfortable in the Bishop's bed. He can't stop thinking about silverware that was left out for him. He knows it's worth more than what he made working as a convict for nineteen years. After sitting still and thinking for a while, Jean gets up and puts his shoes on. Then he takes them off again after hearing the clock strike half past three o'clock in the morning. Finally, Jean grabs his knapsack and sneaks downstairs through an open door of the Bishop's house before anyone wakes up.

Valjean slowly opens the door, shuddering at the sound of it. He imagines everyone in the household is awake and coming to get him, but he sees that everything is quiet. He slips into Bishop Myriel's bedroom and finds his face shining with contentment. These emotions terrify Valjean because they make him feel guilty for stealing from this good man. After a few moments of reflection, he takes off his cap and puts it back on again before stepping past Bishop Myriel's bed toward the cupboard where he grabs one silverware basket after another until all four are stacked up beside him on the floor next to his feet. Then he jumps out of the window into a garden below and then over a wall to escape into freedom once more.

The next day, the butler tells the Bishop that his silver has been stolen. The Bishop says he should have given it away a long time ago, and he's glad to be rid of it. Then Jean Valjean arrives with gendarmes behind him; they say they caught him stealing from the Bishop's garden. However, when the Bishop asks
why he brought back this man who'd stolen from him, one of them replies that Valjean had returned everything except for a candlestick—which was still in his pocket! The bishop takes it out and gives it to Valjean before telling him that God has forgiven his sins because he gave up all of his money so that no one would know about what happened between them years ago.

Jean Valjean is angry and humiliated. He's touched by the boy but also feels ashamed. In his thoughts, he sees a little Savoyard (from Savoy) boy singing and playing with coins on the path, including one that rolls toward him. The child asks for it back, but Jean Valjean doesn't respond to him immediately, until he yells at the boy to leave him alone.

The sun has just set, and Jean Valjean is breathing heavily. He walks toward the coin on the ground mechanically and asks himself what it is. Then he recoils from it as if it were a snake, picks it up, stands back up shivering like a terrified animal in the cold wind, and runs after Gervais again shouting out his name. The landscape is deserted except for one priest on horseback who sees Jean Valjean running madly about asking about Gervais over and over again saying that he's a thief who must be arrested.

After running off in Gervais' direction, Valjean wanders all night calling out to him. He realizes that he has been a beast for 19 years and had never cried before. When he was with the Bishop, he resisted his words because they were too much of an attack on who he was at the time. The idea of changing terrified him because it meant giving up his hatred and anger towards society which is what defined him as a person for so long.

After Valjean sees himself in the mirror, he realizes how horrible his life has been. He compares his own reflection to that of the Bishop's and finds himself wanting in comparison. Then he weeps for all of the sins he has committed and enters a period of contemplation during which light enters into him and allows him to examine his life more closely.

**Volume 1, Book 3**

The year 1817 was an important one in French history. The narrator mentions many details about this period, including the singer Pellegrini's popularity, executions of criminals and the subjects for prizes at the French Academy. All these things indicate that Louis XVIII had closed the era of revolution forever after his brother Napoleon died. After describing all these events, it is clear that historians will ignore such details because they are not necessary to understand a particular time or century.

In 1817, four young men arrive in Paris from various provincial cities to study. They are normal 20-year-olds and they take mistresses: Fantine, Dahlia, Zephine and Favourite. The latter three are older than the first one named Felix Tholomyes who is very ironic and cynical about relationships with women. He takes all of them aside one day and says that he wants to give a surprise to his mistress as well as fulfill their parents’ wishes for them to return home.

The group spends the day in Saint-Cloud, to the west of Paris. They are all happy and full of life. Fantine is particularly beautiful, with rosy lips, thick blond hair, an easy laugh and a dress that’s not as revealing as the others’. She also seems innocent and trusting towards Tholomyes.
Chapter 4: The girls are open to kisses from any boy, but Fantine only wants Tholomyes. After breakfast, the group goes to see a new plant from India at King's Square. They return through Issy Park, where Tholomyes makes up a song in Spanish while swinging the girls on a rope between two trees. Only Fantine is too modest to join in because Favourite keeps asking what the surprise is and why she can't know about it yet.

The party goes to a bar called Bombarda's, which overlooks the river. It is packed with people and everyone is shouting. The Champs-Elysées and Place de la Concorde are filled with people walking around or playing games in the grass. The Chief of Police recently advised that there was nothing to fear from Parisians because they were calm and amiable. However, the narrator notes that Parisians can easily be riled up for a cause they believe in.

Blancheville is proud when she admits that she loves him, and Dahlia whispers to her asking if she really loves Blancheville. She says under her breath, "Of course not! I'm actually in love with a poor artist who lives in the same building." She's sad that this isn't what he wants for his life/house.

Chapter 7 begins with Tholomyes speaking about the importance of moderation and how pursuing one's passions can be harmful. He mentions a few examples from his studies in medicine, which are met with derision by some members of the audience. He then gives them a recipe for health—much exercise, little sleep, hard toil, and unappetizing food. Women are treacherous according to him (according to his studies in medicine), so he tells the women that error is love; but he says Fantine is an exception because she sees through him.

Chapter 8 The four young men have left their seats at table and gone into another room where they begin playing cards. Boulatruelle comes in looking for work as usual. They offer him wine and ask if he would like to play cards too; but since this would cost money, Boulatruelle declines on account of not having any money (he has spent it all on brandy). Thereupon they tell him what happened earlier concerning Gervaise: her husband had beaten her again because she was pregnant once more after only two months following childbirth (the first child died). As always when Gervaise gets out of line or behaves badly toward her husband Lantier beats her up severely as punishment—he does not want anyone else touching his wife!

As Tholomyes takes a breath, Blancheville begins to sing and calls for everyone to raise their glasses. He proposes a toast to merriness, and he tells Fantine that she's beautiful. When he tries to kiss her, though, he kisses Favourite by mistake instead. Tholomyes starts talking about philosophy with Fameuil and Listolier; however, all of the things they say are nonsense. At one point in time, there is a commotion on the quay as someone's horse falls while pulling a cart down the street. The three men start singing an ironic song mourning the death of that poor horse as Fantine sighs over it because she feels sorry for it. It’s finally time for them to reveal their surprise gift: two tickets each from Paris-Lyon-Mediterranean Railway Company (PLM) which allows them free passage anywhere along PLM lines within France or Italy during six months from date of purchase.

Four young women watch four young men walk away, disappearing into the Champs-Elysées. They amuse themselves by watching other people in the street. The waiter from dinner enters and says that he has a letter for them. It's from their parents, telling them to return home since they have important business with them. By the time they read this letter, however, it will be too late; they'll already be gone.
back to work and responsibility.

The other three women think it's funny, and a bit of an adventure. They start laughing, but Fantine doesn't laugh with them because she is pregnant with Tholomyes' child.

**Volume 1, Book 4**

Chapter 1 opens in Montfermeil, near Paris. A woman named Madame Thenardier is the innkeeper and she has a painting of Napoleon on her wall. In front of her shop is an old carriage that had been used to transport wood. It's rusted and covered with moss; it looks like it's only good for scrap metal now. There are two small girls who play there every day because their mother doesn't want them to go outside past the gates of their house by themselves without supervision. One day, another woman approaches them while they're playing in this old carriage and compliments them on how pretty they are even though she looks poor herself and carries a baby wrapped up in a blanket in one arm while holding onto a carpet bag with the other hand as if she were afraid someone would take it from her or try to steal something from inside it.

Fantine is a beautiful woman, despite her poverty. She had lost her friends and struggled to survive with Cosette when Tholomyes left. People gossiped about her until she decided to return home and work as a seamstress while hiding the fact that she gave birth out of wedlock. Meanwhile, Tholomyes was on his way to becoming a wealthy lawyer in another town after abandoning Fantine.

Fantine had come to the inn and saw two girls who are very happy. She talks with Madame Thenardier, her husband is dead and she has no money so she’s looking for a job here. She asks if Fantine can keep Cosette (Euphrasie) at the inn for seven francs a month, but then says that six would be fine with her because it will take some time before Fantine returns for Cosette.

After Fantine spent the night at their inn, she leaves in the morning. Thenardier tells his wife that he was able to pay off some of his debts and they'll be able to keep the inn open for a while longer.

Chapter Two describes the Thenardiers, who are in a class between middle and lower classes. They have many vices of both, and their distrustful look is evident. Madame Thenardier likes to read trashy novels that were popular during the French Revolution, so she named her daughters after characters from those books. However, it's because of ideals about equality that commoners can now take on great people's names as nicknames for themselves.

The Thenardiers use Fantine's money to pay off their debts and then consider Cosette as a charity case. After a year, the Thenardiers write to demand 12 francs a month from Fantine for Cosette's care, assuring her that the child is happy and well. Madame loves her two children but hates Cosette, who is treated badly by both of them. They copy Madame in this behavior towards the girl. But people in town admire how kind-hearted they are for taking on someone else's daughter with no family or support system behind her. The Thenardiers begin to realize that she might be an illegitimate child, which makes them demand more money each month for her care.

Cosette is a young girl who becomes the servant of the house at a very early age. She has to do all sorts of
chores around the home and run errands for her master without being paid. As she grows up, Cosette becomes ugly because of misery but retains her beautiful eyes. The neighborhood calls her “a lark” because she never sings or laughs like other children. She is always awake before anyone else in the morning and goes about doing things silently, with tears streaming down her face.

**Volume 1, Book 5**

Meanwhile, Fantine has returned to M.-sur-M., which had experienced great growth since she left. In 1815, a stranger arrived in the town and was inspired to make some changes in the manufacturing of trinkets. This allowed prices of materials needed for production to go down and profits to increase significantly. The man became rich overnight, but no one knew his origins or where he came from; however, when there was a fire at the town hall that same year and he risked his life by saving two children trapped inside, so everyone assumed it must have been an accident and never asked any questions about him.

Chapter 2: By the second year, Madeleine has built a factory that employs many who are poor. He separates work areas by sex to promote good morals and tolerance. Now almost no one is desperately poor anymore. He only asks for honesty from each person. Madeleine has spent over a million francs on the town and its people, though he keeps 630,000 in a bank account. At first, people were skeptical of him because he regularly attended church services as well as donated money to charity. In 1919 he was appointed mayor by the king but refused it twice before accepting it so that everyone would know his true intentions were pure. Then rumors spread about how ignorant or ambitious or an adventurer he must be because of his refusal to accept any honors from the king despite being offered several times such titles like "Legion of Honor." However, slowly over time more and more people began seeing him in a positive light until they finally begged him to accept their offer which led to him becoming mayor again (after refusing three times).

Madeleine remains simple, enjoying time alone reading. He's known to be very strong and walks around with pockets full of money that he never spends. He knows a lot about farming and medicine from plants. People whisper that he has millions at the Laffitte bank, but in reality it's only 630,000 francs already mentioned.

In 1820, a Bishop of D--- dies at the age of 82 after being blind for years. He was happily accompanied by his sister and servant. Despite this, he didn't lack anything because they loved each other so much that he had everything he needed. The day after the announcement of his death, Madeleine begins wearing only mourning clothes. People wonder if there was something between them in the past or if she is just grieving over his death as a friend and family member would do; however, no one knows for sure. It's also noticed that every time Madeleine sees a young Savoyard boy wandering around town, she asks him for information about himself and gives him money to help out with whatever situation he might be in at home with his family back in Savoy.

As Madeleine settles into the town, people become more accepting of him. However, one person is instinctively against him—a policeman named Javert who watches him as though he knew him. He had been born in prison to a fortune-teller and decided that society excludes only those who attack it and those who guard it, so he became a policeman. His flat nose, large jaw, permanent frown between his eyes...
show how much authority he has; however, his love for authority makes people hate him because they see rebellion in everything he does.

One day, Madeleine is passing through M.-sur-M. when an old man falls beneath his cart and the wheels rest on his chest. A jackscrew will take 15 minutes to arrive, so he offers a reward of 10 or 20 louis for anyone who can lift the cart off the man's chest with their back. No one answers him because no one has that much strength.

Javert says that he only knew one man who was strong enough to lift a cart. Madeleine turns pale, but then Fauchelevent starts yelling that he's being strangled and she quickly lifts the cart with help from others. When everyone is celebrating, Javert stands still and stares at Madeleine.

Chapter 7: Madeleine takes Fauchelevent to the hospital. The next morning, Fauchelevent finds a 1,000-franc note that states he has purchased his cart and horse.

Then, Fantine gets elected mayor and Javert begins to avoid him. Meanwhile, Cosette is doing well in school and Fantine goes back to work as a seamstress. She's happy because she can earn her own living now. But the other women gossip about her for writing letters all the time and having an illegitimate child out of wedlock. Eventually, Madame Victurnien comes over from Montfermeil and tells everyone that Fantine has a daughter with an unknown father who lives somewhere else. Because of this, no one wants to hire her anymore so she stops working there too but still owes money on her furniture rental contract (15 francs).

Fantine had no idea about the superintendent's plan. She relies on him to decide what she should do with her life and he doesn't tell her anything. No one in Fantine's neighborhood will hire her as a servant, so she has to work for the Thenardiers. However, they don't pay her regularly and sometimes even accuse Fantine of stealing things from them when it was really their own fault that something was missing. Even though this is hard on Fantine, she still tries to be happy by fixing up herself every morning before going out into the world.

In winter, Fantine's income is severely reduced because there are fewer customers. So she cuts her hair and sells it for ten francs in order to buy a petticoat for Cosette. The Thenardiers are upset that they didn't get the money, but give it to Eponine anyway while Cosette continues shivering from the cold. Fantine becomes more bitter towards the mayor and her lover abuses her as well. She sinks lower and lower until one day when the Thenardiers say that Cosette has military fever, which will kill her unless they pay 40 francs for medicine. They send Fantine into town with a note asking people for money so that their daughter won't die of this "fever." But after thinking about how little she really makes compared to what it would take to save their daughter's life, Fantine decides to pull out two teeth instead since she can sell them on the street at night for two gold napoleons (about $10). This was all another ruse by the Thenardiers though—there was no military fever or doctor bills; they were just trying to extort more money out of poor Fantine once again.

Fantine works long hours for a low wage. She feels like she's being hunted and finally gives in to the demands of Thenardier, who threatens to throw Cosette out onto the streets.

Chapter 11 of the book describes Fantine's story as a slave being purchased by society. Prostitution pits
man's disgrace against woman's grace and beauty, and she has become deaf to feelings and resigned to her fate.

Chapter 11

The narrator says that Fantine’s story is one of society purchasing a slave: prostitution pits man’s disgrace against woman’s grace and beauty. Fantine has become deaf and cold to feeling, resigned to her fate, though she doesn’t realize there are always new depths to sink to.

It's January 1823. A man named M. Bamatabois is following Fantine up the street, making fun of her ugliness and insulting her. He throws a handful of snow on her bare shoulders, which she yells at him for doing so. Javert notices this scuffle and takes Fantine away from Bamatabois as he escapes.

Fantine arrives at the station and looks like she's about to cry. She is brought in and Javert tells her that she will be sentenced to six months in prison. She begs for mercy, saying that it isn't her fault. She says that the Thenardiers are responsible for all of this, but he doesn't listen. He simply says that she'll get six months, then leaves without even listening to anything else she has to say.

As Fantine is dragged back to the prison, the mayor slips in unnoticed and asks for a moment. The woman laughs hysterically and spits at him. Madeleine orders Javert to set her free, which he does reluctantly. Fantine seems shocked that she is now free, saying how unfair it was that she had been forced into prostitution after being fired from her job unjustly by the mayor. She suddenly realizes that she can leave and opens the door, making Javert protest that it cannot be since she has insulted a citizen of France. Madeleine explains that he saw what happened earlier today in town square when Fantine got arrested again, so he knows what really happened between them two years ago. But still refusing to obey his orders because of this incident with Madame Thenardier's daughter, Javert continues protesting until Madeleine finally tells him to leave them alone for a minute while they discuss something privately about Fantine's case later on outside together as friends first before anything else happens next within their presence afterwards ever again afterwards right away afterwards during their conversation soon afterward immediately thereafter sometime soon afterward immdiately apres une fois que

Madeleine says that he did not know that Fantine had been fired. He tells her to be calm and promises to pay off her debts and send for Cosette. If she is telling the truth, Madeleine says, then she has always remained virtuous. Fantine can only say “Oh!” before fainting.

Volume 1, Book 6

Madeleine brings Fantine into the infirmary to get better, then goes out and meets with someone. When she wakes up, he tells her that he knows what she has been through. The same night, Javert writes a letter
to the police in Paris about Mme Valjean's past. Madeleine sends all of Fantine's money back to her daughter; Thenardier is surprised: his wife says that there must be somebody else involved besides them. He makes up an invoice for more than 500 francs worth of expenses on Fantine's behalf; Madeleine pays it without question and asks if they will keep Cosette for her as well.

At first, the women at the infirmary are reluctant to take care of Fantine because she's not well. However, they get over it and decide to help her. The doctor tells Madeleine that Fantine will need to deliver soon or else there is a risk of complications for both her and Cosette. He sends another letter signed by Fantine and vows to go find Cosette himself if he has to do so.

One day, Javert comes to see him and confesses that he made a mistake. He failed in his duty as an inspector because he arrested the wrong person. In addition, it appears that Jean Valjean was not the man who robbed a bishop and stole from a child; rather, another man named Champmathieu was arrested for stealing apples. This is confusing since they look very much alike and are both from the same town of Montfermeil. However, Javert has recognized him as well—he's sure that this is Jean Valjean. As such, Jean Valjean will be sentenced to life in prison on his previous conviction of robbing a bishop (which would normally result in death). They will send Javert away too for testifying against someone who wasn't guilty of committing crimes similar to those committed by Jean Valjean years ago.

Madeleine says that he has a cold and doesn't care about the details. He asks Javert to handle several other matters, but Javert replies by saying that he will be leaving for trial tomorrow - it will only take an entire day. Madeleine tells him not to leave; instead, he should stay there in Arras until February 11th. However, Javert refuses because such kindness is what led him astray before in his dealings with others. He'll keep working as long as they let him do so and continue arresting Valjean every time he finds him homeless or begging on the streets of Paris.

**Volume 1, Book 7**

Madeleine goes to see Fantine. He summons Sister Simplice, who is known for her honesty and compassion. Madeleine asks her to continue taking care of Fantine. Later that day, the clerk sees him looking at a map of France.

Madeleine asks the stable owner for a horse and carriage that can travel 20 leagues in one day. The owner tells her about his only horse, which is fast but needs to be kept alert. Madeleine doesn't tell him where she's going or why. She pays 500 francs as a deposit for the horse and carriage, then goes home to pace around her room all evening.

The narrator says that the reader has to know who Jean Valjean is. He says that each human being carries infinite possibilities within him. We must now enter into Valjean's soul, and like Dante before hell, we must hesitate but then go in. The first time he was confronted by a severe contradiction between his two goals of concealing his name and returning to God was when Fauchelevent was caught under the cart. Valjean is first concerned about his own well-being. He thinks that if he reveals himself as a convict, it would ruin the life of Madeleine and her family. He feels guilty for stealing from Gervais and decides to go back to the galleys, even though there's no longer any threat of being caught by Javert because his
identity has been revealed to him. Valjean begins to think that perhaps this was all part of God's plan, but he doesn't feel joy at all; instead, he is overcome with despair.

Jean Valjean feels torn between keeping his identity a secret and saving the Bishop. He thinks that if he reveals himself, he will be doing something good, but if he keeps his identity hidden, then it would be bad. Valjean decides to go to Arras and reveal himself as the mayor's former prisoner.

Jean Valjean is thinking about the theft of a little boy's apple. He wonders if that was really as bad as stealing bread to feed his sister-in-law, Fantine, and he remembers that he will be sent back to prison for life. He thinks about how much worse it would have been if he hadn't stolen the loaf of bread from his boss; then suddenly, he remembers his resolution to turn himself in.

Fantine brings up an interesting ethical dilemma for Valjean's plan. She is upset that he only thinks of himself, and doesn't consider the welfare of others. If he gives himself up, it could lead to ruin for the town again, and Fantine would never get to see her daughter again—who knows what would happen to her? He tells Fantine that Champmathieu has committed a crime (theft) but it would be absurd for him to give himself up when there are other people who have done worse things than he has.

Valjean turns the key in his cupboard and takes out his knapsack, which contains his possessions. He prepares to throw it into the fire, but he sees Bishop's candlesticks among them. Valjean is about to throw them into the fire as well when suddenly a voice tells him not to do so. That voice says that if he does this, he'll be dishonored forever while another man will bear his name. The voice says that Valjean should stay honorable and honored because otherwise he won't be able to live with himself anymore and all of this would have been for nothing. Valjean continues pacing back and forth throughout the night trying to figure out what to do next: Should he denounce himself or keep quiet? Whatever decision is made, something inside him must die by morning light.

Valjean dreams of a vast plain with no grass, and he is walking on the road with his brother. A man passes by them, carrying a heavy switch and riding a horse. Valjean turns onto another road leading to Romainville village. He wanders into the village, where all the streets are deserted and all doors are open but everyone behind each door is silent. Finally he sees an approaching crowd that asks him where he's going because they've been dead for years already.

Valjean looks out the window and thinks he sees stars, but they're actually lights from a carriage. He tells his porter that he's leaving.

Chapter 5 Early that morning, the postman notices Valjean's cabriolet speeding towards Arras. Still, Valjean himself still doesn't know what he'll do. Whatever the case, he should judge the matters himself, with his own eyes at trial. He pauses at Hesdin shortly after daybreak and meets a stableman who says that Valjean's wheel has suffered serious damage and he'll need a day to fix it. He asks if there are any other wheels available and is told no because they would have to wait until tomorrow for another pair of wheels to arrive from Paris. The stableman then offers him an old wheel wagon, worth little but will take two horses instead of one which is needed now as well as taking longer since both sets of wheels must be changed out.

At that moment, a young boy ran off and returned with an old woman. She said she could give Valjean
her cabriolet, which he accepted. He was afraid of going to trial but reminded himself that it wouldn't be so bad after all. When he reached Tinques, a road-mender told him about an inn where he could rest and get directions to Arras for his trip there the next day. Valjean was very tired from walking in the cold weather and hungry because he hadn't eaten anything since morning.

Fantine is in pain, but she's happy because Madeleine has come to visit her. She asks the nun if he'll be coming back that night and seems sad when she learns that he won't. Fantine tells Sister Simplice about Cosette and how much they love each other. She says that it would be a miracle for them to see each other again tomorrow, and then becomes excited at the idea of seeing her daughter again soon. The doctor even tells Sister Simplice that there might be a way to save Fantine if Madeleine comes with Cosette.

Near nightfall, Valjean arrives at an inn in Arras. He asks a citizen passing by with a lantern where the courthouse is. The man tells him that trials usually end at six o'clock, but then he continues to talk about another case—a woman who killed her child. It turns out that the courtroom is still lit for another case; it began two hours ago and involves someone who stole something. When Valjean sees that nothing has been settled yet, he breathes freely again because there's still time before his trial ends.

As he listens to the groups of people outside, Valjean hears that all are convinced that the man had already been in jail and would probably be condemned. The usher tells Valjean that they wouldn't open the door since it was full inside. Valjean then crosses over to write a note addressed to Madeleine, who is Mayor of M. Sur M.. He asks the usher to take it up with the judge.

Madeleine is well-known in the area, so the judge allows him to enter his courtroom. Valjean follows an usher through a door and into the judge's chamber—the entryway to the courtroom. He looks around at all of the people in attendance and thinks about Fantine and Cosette. He gazes at a door leading into a room filled with people who are waiting for their cases to be heard, terrified that he will be recognized as someone other than Madeleine, but then he turns around and leaves again. In fact, he paces back and forth outside of this room several times before finally entering it once more, without knowing how or why he did so. Upon doing so, however, he finds himself standing directly in front of a doorknob; upon turning it (without thinking), he enters another room where everyone is seated behind desks awaiting his case to begin.

In one end of the room are the judges, and at the other is a crowd. Valjean compares himself to this man who looks like him but has hatred in his eyes. He remembers that he's actually surrounded by real judges, gendarmes and a gossipy crowd. He shuts his eyes and shouts “Never!” to himself.

M. Bamatabois (the dandy tormenting Fantine earlier) is one of the jurors, but Valjean cannot see Javert. The defense has just rested its case. The audience is excited by the prior three hours, in which they've heard damning condemnations of the defendant: Champmathieu shook his head or simply stared ahead. The crowd and jury both seem puzzled by the man’s seeming apathy, wondering whether he is dim-witted or crafty. The defense lawyer says that Champmathieu merely picked up some apples rather than stole them. The only evidence against him is his character as an ex-convict; however, this doesn't mean that he was a thief since there are many other convicts who aren't thieves at all. Despite Champmathieu's denial, the lawyer concedes that he is indeed Valjean; however, saying this doesn't prove that he was a thief because it's possible for someone to be wrongfully convicted and imprisoned.
The district attorney then presented his case against Champmathieu, saying that he was a criminal who had stolen the identity of Jean Valjean. He also said that Champmathieu would deny everything, even though five people could confirm that he was really Jean Valjean. Finally, when asked if he wanted to say anything in his defense, Champmathieu rambled on about how hard it is to be a wheelwright and mentioned various people who could vouch for him being one in Paris. At the end of this speech everyone laughed at him and jeered at him for not knowing what else to say. When questioned further by the judge and district attorney, Champmathieu continued to claim that he wasn't really Jean Valjean but couldn't figure out any other way to prove it other than denying it over and over again.

The district attorney reminds the jury of Javert's earlier testimony and his reputation for honesty. He also calls a man named Brevet who said that he recognized Champmathieu as Valjean, whom he had worked with in prison. Two other convicts, Chenildieu and Cochepaille, swore they knew Champmathieu was really Valjean. As all of this is going on, the audience becomes more certain that Champmathieu would be found guilty.

At that moment, Madeleine enters the courtroom. In the hour since he’s arrived in Arras, his hair has turned from gray to white. The audience hesitates and Madeleine approaches the convicts. He asks if they recognize him but they shake their heads. Madeleine turns to the jury and tells them to order the prisoner be released and for himself to be arrested: he is Jean Valjean. The audience remains silent while the judge whispers that a doctor should be called because it seems like this man is insane or something... Madeleine thanks him but says he's not crazy - just very old with a lot of experience behind him (like many people). He acknowledges that he robbed Bishop Myriel and Gervais, as well as other things in his past life which only someone who knew him would know about (he was kind of an asshole before). He turns back to each convict separately telling them details about their time together in prison which no one else could have known except for himself (and maybe some of his fellow inmates)

Valjean is recognized, and he says that he will leave since no one arrested him. He has much to do, so the district attorney can arrest him later when they want. Valjean leaves the courtroom, and an hour later the jury frees Champmathieu who doesn't understand what happened.

Volume 1, Book 8

The next morning, Valjean returns to see Fantine. Sister Simplice tells him that he shouldn't have come because it will upset her. She says they can lie and say Cosette is here if she doesn’t see the mayor—but Valjean insists on seeing her anyway. When Fantine wakes up, Sister Simplice asks how she feels, but Fantine only wants to know about Cosette.

Fantine is relieved by Valjean's answer and asks to see Cosette. The doctor enters the room, and Fantine apologizes for contradicting him. She then asks about Cosette, but Valjean says that she is well and beautiful. Fantine imagines a child playing outside as her daughter.

Fantine's face turned ashen, and she stopped talking. Valjean looked back at that moment and saw Javert in the doorway. Earlier that day, the district attorney had said that Valjean was mad because he didn't think Valjean would return to Paris after being released from prison. The district attorney wanted to convict a Jean Valjean so he sent Javert off to arrest Madeleine, who seemed like her brother when they
were children together. When Javert reached Fantine's room his face became terrible—it was demon-like with satisfaction because he thought he'd caught a criminal whom everyone else believed was innocent of all charges against him. He felt authority, reason, and law on his side against evil since no one knew about any previous crimes committed by this man named Jean Valjean except for himself and the police inspector who had arrested him 18 years earlier in Arras before shipping him off to Toulon Prison for five years for stealing bread during an intense famine caused by poor farming methods which destroyed crops year after year leaving people hungry while others hoarded grain in their barns waiting for prices to rise even higher than they already were; but now it appeared those actions might have been justified since this man may not be an honest person after all—he could be a thief!

Fantine is terrified and asks Madeleine to save her. However, he tells Fantine that Javert hasn't come for her. Javert grabs Valjean by the collar and questions him about his identity. Valjean asks if they can speak privately, but Javert refuses because of Fantine's presence so he makes a request in front of everyone there—he wants three days to bring back Cosette. Then Fantine realizes that Cosette isn't with them and she falls back on the bed with no life left in her body...

Valjean tells Javert that he has killed Fantine, but Javert yells at him to follow. Valjean whispers to Javert for a moment and then says he is ready.

In the fifth chapter, Javert brings Valjean to prison. When he hears that Valjean is a convict, everyone in town forgets all of his good deeds and condemns him for being a criminal. The porter is one of the few people who still remembers him fondly and sadly.

The porter prepares Madeleine's room for Fantine. He feels a sense of sadness when he realizes that she won't be staying there, but then Valjean comes in and takes the key from him. Valjean has escaped through a broken window bar and asks the porter to find Sister Simplice for him. When they're alone, Valjean gives her money to pay for Fantine's funeral, which she had previously paid out of her own pocket.

A porter is downstairs and says no one has entered the house. The inspector responds by saying that there's a light on upstairs. Valjean blows out the candle, and Javert enters. He respects authority greatly, so he first wants to retreat, but Sister Simplice has never told a lie in her life; therefore, he asks if she’s alone. She lies twice—she doesn't see Valjean (lying) or the candle (extinguished). Javert apologizes to her and leaves: he pays no attention to the extinguished candle on the table.

The priest who took the money from Valjean for Fantine's proper burial did not use all of it because he thought that only a convict and prostitute were involved. Therefore, Fantine was buried in a pauper's grave where God alone knows her final resting place.

**Volume 2, Book 1**

Chapter 1: Last year (for the narrator, 1861), he was walking from Nivelles to La Hulpe when he passed through a valley with several buildings. He found himself in front of a large stone door that had two holes made by cannon balls and one hole made by a bullet. The peasant woman told him the place is called Hougomont.
The Battle of Hougomont was the beginning of Napoleon's downfall. It took place in a town called Hougomont, which is now just a group of farms. The battle started when Napoleon sent multiple generals and their soldiers to attack it, but they were all defeated by the British forces inside the town. There are still remnants from that battle around today, such as blood stains on some courtyards and an abandoned chapel where there had been a massacre during the fighting. One house is occupied by descendants of Guillaume van Kylosom, who was forced to be a servant for the British when they invaded his home country because he had refused to leave with them at first.

This passage talks about the Battle of Waterloo, which was fought between France and England. It mentions that there were holes in the wall made by bullets from both sides. The French eventually won this battle after taking over a nearby orchard. There are still traces of bullet marks on the trees in that orchard.

The narrator of the book explains that it was a rainy night in 1815 when Napoleon lost his battle against Wellington at Waterloo. The rain made it impossible for artillery to maneuver, and this gave more time for Prussian reinforcements to arrive. Ultimately, they won the war because of their superior numbers. However, there are still many historians who debate whether or not Napoleon's defeat was entirely his fault, since he had weakened forces and wanted an adventure too much.

The narrator suggests that one should imagine a capital A on the ground, and each limb of the letter is a road. At the center is where Napoleon was positioned with his army, at Waterloo. Wellington had already studied this terrain before battle began, so he knew how to position his troops in order to take advantage of their location. The English had better positioning for this fight than Napoleon did. It's well-known that when Napoleon arrived at Waterloo to begin fighting against the English forces, he was riding on horseback while wearing white pants and boots with gold buckles; therefore it isn't necessary for me to describe him here. History has proven itself as an accurate source of information because it doesn't hide or distort facts about people's lives like other sources do; instead history reveals all aspects of someone's life including both good and bad moments—the shadows and brilliance of their character are revealed by its light (history).

The battle began in the morning, but neither side seemed to have an advantage. The English were better prepared with fresh recruits and fought harder than Napoleon's soldiers. In the afternoon, it was difficult for historians to see what happened because of all the chaos on both sides. It is only possible for historians to describe general actions and events during a battle rather than specific details about each soldier or event.

Chapter 6 When 4:00 came, the English were in bad shape. Several generals and colonels had been killed by then. However, their center still stood strong on Mont-Saint-Jean's plateau (which was in the middle). Napoleon claimed this to be a sign of their retreat beginning soon.

Napoleon was in a good mood that day. He was convinced he could capture all the English soldiers as prisoners. The narrator notes that even people who are favored by destiny make mistakes, and only God knows what will happen to them in the future. Napoleon believed his troops would win the battle at Waterloo because of this advantage over the British army. The field where they fought has changed greatly since then, due to two large tombs for Germans and Englishmen on either side of it, along with numerous monuments scattered around the area commemorating those who died there during the war. On
June 18th, 1815, there was a steep slope creating a plateau along which ran an old road used to transport supplies from one part of France to another—a road known for its many accidents but not anymore because it had been abandoned long ago; however, this meant that anyone below couldn't see what happened on top of it or vice versa.

Napoleon didn't worry about the possibility of losing because he had faith that it would work in his favor. He gave orders to attack Mont-Saint-Jean, which Wellington was defending. 3,500 French soldiers began advancing up the hill and were only visible through clouds of smoke amid a huge clamor. They looked like figures from an ancient epic as they reached the top of Mont-Saint-Jean, where English soldiers were waiting for them. The English fired at them with cannons and muskets while they advanced too quickly to stop their advance into a hollow near the summit.

The narrator says it was impossible for Napoleon to have won the battle, not because of Wellington but because of God. The laws of the 19th century did not allow it: the individual figure of Napoleon had held too much power for too long, and it was time for civilization at large to regain its command. At Waterloo, one French column managed to get around a ravine and attacked some English soldiers who were weakened by their wounds. Even though they outnumbered them ten-to-one, they still couldn't win because the English kept fighting back even as they took heavy losses. Finally, after many hours into the battle, Wellington looked at his watch and said "Blucher or night!" (meaning he hoped that Blucher would arrive soon so that there wouldn't be any more bloodshed). Then he saw a distant line of bayonets glinting in twilight; those were troops led by Blucher who came on horseback from Germany to help defeat Napoleon's army once again.

The Battle of Waterloo was an important battle in history. It was the turning point for Napoleon, who lost his empire because he failed to win that day. The arrival of Blucher and the Prussian army two hours earlier could have changed everything, but it didn't happen because they arrived late. Everyone knows what happened after that: Blucher turned the tide against Napoleon and helped England recover from its defeat at Trafalgar by rousing them back into action. Although French soldiers yelled "Vive l'empereur," they continued their attack on the English army even though it was suicidal; one general named Ney offered himself to all the bullets fired by English soldiers, but none hit him—he would be killed later by his own people instead.

The French were forced to disband, as each man tried to save himself. Friends killed friends in order to escape and paid no attention when Napoleon passed by on his horse. One column gathered at Genappe but was exterminated by Blucher's forces. This is a reminder of destiny for the narrator; he calls Waterloo "the hinge of the 19th century." God came here, he says. That evening, Napoleon returned alone to Waterloo—as if advancing again into battle.

Napoleon lost the battle of Waterloo. The narrator believes that Cambronne won it for France, since his response to "surrender" was an expletive. England responded by firing on the French and annihilating them. It is unclear exactly what happened at Waterloo, but historians believe that Wellington played only a small role in its outcome. The English were responsible for winning the battle; they had firmness and resolution like their ancestors from centuries before. Wellington was just another hero who fought bravely in the war; he wasn't as significant as some people think he is today because so many others died fighting in it too.
Chapter 14: That night each regiment alone surrendered to death.
Chapter 15: Cambronne's reply
Chapter 16: Today there are no traces left of this battlefield

Chapter 17: Waterloo was not good, as it ended the age of revolutions. Napoleon's empire had become tyrannical and Louis XVIII did agree to a constitutional charter after Waterloo. However, this one small flame of revolution was left alive because progress is inevitable and the counter-revolution at Waterloo only cut short one means of revolution. Robespierre fell on June 18th.

After Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, Europe returned to monarchy. However, he remained a symbol of liberty for the people because God is indifferent to war and peace.

After the battle, there was no one on the plateau of Mont-Saint-Jean. The next day, many soldiers' bodies were stripped naked and looted by rear guard soldiers who didn't fight in battle but sought to reap its booty. Around midnight, a man resembling a dark nocturnal bird roamed the field looking for looters. He says that nothing is more terrible than suddenly being healthy and having a family only to find oneself sinking into an abyss with no hope of escape as death approaches.

One scavenger was over a dead man who wore gold on his finger. The scavenger took the ring off, but then the man grabbed him and pulled him into the road. He was an injured officer from the French army, so he gave the scavenger his watch and purse as thanks for saving his life. The officer asked if anyone won in battle, to which he responded that it was England's victory. After this exchange, he said that he must flee now because of what happened at war. Then, out of nowhere came a name: Thenardier! This is when we learned about Pontmercy's background.

**Volume 2, Book 2**

In 1823, Jean Valjean was recaptured. Before that happened, he managed to withdraw half a million francs from M. Lafitte, but no one knows where it is now. After being brought back to court and refusing to defend himself, Valjean was sentenced to life in prison by the judge at M.-sur-M., which resulted in the loss of prosperity for the town as well as competition from other towns with cheaper products.

There is an old superstition that says if you approach the devil in the forest, he will kill you. The townspeople think Boulatruelle has gone to find treasure for the devil because they know he was a convict and escaped from jail once before.

Thenardier and the other man, whose name is Boulatruelle (and who's very curious), decide to get him drunk. They ask what he had seen one day, while on his way to work. The man said that he saw someone that he knew from the galleys carrying a large box into the forest with him. He lost sight of this person in the forest but later saw him emerge with a shovel and pickaxe. Because of this, Boulatruelle decided that there was money buried somewhere in the forest—but when he went looking for it, there wasn't any money or anything else there.

In 1823, the Orion, a magnificent ship that participated in a war in Spain, arrives at Toulon. The narrator is critical of this war because he does not support politics and slaughtering principles for petty reasons.
He views France's actions as going against the values of the French Revolution. Despite his criticism, people are amazed by how big and modern-looking it is.

One morning, a convict named Valjean sees someone fall from the ship's rigging. The man is hanging off the footrope and about to fall into the water when Valjean climbs down after him on another rope. He secures himself to both men and drags them back up onto the ship. Everyone applauds except for Javert, who was there as well because he's always watching out for criminals like Valjean. In order to return to his group of convicts, Valjean runs along one of the lower yards but falls into the sea without warning. Four men in a boat search for him but can't find him anywhere—he seems to have disappeared under water forever!

**Volume 2, Book 3**

Chapter 1: Montfermeil was only a village in 1823. It wasn't the large town it is now. Each household had to fetch drinking water from a spring about 15 minutes away. Some households paid for this, but others sent children like Cosette to do it instead.

It's Christmas Eve, and a number of people are drinking in the tavern of an inn. They talk merrily, but then Cosette sits near the chimney dressed in rags while Eponine and Azelma laugh happily in another room. The crying of a baby continues because his mother can't be bothered to see to him.

Chapter 2: Thenardier is in his late forties and his wife is a bit older. Madame Thenardier has a large, blotchy face and beard. She's loud and brusque, while her husband is small, pale and weak-looking but very cunning. He pretends to have been at Waterloo as a sergeant where he saved the life of an injured general by stealing items throughout France before settling in Montfermeil.

Thenardier is a man who always blames others for his problems. Madame Thenardier's loud voice makes people think that she runs the inn, but in fact he controls everything and allows her to have all of the power. He only thinks about how to make money from travellers, though this will eventually ruin him because he has so many debts. Therefore, he tries to get as much money out of travellers as possible and gets Cosette (his daughter) to do more work than necessary.

Cosette is meditating sadly because she has no water to drink and will have to go get some from the spring. She worries that there won't be enough for her father, who is also at the inn. One traveler says his horse hasn't been watered yet, and Cosette protests that they already did it earlier in the day. Madame Thenardier yells at Cosette to take a bucket—which is bigger than she is—and get them more water from the well outside of town. To make matters worse, Madame Thenardier gives her 15 sous (small French coins) so she can buy bread as well as water for everyone else.

Chapter 4:

Cosette is walking alone in Paris. The sky is dark and cloudy, and she can't see any stars. She passes by a toy store that has beautiful dolls in the window, but then Madame Thenardier yells at her to hurry up.

After Cosette makes it past the stalls, she sees that there is no light. She stops at the last house before the
open fields and looks out into them in despair. Suddenly, she runs forward without looking to either side of her and reaches a spring. She draws water from it, but has to rest for a while before carrying the heavy bucket back to where she started from. The darkness frightens her: people need light to survive, and shadows are even more frightening than normal because they're darker than usual during nighttime hours.

She begins shivering when walking back with the pail filled with water; however, after counting aloud as she walks back home with it (she counts up until one hundred), she's able to carry it all the way back without resting again—but only barely so!

A young girl was walking across a bridge in Paris when she saw a bucket fall into the river. She looked around and couldn't find anyone to help get it out, until suddenly an old man came up and offered his assistance. The two of them managed to pull the bucket out, but then they noticed that there was something heavy in it. They opened it up and found a small boy inside who had been thrown into the water by some unknown person.

The man followed the road into Montfermeil and carefully examined all the trees. He stopped at one, to which a band of zinc had been nailed, but then continued on. The next thing he saw was Cosette hiding in the forest.

A man tells Cosette to let go of the bucket. He asks if she has a mother, and she says that she doesn't think so. When he learns that her name is Cosette, he seems shocked. The man wants to stay at an inn and ask about other children in the house. As they walk through town, they discuss Christmas decorations (set up for Christmas). They reach the house where Cosette works as a maidservant for Madame Thenardier. Before entering, Cosette asks him to return her bucket because if Madame sees it with someone else carrying it then she will beat her again.

Madame Thenardier is reluctant to let the man into their inn. She says Cosette has taken too long and asks him to pay double for his room, since people like him ruin houses with their presence.

A man is sitting in a tavern, observing a child. The child seems to be suffering from some kind of abuse and neglect. Her skin is bruised, her legs are thin and red, she's never been taught how to pray since her mother has no time for church, and the baker was closed when she went there for bread today. Because of this neglectful behavior on behalf of her mother (Madame Thenardier), the girl lost 15 sou which were meant to buy bread for their family tonight. Madame Thenardier starts beating the girl with a whip as she screams at her that she stole money from them because they're poor now since Cosette lost it all while out buying bread today. The man who sits nearby sees what's going on and offers his help by saying he found one 20-sou piece on the floor earlier but didn't want anyone else to find it so he put it back into his pocket where Cosette must have accidentally grabbed it instead of putting hers back after taking out only 15 sou like everyone else does every day when they go shopping at the market near their home in Montfermeil.

Eponine and Azelma enter. They are both very pretty and healthy-looking. Eponine goes off to play with her dolls, while Cosette watches them sadly. Madame Thenardier threatens the whip again, before the stranger asks Madame to let her play too. She looks at him scornfully—he hasn't spent much money there—and says she must work in order to eat. He offers to pay 5 francs for Cosette's stockings: he sets down the coins, then tells her to go and play as well.
Thenardier and his wife whisper to each other about whether the man is in fact a wealthy person. Meanwhile, their daughters have seized the cat and are pretending it's a baby. The inn guests begin to sing an obscene song as Cosette plays with her knife, pretending it's a doll.

The Thenardier couple, who have taken the girl in from charity, tell a man that they haven't been paid for 6 months and that it seems like her mother is dead. The little girl overhears this conversation and goes to comfort the children's doll. When she touches it, the other two girls yell at her because of how dirty her hands are. She begins to cry and then the man comes out with a beautiful doll for them all to play with. Everyone gets quiet while he gives it to Cosette as if he has tears in his eyes.

Madame Thenardier is furious with this man for being so generous, but she tries to be polite. She sends the children off to bed and fumes about his generosity in her head. Late at night, he leads the stranger up to the nicest room in their inn, though the man says that he would have liked staying in a stable just as well. After saying goodnight, the man creeps out of his room and up to Cosette's cupboard under the attic. He then looks into all of the other kids' rooms and sees that each one has a 10-sou piece on their hearth except for Cosette's shoe which has only a coin inside it instead of money like all of the others do. The man puts another coin inside her shoe before returning back to his own room where he sleeps peacefully while Madame Thenardier tosses and turns restlessly throughout most of her sleepless night because she can't figure out why this mysterious stranger was so kind towards them when they were nothing but rude towards him...

The next morning, Thenardier makes up a bill for 23 francs. His wife says it's too expensive, but he replies that the man will pay. The traveler enters the room and asks if business is good in town. Madame Thenardier remarks that times are difficult and Cosette is very expensive to raise. The traveler offers to take her away with him himself because he finds 26 sous reasonable enough.

Thenardier asks his wife to leave the room and tells a stranger that he loves Cosette. He can't possibly give her up now, but he needs proof that the man is serious about adopting Cosette. The stranger refuses to provide any information and insists on breaking all ties with Thenardier. Finally, Thenardier demands 1500 francs for handing over Cosette to him. The stranger puts down some bills and leaves, telling him where Cosette is waiting for him outside.

Cosette is an eight-year-old girl who has never seen a gold piece before. She's stunned by it and goes on with her day in a daze. Madame Thenardier approaches her, almost gently, and tells her to follow her. The traveler gives Cosette proper clothes that she puts on right away. They set off towards Paris while Cosette continues to gaze at the man beside her as though he were God himself.

After the Thenardiers left, they had 1500 francs. The wife said that wasn't much money, and her husband ran off to try to find Cosette. He caught up with them again, but he didn't have the girl with him. He was relieved when he saw Cosette's father because he thought that she would be returned to her mother or someone who has a note signed by Fantine. The man took out a letter from Fantine and showed it to Thenardier. That made him happy since there was proof of payment for his services in raising Cosette all these years.

The man tells Thenardier that 1500 francs is plenty, but he must give him 1000 crowns. The stranger says to Cosette to follow him and picks up his cudgel. Thenardier wants more money, so he follows the pair
into a thick forest until they disappear.

Valjean did not drown in the shipwreck at Orion, but swam underwater to a boat where he hid before swimming off again. He made his way toward France's Pyrenees mountains, then to Paris and Montfermeil. Valjean was relieved when he read in a newspaper that people believed him dead. With Cosette, Valjean returned to Paris via the Boulevard de l'Hôpital where she fell asleep on his shoulders.

**Volume 2, Book 4**

The small, dark hovel in Paris is near the Salpetrière Hospital. The door and windows are old and worn-out, but it still has a homey feel to it. It's known as the Gorbeau house because of an earlier owner who changed his name from Corbeau (raven) when he became a nobleman. There's another house across the street that leads to the city wall; this area is not very nice or pleasant because there aren't many people around, but at nighttime it gets scary with all of its darkness and shadows. As time goes on, more houses will be built here and civilization will arrive—but only after 1845 when black smoke started coming out of one building in particular.

Jean Valjean stopped in front of the Gorbeau house and used a key to open the door. He climbed up stairs to an attic, where he laid Cosette on a bed. The next morning she woke up with a start and saw Jean Valjean there. She remembered that she had another life now, so she played with her doll all day.

Valjean is 55 when he falls in love with Cosette. He had not loved anything for 25 years, and it's only because of Cosette that he can love again. She tries to get close to him, but her stepfather always kept her away from Valjean. Destiny brings them together so they can be happy together.

Valjean and Cosette live alone in the attic, except for an old housekeeper who lives on the first floor. Before he went to Montfermeil, Valjean told her that he was a Spanish bond holder who had lost all his money. He teaches Cosette how to read and pray.

Valjean has been in prison for a while, but this time he is more aware of the misery and malice of society. He has seen how Fantine's life was ruined by society, and Javert's dedication to upholding the law. However, Cosette managed to make him see that there are still good people out there who can help you when you need it most.

Chapter 4: Valjean never goes out during the day. He only leaves his house at night and goes to church. However, he dresses poorly in order to not attract attention. One day, a nosy woman sees him take out a large bill from one of his coat pockets and she gets scared that he might be stealing it because there is no way for him to have gotten such an income so quickly (it was probably just his quarterly check). She tells her friends about what happened and they begin gossiping about how strange Valjean is acting lately.

Jean Valjean often gives money to a beggar near Saint-Medard's church, but one day he thinks the man is actually Javert in disguise. The next night, Jean Valjean returns to speak with him and realizes it wasn't really Javert. A few nights later, someone comes into his house while Cosette sleeps; Jean Valjean tells her to go upstairs and stays silent. He sees a light through the keyhole and hears footsteps outside his door but no one enters.
Valjean hears a noise and looks through the keyhole. He sees Javert pass by his room. The next morning, he learns that there’s a new lodger in the house: Javert. At night, Valjean asks Cosette to accompany him out of the house.

**Volume 2, Book 5**

The author has been away from Paris for a long time and is going to talk about what it used to be like. He feels that people are indifferent to their native city as long as they live there, but once they leave, the details become precious.

Valjean and Cosette move through the streets at night. They trust that God will protect them, but they have no plan of what to do next. Valjean is worried that he has been discovered by Javert, so he leaves the street and hides in a doorway. Four policemen with large clubs are walking in his direction, so he quickly moves away from them before they can see him.

Valjean and Cosette leave for the Jardin des Plantes. Valjean carries Cosette, but they have to pay 2 sous to cross a bridge. They enter a small street where they see four shadows on the bridge behind them.

Continuing on, Valjean reaches a fork in the road and takes the right path to get away from Javert. The road leads him toward an open field with no exit. He arrives at a wall that has two exits: one to the left and one to the right. On his left is a dark alleyway while his right side is lit up by street lights. At this point, he sees four guards blocking all of these possible exits.

Jean Valjean looks up at the wall and realizes he might be saved if he can get on the other side of it. There are pipes on one of the walls, but Jean cannot see how to hoist Cosette in addition to himself. He tries two locked doors that abut the wall, but cannot force either open.

Valjean looks around the corner and sees several soldiers advancing behind Javert. Valjean had learned how to scale walls from his time spent in jail, so he knew how to do it as a law-abiding citizen. However, he was desperate because it was a matter of life or death for him and Cosette. Suddenly, he saw a rope attached to a gas lantern hanging above them. He grabbed the rope and fastened it onto Cosette before climbing up himself with her on his back. They ducked under an overhanging tree as they heard Javert's voice below ordering the soldiers to search every alleyway possible for them.

Cosette and Marius are walking in a garden. They come upon a building with the words "Rue Droit-Mur" on it. The building is old and has several doors. Cosette and Marius feel like they should kneel down to pay respect, but they enter the shed instead.

Cosette wakes up in the middle of the night and shivers. Valjean wraps his coat around her to keep her warm. He goes outside to get a better look at where they are, but he sees nothing except for a large building with many windows. There's one window that has a sheet over something, which makes him uneasy because he doesn't know if it's dead or alive. He runs back inside and tells Cosette not to go anywhere.

Chapter 8: Valjean looks at Cosette and feels calmer. He sees someone in the garden, so he hides her
behind some old furniture. When he touches her hands they’re freezing cold, which means she’s pale.

Chapter 9: Valjean approaches the man who was in his garden, asking for 100 francs to buy a bed and firewood because Cosette is ill. The man turns out to be Fauchelevent; Valjean recognizes him by his knee bell that he wore when Fauchelevent saved his life two years ago from Javert. Fauchelevent had been working on an orchard near Paris since then before getting crippled by falling off of a cart while carrying wood last year and being forced into retirement at the convent where there are only women (the Petit-Picpus convent). He offers them shelter until they can get their own place again as long as no one finds out about it because if people found out that Jean Valjean was living with Father Madeleine everyone would think that Father Madeleine is still helping Jean Valjean escape justice after all these years even though it has been 20 years since anyone has seen him since Fantine died but now everyone thinks that Jean made it big in Paris under another name instead of just dying like everyone thought so maybe people will start looking for him again which might lead them back to Montfermeil where Cosette lives so once more she'll have to move somewhere else away from Marius and this time forever which would mean never seeing Marius ever again not even once the rest of her life unless something changes between them both during this week together but nothing can change between them now not after 15 months apart especially considering how much things changed already over those 15 months but if something did happen somehow then maybe everything could go back to normal except for the fact that everything went wrong because of what happened during those 15 months instead of going right like before

A few minutes later, Cosette is sleeping peacefully in the gardener's bed. Fauchelevent says that it would be bad if Valjean forgot about those who saved his life.

Chapter 10 explains that Javert had been to Paris and found out that Valjean was there. He went back to Montfermeil, where he saw a report about Cosette's abduction. It said Fantine's daughter had been stolen by a stranger, which reminded him of the name Fantine from his previous case in 1823.

Later, Javert went to Montfermeil and spoke with multiple people about Cosette's story. Thenardier was one of them, but he refused to speak anymore about it. He just told Javert that "the grandfather", Guillaume Lambert, had taken her away. Since then, Javert believed Valjean was really dead.

However, he heard about a beggar who gave alms in Paris. He dressed up as a beggar and went to the area where this man was seen. He believed that he recognized Valjean under disguise when he stooped down to give him money. But, supposedly, Valjean died after escaping from prison with Cosette years ago. Javert asked for backup without explaining his suspicions because it would be an invasion of privacy if they were wrong. This time around, there will be no escape for Valjean since Javert is sure of what he saw and that this wasn't just another false alarm like before.

However, Javert only recognized Valjean at the Rue Pontoise. He then asked for reinforcements and followed him across the bridge into a dark street in front of a church where he was able to surround him with his men. When they couldn't find Valjean, Javert's pride took a big hit because he had been too cautious.

Volume 2, Book 6
Chapter 1
Number 62 on the Rue Petit-Picpus resembles every other door, but it is gloomy inside with bare walls and severe furnishings. If one rings the bell, a woman’s voice asks for the password to enter. With that word, one enters into a small kind of theater box across from black shutters. A voice emerges from behind those shutters; it belongs to the porter of a cloister, or convent. The Convent of Bernardines of Perpetual Adoration is strictly walled in by high stone walls and only accessible through an entrance where there are no windows or doors except for this one entrance which can be opened only by ringing their bell with the correct code word known only to them and not disclosed until after they have entered.

The Bernardine nuns are a strict order of Catholic nuns who live in France. They dress in black robes, fast all year round, abstain from meat and chant for one to three hours at night. The priest is always hidden from view: the women aren't allowed to interact with men. Each woman takes turn making “reparation” by praying all day while wearing a rope around her neck. They possess nothing of their own, calling everything “ours.” None has any privacy and each confesses aloud in front of the others every week. In five years, three of them have gone mad.

Chapter 3.
There’s a boarding school attached to the convent, which teaches girls to be scared of the world outside and only see their relatives in the parlor. Chapter 4. However, because they're so young, they make up poems and silly stories about life at the convent and name rooms things like Spider Corner or Cricket Corner for certain holy processions where virgins are distinguished from florists.

Chapter 6
A few days later she was carried off by her husband’s family to an estate some twenty miles distant from Moscow; there were no horses available for such a long journey, so she had to go on foot with her husband’s mother—a woman of about sixty —and also one of her cousins who had just arrived from Petersburg. It was July; it rained all day long without stopping...

In the refectory, there is a prayer on the wall asking for girls to repeat the Passion of Christ three times before bed. The meals are plain and they must eat in silence. Anyone who disobeys must lick the ground as penance. Still, some outside passions do enter, such as Madame Albertine. She isn't a nun but she's treated with great respect by everyone. She's quiet and cold and nobody knows her story or why she gets so much respect from everyone else in this place. One day Le Duc de Rohan was giving a sermon when he saw her rise up out of her seat and call him ‘Auguste’. Then she sat back down again like nothing happened at all even though it seemed like something big just happened between them because both their faces were filled with emotion after that moment passed by quickly without any explanation about what happened between them earlier that day during his sermon..

The Petit-Picpus convent has a boarding school, and a small one where nuns from other orders live. Some society women also retire there. The public is only allowed in the church, but no outsiders ever see the cloister members.

In 1819, Mother Innocente becomes prioress. She's 60 years old and the only happy person in the convent. The narrator lists a dozen or so other nuns who are also highly esteemed by everyone else. All of them are very strict with themselves but kind to children, which is why they don't allow any handsome men in their presence.
The convent is made up of several buildings and a garden, which are surrounded by four streets. The walls are covered in bushes that separate the convent from the other streets. These streets include Rue Droit-Mur, Rue Petit-Picpus, Rue Polonceau, and Lane Aumarais.

Chapter 9 also discusses the character of the convent. The narrator describes a nun who had been in society before the Revolution and was now living at the convent. The nuns laughed at her provincial accent but were enthralled by her stories about life outside of their cloister, which helped them to escape from their monotonous lives as nuns. She kept one mysterious treasure locked up in her cupboard that she would quickly lock away if she heard footsteps approaching. When she died, everyone rushed to open it; they found an Italian platter depicting little gods fleeing love and being chased with syringes by boys. This symbolized how love can be conquered by colic (a type of stomach pain).

Chapter 10 is about the convent's dark, sepulchral parlor. It contrasts with other convents like the one in Rue du Temple that has an ancient chestnut tree. The Benedictines split in 17th century and became stricter at Petit-Picpus convent. Chapter 11 notes that during Restoration, religious orders are decaying and contemplation becomes more amenable to progress. By 1840s, school will be gone but nuns will dwindle from 100 to around 28 because it's necessary to study past even if we turn away from it eventually

**Volume 2, Book 7**

This book is about the relationship between humans and God. The narrator says that he has to tell this story from a convent because it's one of the ways people have tried to understand God over time. There are both horrible and amazing things about trying to know something as large as God, but it's worth doing anyway.

Chapter 2: Monasticism is an outdated practice that leads to idleness. It's selfish because it guards its own wealth rather than sharing it with others. The Catholic cloister was useful at one point, but now serves as a harmful place of seclusion and fear in Spain, where the nuns are frayed and weak from their isolation. Life cannot be found in these places.

A renewed interest in asceticism has been witnessed recently, but it should be discouraged because the past is better off left as a thing of the past. People have become more interested in religious practices like meditation and yoga, which are not necessarily bad things to do. However, these practices can lead people astray from their original purpose when they start believing that such practices will bring them closer to God or enlightenment. The narrator makes this point by saying that monasticism should remain dead and buried with its former practitioners rather than being resurrected for modern use.

Chapter 4 talks about the benefits of a convent and explains that equality and fraternity are admirable. However, it also mentions that religious piety is an important part of life in a convent.

The author asks a series of questions about infinity in this chapter. He contrasts the infinite with human life, claiming that there is an infinite without us and within us. To pray is to combine these two infinites so that men can search for the unknown rather than choosing fanaticism or religious belief alone.
The author dismisses materialist philosophy, which leads to nihilism and despair. Philosophy should be a positive energy that inspires people to take action towards an ideal or God.

Chapter 7. A convent is a paradox because it seeks suffering in order to attain mastery over the eternal world, although there's no such thing as eternal life. Chapter 8. The narrator respects a praying man because he is trying to believe something despite the fact that God may not exist at all and his prayers are meaningless efforts made for nothing but self-gratification. If you must believe in something, then you should meditate on infinite mysteries (even though this act of meditation proves nothing). Even if religions are full of intrigues and judgmental people, they still represent sacrifice so there's some grandeur associated with them (although their sacrifices might be misguided).

**Volume 2, Book 8**

Chapter 1 Valjean had fallen from the sky into this convent. He couldn't sleep and thought about what to do next. He didn't want to return to Paris, as he was a wanted man there. Fauchelevent didn't sleep either, wondering how Valjean scaled the walls of the convent and who his daughter is. He was also curious about Madeleine's later fate, but assumed that she'd become bankrupt because no one knew what happened after she left him with her father years ago. If it were up to him, would he still save Valjean if he were an assassin? That question puzzled him for a while until he decided that yes, even if Valjean turned out to be an assassin, he would still save his life because they're family now.

Fauchelevent thinks of a plan to keep Cosette at the convent. He tells Valjean that one of the nuns is dying, so it's not safe to leave. The nuns will scream if they see a man in their midst, so Valjean must first leave and then return with Fauchelevent's help.

Fauchelevent says that part of his duty is to nail up the coffin once a nun has died, before the undertakers fetch the coffin and bring it to the cemetery. A few peals of the bell mean that the prioress is calling for Fauchelevent, and he hurries out. He asks her if she would allow him to have his brother come live with him in case he gets sick or dies soon. The prioress leaves him to speak with other nuns about this matter.

Chapter 3 The prioress returns and tells Fauchelevent about Mother Crucifixion, the nun who just died. She says that she wanted to be buried in the vault under the altar, which is forbidden by men but not God. After this speech, Fauchelevent becomes uneasy and asks if he can do it in secret that night. The prioress says yes, but he must also fill up her coffin with earth so no one will know there's no body inside of it. She praises him for his work then asks him to fetch his brother and daughter tomorrow.

Chapter 4: As Fauchelevent enters his room, Valjean is explaining to Cosette how to hide and be silent in the basket. Fauchelevent frets about how to get Valjean out, and then, sitting down, mutters to himself about his other task: how putting earth in the coffin won’t do, since it will move around. He explains his task to Valjean, and Valjean says he should put another body in the coffin—his own. Fauchelevent springs up from his chair stunned at this idea but agrees that it's a good plan.

Valjean is used to getting out of tight spots, but Fauchelevent isn't. He's worried about how he'll get out of the cemetery. But Fauchelevent says that the grave-digger, Father Mestienne, is a drunkard. So Valjean will tell him to go drink and then dig his way out while he's gone. Everything will be fine, says Valjean. If
it doesn't work, says Fauchelevent, it would be terrible for both of them.

The next day, a hearse travels down the Boulevard de Maine to the Vaugirard cemetery. The cemetery has an area for nuns that closes at sundown. After 1830, Mont-Parnasse Cemetery would replace this one. At this point, it's falling into disuse.

The burial of Mother Crucifixion, Cosette's exit and Valjean's introduction into the dead-room all went well. At the cemetery, Fauchelevent watches a stranger arrive behind the hearse and says he is Gribier, who says Mestienne is dead. He introduces himself as Mestienne to Fauchelevent. Fauchelevent tries to say it isn't possible but Gribier simply introduces himself as Gribier. They go for a drink but Gribier doesn't think about paying for his own drinks because Mestienne always did so in the past.

Chapter 6: Valjean is in the coffin while being lowered into a grave. He realizes that it's not going to stop and he passes out from fear.

As Fauchelevent saw the gravedigger pick up a shovel, he offered to pay for his drink. The gravedigger cursed at him and began filling in the grave. Fauchelevent grabbed his arm and kept begging him. Gribier finally said he would do it but only after finishing first. Suddenly, Fauchelevent caught sight of Gribier's business card in his pocket while hiding it from Gribier himself by asking if he had one as well because of the setting sun. Realizing that he didn't have one on hand, Gribier turned green especially since there was a fine attached to not having one with you when asked for identification by anyone who was authorized to issue them (like policemen). Fauchelevent suggested that Gribier rush home and get his card then bury the corpse so as not to get fined 15 francs (a lot of money back then).

Fauchelevent, now alone in the chapel, calls out to Madeleine. He hears nothing and opens her coffin lid to see Valjean's pale face. Believing him dead, Fauchelevent sobs for forgiveness from Madeleine. But then he notices that Valjean is alive; he had merely fainted.

The two men hurry out of the cemetery. Fauchelevent stops at Gribier's home, which is a small and miserable place to return his tools. Gribier thanks him for returning them and says he'll pay next time they go drinking together.

Valjean and Cosette arrive at the convent that night. Valjean had been taking care of her, but he is only known to be a good man in town. The nuns are not convinced about his goodness because they think he might have kidnapped Cosette from her real parents. However, Fauchelevent vouches for him as his brother Ultime and niece's guardian; he also tells them that Valjean is an excellent gardener and holy man who even visits archbishops in their homes.

Chapter 9: A Broken Heart

Cosette begins to live a normal life. She spends time with Valjean in the garden and plays with Eponine at night. The nuns don't realize that Fauchelevent is really Valjean, or that he visits Cosette every day. They think that it's his brother visiting her, which makes the nuns suspicious of him for not coming out more often. Cosette laughs and smiles for the first time since she was taken away from home by Fantine when she was five years old, because of their new surroundings and environment. The convent helps keep Valjean from going back to being a criminal again after he serves his sentence in jail by keeping him busy
all day with work around the convent (that they make him do). He comes to realize how others are paying for other people's sins instead of themselves if they're religious enough; this gives him hope about what happens after death.

Jean Valjean is grateful for the opportunity to be sequestered in a monastery. He tries to be good and kind, which makes him proud of himself.

**Volume 3, Book 1**

Chapter 1 In Paris, there is a boy who's between the ages of 7 and 13. He doesn't have much food but he always seems to be happy. He knows all about the city and speaks like an adult would in prison, but he has a good heart.

The child is from Paris. He loves animals and playing in the city. The child can be a bit of a handful, but he's also very jovial and likes to joke around with shopkeepers.

Children love going to the theater because it’s fun and entertaining. They can also fight, sing, and make jokes about serious things.

The Parisian gamin symbolizes anarchy. He's made of the same clay that Adam was, and he represents prejudice, tyranny, oppression, and injustice. But one day he'll grow up to be a lounger (a symbol of monarchy).

Chapter 5. The gamin loves to roam around and observe Paris's secrets, places like Mont-Parnasse, Mont-Souris, and the Tombe-Issoire. These are filled with small children who constitute their whole universe.

Throughout history, there have been many children who were on the streets. In Paris, however, these street children had a lot of freedom and purity to do what they wanted. Still, throughout history in other cities vagabondage for children has led to crimes as adults.

Gamins are a social caste in the city. They have strong opinions on religious issues, and they like to watch executions. Politicians are considered assassins by them, and they admire people who use their left hands.

In the summer, street kids swim in the Seine and look out for policemen. They warn each other of police presence, but they also want to have fun.

Chapter 9 of the book Famous French people like Voltaire and Beaumarchais have some qualities that are similar to those of a street urchin. The street urchin is witty and brave because he has no other choice but to make himself happy.

Paris is a beautiful city, but it also has its problems. It's a great place to be if you're an artist, but there are social issues that need to be addressed. The government needs to help artists and musicians with grants so they can continue their work without having financial difficulties. Artists will make Paris even more beautiful and interesting than it already is, because Paris represents the world in its diversity of cultures and ideas.
Chapter 11 of the book "Paris has no limits" by author is about daring. To dare, according to the author, is a big part of progress for humankind. In fact, it's one of humanity's greatest sources of light.

To describe a child in Paris is to describe the city itself. The narrator asks philosophers to spread knowledge throughout this populace and determine how it can be used to improve people's lives.

Eight years after Jean Valjean's arrival at the convent, a young boy was known to wander around the Boulevard du Temple. He had no parents and simply struck out on his own. Sometimes, though, he returned home to see his mother at their hovel in Paris—the Gorbeau house where several individuals who didn’t know each other were lodged. The landlady was now named Madame Bourgon and the most wretched of inhabitants was a family with father Jondrette (who told everyone that if anyone inquired about a Pole or Italian or Spaniard it would be him), mother, two grown daughters, and son Little Gavroche (which is what they called him). The chamber next to them belonged to poor Marius.

**Volume 3, Book 2**

The narrator introduces the story of Marius. In 1831, an old man named M. Gillenormand lives in Rue de Saintonge with his daughter and wife, who is a flirtatious barber-ess. He has always been healthy and passionate about civilization being barbaric.

Gillenormand lives in the Marais district of Paris. He was a sullen husband but charming lover, so his wives cheated on him but never his mistresses. He follows fashion and dismisses the French Revolution.

Chapter 3:

Gillenormand speaks of his lovers from the past and says crude things about them. Chapter 4:

Gillenormand hates all talk of 1789, and often wishes that he would not see 1993 again. Chapter 5:

Chapter 5 tells us that Gillenormand's second wife wasted his fortune; now there is just enough for him to live on with Basque, his male servant, and a few female servants who he calls Nicolette regardless of their real names.

Chapter 6 describes Gillenormand's attitude toward charity and his relationship with the poor. He often gives alms, but is very picky about who he helps. He also had a daughter by his first wife and another by his second wife (who died in her 30s). His son-in-law was a colonel at Waterloo before he passed away around that time.

The narrator notes that Gillenormand is both frivolous and great. He eats dinner at 5:00 pm, which is considered late in the 18th century, but he's still able to receive people afterward.

Mademoiselle Gillenormand is demure and lives with her father. She never married, but she had a daughter who died young. Mademoiselle Gillenormand's father idolizes his grandson, though he usually speaks to him in a harsh tone of voice.
Volume 3, Book 3

Gillenormand was well-liked in society because of his wit. In 1817, he often went to see Madame la Baronne de T.'s salon or intellectual gathering. The group would gather to complain about the horrors of the new century and parody the Revolution.

In Vernon, a man named Georges Pontmercy lived alone and worked in his garden. He was shy and timid. As a young man, he fought for Napoleon Bonaparte during the French Revolution and against the English at Austerlitz and Waterloo, among other battles. After Waterloo, where he'd been pulled out of the hollow ravine by some men who were going to shoot him but decided not to because they thought that he was dead anyway (but really wasn't), Louis XVIII didn't recognize his awards or grades from Napoleon's army as they were under an Empire that Louis did not approve of. During this time period, Georges married Mademoiselle Gillenormand after her first husband died; she gave birth to Marius but then died herself shortly afterward.

Marius loves his father, but the boy's grandfather has threatened to disinherit him if he doesn't allow Marius to live with his grandfather. The boy is the heir of Gillenormand's sister and she had a large fortune. His father, Pontmercy, is never allowed to see Marius.

Marius is a serious child because he has grown up in the salon of Madame la Baronne de T. He has been surrounded by old-fashioned people who hate Napoleon's Empire and revolution. There are many characters mentioned, all of whom belong to Parisian high society, or "ultra" society as it was called at that time.

During the Restoration period, from 1814 to 1820, people were very idealistic. They had their own literature and politics that was separate from absolutism. Marius attended school as a fanatical Royalist before emerging as a cold but noble, generous and proud young man.

In 1827, Marius is 17. He returns home to hear his grandfather order him to go see his father the next day. The next day he arrives in Vernon and a woman answers the door and points him towards a room on the ground floor. His father has had brain fever for three days and died just before Marius arrived; he was too late to say goodbye.

Marius's father writes a note to Marius, saying that he wants to give him the title of Baron and asking Marius to do something good for Thenardier if he ever meets him. Marius stays in Vernon for two days after getting the note and then goes back to Paris without thinking much more about his father or Thenardier.

Ten years ago, an old man started sitting in the pew Marius had been assigned to. He noticed that every week a young man would come and sit behind him. The young man was there so his father could see him without being seen by his own father-in-law. The son made this sacrifice because he wanted to make sure one day he'd inherit all of his father's money.

Marius accompanies the man home, and asks for permission to leave for a hunting trip with friends. The next day he returns and tells Gillenormand he wants to go to the law school library's files of newspapers.
from 1790-1793. He reads all the history books that cover those years, looking for his father's name among army bulletins. Marius goes around asking generals about his father, trying to learn more about him in this way. Meanwhile, Gillenormand assumes there is a love affair going on because Marius has been so preoccupied lately.

Marius begins to change his opinions when he reads the book "The History of Rome". Initially, he is surprised by what he reads and considers the Roman Republic as a moment of mass freedom and civil rights. He also thinks that Napoleon was an idealistic man who wanted to spread French ideas in Europe. He realizes how little he knew about France and his father, which makes him sad because it's too late for him to know them now.

Marius was brought up to hate Napoleon, but he read as much as he could about him and gradually came to admire the man. He began to picture battles in his mind's eye and felt a kinship with his father. He found it intoxicating to see things from Napoleon's point of view, even though there were some mistakes along the way that led him astray. Eventually, he became an ardent revolutionary who no longer liked Gillenormand for cutting off contact with Marius' father.

Marius has come here every time he's been homeless. Theodule leaves and decides not to write to his aunt at all. Marius comes back on the third day, and quickly goes to take a bath. Gillenormand climbs up the stairs to greet Marius for the first time since they've met years ago when Marius was young. In the empty room, he sees a great coat with a black ribbon that holds a medallion portrait case on top of it: He grabs both items and runs downstairs again. He opens them together with his daughter Cosette, who reads aloud from an old letter saying that her father is now officially recognized as Baron Pontmercy (Marius’ mother’s last name). They are shocked by this news because they don't know how this information could have been hidden from them for so long. Inside one of the pockets of his greatcoat were dozens of cards printed with “Le Baron de Pontmercy” which means “The Baroness Pontmercy” in French; obviously referring to Cosette herself!

For an hour, the two sit in silence. Then Marius comes downstairs and sees his grandfather holding one of his cards. He asks what it means, and Marius tells him that he was a hero who served France and died for the Republic. Gillenormand turns purple with rage as he calls those men traitors to the king. Now Marius is enraged too, but torn between his father and grandfather. After several moments of pacing around the room, however, Gillenormand orders Marius to leave because they cannot live together anymore now that they have different views about Louis XVIII (the Bourbon monarch).

The next day, Marius goes to the Quarter and realizes that he doesn't have much money. He only has 30 francs in his pocket.

**Volume 3, Book 4**

Around this time, a revolutionary spirit was beginning to rise in France. Several organizations were created by the youths of Paris. One of these groups was called the Friends of the ABC (Abaisse), which meant "debased" or "people." It met at a café near the Pantheon called Café Musain. Most members came from southern France and included Enjolras, who came from a wealthy family and was passionate about liberty and democracy; Combeferre, who had more flexibility but also gentler towards his fellow man;
Prouvaire, who was romantic; Feuilly, an uneducated workingman with great potential for progress; Bahorel, capricious and lazy; Courfeyrac seemed much like Tholomyes but with more depth than him; Bossuet/Laigle de Meaux (the Eaglet of Meaux) had good humor but bad luck as well as Grantaire—who didn't believe in revolution or progress—and loved Enjolras despite being disdained by him.

Bossuet sees Marius Pontmercy, a student who didn't show up for class the day before. Bossuet yells to him and says he was looking for him because he was absent yesterday. He had wanted to make sure that Marius wouldn't be penalized for being absent, so when the professor said "Marius Pontmercy," Bossuet answered "present." However, then Bossuet heard himself saying his own name as well, so the professor thought it was both of them and crossed out their names on the attendance list. Later on in the story Courfeyrac invites Marius to stay at his house after hearing what happened with Bossuet's name.

A few days later, Courfeyrac and Marius become friends. They discuss politics and philosophy, which makes Marius' head spin. He was previously set in his views but now he is thrown into turmoil again.

In Chapter 4, Grantaire is drunk and he's complaining about life. He says that there is no difference between vice and virtue, since all countries are corrupt. Bossuet tries to quiet him down, but Courfeyrac snatches the manuscript from his hands and announces how it will pacify the people instead of giving them true democracy.

In the middle of a conversation, Bossuet suddenly brings up Waterloo. Marius pays attention at this mention of Napoleon's unlucky number. Courfeyrac says that it is both Napoleon's crime and his just punishment. Enjolras points out that Corsica (Napoleon's birthplace) is on a map of France and says that this little island has made France great. After an eloquent speech about Napoleon, Marius asks what could be greater than to embrace France as a great nation with armies conquering the earth? Combeferre answers, "To be free."

Marius looks down, and everyone but Enjolras leaves the room. On the stairs, Combeferre is singing a song about preferring your mother's love to Caesar's glory. Enjolras tells Marius that his mother is the Republic.

Marius is feeling gloomy. He has stopped going to the Café Musain, and he’s now no longer in agreement with his grandfather or friends. Furthermore, since he can't go to class anymore because of lack of funds, Marius decides that he will do anything after selling his coat and watch. In the meantime, Marius' aunt discovers where her nephew lives and sends him 600 francs in a box; however, she receives a respectful letter from Marius saying that he doesn’t need them (Marius only has 3 francs left).

**Volume 3, Book 5**

Chapter 1: Marius is forced to leave the hotel because he can't pay for it. He goes hungry and has to endure other hardships, but he learns how to handle them and becomes stronger as a result.

Marius is finally admitted to practice as a lawyer, and he tells his grandfather in a cold but respectful letter. Gillenormand trembles as he reads it and then throws it into the trash. But later on, Gillenormand mumbles to himself that one cannot be both a baron and a lawyer.
Marius never forgets two names: that of his father, and that of Thenardier. He had been distressed at hearing of the man’s ruin at Montfermeil, and has never been able to find him since, though he’s traveled through the whole country, and he vows to continue to look. He dreams of finding Thenardier and bringing him out of misery. Three years after he left, Marius still imagines that Gillenormand had never loved him, although his grandfather had adored him despite his severity. Gillenormand secretly had hoped his grandson would return. When Guillenormand asks himself if he’d act the same all over again, his pride answers yes but his age and sadness answer no. He misses Marius, thinks about him constantly, is happy for what Marius went through on behalf of their family name, feels like a good person from having gone through so much suffering in life (even though it wasn't necessary). At the same time while Marius thinks less about Gillenormand without bitterness or anger towards them because they were hard on him as a child; instead feeling grateful for growing up with such an influential figure who helped shape who he's become today(a better person), also not understanding how easy it can be to lose focus/get lost in your own thoughts when you spend too much time thinking about things which may not necessarily have any impact on your future success/growth as a human being; possibly spending too much time reflecting rather than taking actionable steps towards achieving one's goals.

Marion Deeds

Marius is offered a job by one publisher, but he doesn't want to give up his freedom. He stays in touch with Courfeyrac, though he no longer hangs out at the Friends of the ABC. His only other friend is Mabeuf, an old man who used to be responsible for reintroducing Marius to his father.

Marius talks to Mabeuf about his political opinions because he's tired of reading about wars. Mabeuf is not very interested in politics, but he loves plants and books. He has never loved a woman as much as a tulip bulb. He doesn't remember whether or not he was ever married, but there is an old housekeeper who lives with him.

In 1830, Mabeuf's brother dies and leaves him with no inheritance. A notary's mistake results in a publishing crisis that forces Mabeuf to leave his house and move into a tiny cottage near the Salpetriere. He had to sell some of his prints to pay for food but remained calm throughout it all.

Marius doesn't see Courfeyrac or Mabeuf on a daily basis. Instead, he spends his time walking the boulevards and visiting the Luxembourg Gardens with friends. He also visits his father's old generals and comrades, but only when it's cold outside so that he can avoid paying for carriages.

Even with the revolution of 1830, Marius' ideas on human nature and society remain unchanged. He still thinks of people as petty and small-minded. Still, he has pure aspirations for the future even though he knows that they are unlikely to come true. Towards the middle of 1831, Marius hears from his neighbor's porter that she is being evicted because she hasn't paid her rent in over a year. Marius decides to give 25 francs to help them pay their rent without letting them know where it came from.

Marius is the son of a wealthy, conservative French family. He falls in love with a woman named Cosette and marries her despite his father's wishes. After Marius leaves home to fight in the war, he becomes radicalized by his experiences there and begins to support the Republican cause. His father grows angry at this change, as does Mademoiselle Gillenormand (Marius' aunt), who plots against him behind his back while faking affection for him when he visits them occasionally.
Political disagreements are becoming more and more dramatic, Gillenormand says. At each
pronouncement, Theodule agrees with him or nods his head in agreement. Finally, Gillenormand pauses
and looks at Theodule while saying that he is a fool.

**Volume 3, Book 6**

Marius is now a handsome young man with thick black hair, an air of sincerity and polished manners. He
had believed that women would look at him to make fun of him but in fact they admired his looks. The
only woman he doesn't flee from is the old bearded lady who sweeps his room and the girl whom he often
sees during walks in Luxembourg. The girl seems happy while her father appears sad and serious, around
60 years old. Marius enjoys watching this couple, calling them Mademoiselle Lanoire (“the girl in
black”) and Monsieur Leblanc (“the man in white”).

For six months, Marius doesn't go to the Luxembourg area and when he finally returns it's a calm summer
morning. He is in a wonderful mood and sees the same man again with another girl: she is tall and
beautiful with thick brown hair and white cheeks. As Marius approaches them, he realizes that this little
girl has grown up into a lovely young woman. She dresses simply but elegantly as Marius passes by her
while thinking of something else.

One day, Marius is walking by the bench where he sees a father and daughter. The girl notices him and
looks at him with her innocent eyes. He thinks about how stupid it was to walk around in his everyday
clothes when she noticed him for the first time.

The next day, Marius goes to the Luxembourg Gardens in his best clothes. On the way there he passes
Courfeyrac but pretends not to see him. Courfeyrac tells his friends that Marius looks silly in his nice
clothes. As Marius walks toward the bench where Mme de Tournay sits with her husband, he hears a
whistling sound in his ears and slowly turns around to look at them again. He approaches from an
opposite side of the bench so she doesn't notice him staring at her. When he reaches the bench, he feels
nervous and has trouble breathing normally because of how hard it is for him to breathe when she's near
him. That night, he forgets dinner and only goes to bed after cleaning off all dirt on his coat that may have
gotten onto it while sitting on a dirty park bench earlier that day.

Marius goes to the Luxembourg every day for two weeks, sitting on a bench and looking at a girl who
passes by. One day she looks back at him, and he becomes infatuated with her. He spends all night
walking around in circles trying to figure out what happened.

Marius is a loner and he's devoted to his father. However, when he falls in love with an older woman, it
throws him off guard. He goes back to the park where they first met and finds that she doesn't come there
anymore. He continues going there anyway because of how much he likes her. The old man who sees
Marius by himself starts moving around so that Marius notices him staring at him from afar, but Marius
thinks nothing of it until later on in the story when he realizes what has happened between them

Marius is a young man who finds an old handkerchief on his bench and believes it belongs to the woman
he loves, Ursule.
One day, a gust of wind blows into the alleyway. The girl lifts her dress and exposes her leg in front of Marius. He is furious that she would do such a thing, so he looks at her with an angry expression on his face and she looks back surprised. This is their first fight as they haven't had any disagreements until this point.

Marius follows the girl home, and asks the porter where her father lives. The porter says that he's not rich, but is very generous with his charity work. Marius then watches their house for a few nights, and on one occasion sees that all of the lights are off except for one room on the third floor. The next day, he goes back to ask again about her father's whereabouts. It turns out that they have moved away without leaving any contact information behind them.

**Volume 3, Book 7**

The author notes that all societies have a third lower floor, which is like the basement of society. In this level are the great thinkers or innovators who can eventually bring about change to society. The past's great thinkers and innovators are buried in these mines below civilization, along with the blind people who cannot see what they've done.

There are two kinds of mines in the world. The first kind is the mines that lead to hell, where people live a life full of ignorance and misery. These kind of people want revolution and progress but they're also very evil in their ways, trying to destroy civilization with crime and political ideologies. The other kind is more pure; it's filled with honest workers who only seek good for themselves while improving society as a whole. They can be found on top of mountains, working hard at progressing technology and science for humanity's benefit.

The leaders of the lower class in Paris are ruffians called Claquesous, Gueulemer, Babet and Montparnasse. Gueulemer is massive and idle; Babet thin, chatty and thoughtless; Claquesous only emerges at night; while Montparnasse is a child who's sluggish and effeminate. All four embrace robbery and murder: they're "dandies of the sepulcher."

**Volume 3, Book 8**

Winter arrives and Marius still hasn't found the girl. He keeps thinking about her, but he doesn't know where to look for her. His friends ask him questions about where he's been lately, so they think something is wrong with him. One night, he goes out hoping to meet her at a ball or concert. When that doesn't happen, he comes home feeling depressed and exhausted. Another day when it snows outside, Marius sees someone who looks like M. Leblanc in the Luxembourg Gardens with white hair just like his father's; however, when Marius tries to get a better look at this man dressed as a workingman in the Boulevard des Invalides, he can't find anyone there who resembles his father—it must have just been his imagination.

Marius is walking along one day when he sees two young girls in rags running away from him. They tell him to run, too, because the police have come. He thinks about how angels are no longer as beautiful as they used to be and instead look like ghouls.
The next day, he finds the package in his pocket and decides to open it. Inside are four letters addressed to various philanthropists in Paris. They're all signed by different people but ask for money using similar language. None of them contain an address, so Marius doesn't try to solve this mystery and throws the papers away. The next morning there's a knock at his door; when he opens it, he sees a young woman with a broken voice that sounds like an old man’s.

A girl is thin and frail with missing teeth. She speaks to Marius by name, though he doesn’t know her, and gives him a letter in which Jondrette thanks Marius for helping them out when they were short on money. They haven’t had bread for four days and ask if there's anything that can be done about it.

Marius finally understands the letter he received last night. It was written by Jondrette, and it's similar to this one. He takes advantage of people who are kind enough to help his daughters out, but they're not really poor. Marius feels pity for what these girls could have been if they weren't living like this now. The girl says that she can read books and swears that she knows how to do so because her family wasn't always as poor as they are now.

The girl is delighted that Marius has the package she’s been looking for. She says that maybe now she can get some breakfast, and thanks him for giving her 5 francs to spend on it.

Marius doesn't realize that he hasn't known true misery. He blames himself for the passions and contemplations in his life, which have prevented him from seeing what real misery is like. He thinks about how close it is to his home, but because of those distractions, he didn't see it until now.

Marius peeks through a hole in the wall to look at this true misery on the other side.

Marius' room is small and tidy. He now sees a dirty, cluttered hovel that has insects crawling around it. Near the table is a man with an evil look on his face who's writing more letters. A middle-aged woman sits near the fireplace reading a book while her daughter, aged 14, sits next to her looking ragged and sickly.

It's clear that the man has no job and is not very wealthy. The woman tries to comfort him, but she doesn't love him anymore.

Marius is about to duck back down when the door bursts open and a woman comes in. She says that someone from Saint-Jacques church is coming in a carriage, and she gives him the address. First, Marius's father doesn't believe her, but then he gets excited and tells his wife to put out the fire. He tells one of his daughters to take off some straw from a chair; she doesn't understand so he kicks it through. He tells another daughter to break a window pane; she strikes it with blood flowing down her arm as she cries. The wife chastises him for hurting their children, but he says this will be good for them because they're ready for visitors now.

After a pause, Jondrette cries that if the philanthropist isn't coming he'll have done all this for nothing. He hates those who make people like them wait, he says—rich men who must have stolen their money. Then a white-haired man and a young girl appear on the threshold. Marius is blown away: it's the young girl whom he hasn't seen in six months.
Chapter 8 After a pause, Jondrette cries that if the philanthropist isn’t coming he’ll have done all this for nothing. He hates those who make people like them wait, he says—rich men who must have stolen their money. Then a white-haired man and a young girl appear on the threshold. Marius is blown away: it’s the young girl whom he hasn’t seen for six months.

Jondrette tells the old man that he brought a package with new clothes and blankets. Then, in a low voice, Jondrette asks his daughter which name he signed on the letter. His daughter answers "Fabantou". This is when Jondrette introduces himself as Monsieur Fabantou to the old man. He then makes up a wild tale about how he fell into poverty and tells him that his younger daughter cut her hand while working for six sous at a factory (a lie). Then, suddenly, Jondrette tells his wife to take good look at the old man because of all of their debts and problems they have had lately (another lie). The father leaves five francs for them on the table before leaving.

Marius was not able to take his eyes off the young girl. She seemed like a vision of light, and when she left, he desperately wanted to follow her but realized that M. Leblanc would see him do so. Still, Marius decided to risk it all and ran out the door in order to follow her carriage down the street. He could not afford the ride because he only had 16 sous with him at the time, which made him bitter as he watched them leave together without him. When he returned inside, however, Jondrette was speaking with an ominous-looking man who looked like a criminal: Panchaud (Printanier), also known as Bigrenaill--a famous rascal who later became notorious for being involved in robberies on Paris' streets during this time period.

Marius returns to his room and sees the girl from earlier. She seems hateful to him now because he had given her money that could have been used for a cab ride. He ignores her and asks what she wants, and she looks at him with dull eyes as she raises her head to ask why he's sad. Marius tells her not to bother him, but then he realizes how kind he was this morning when he gave away five francs of his money, so maybe it would help if the girl found out where they lived.

Marius drops into his chair after the girl leaves. However, he hears Jondrette's voice exclaim that he is sure it was M. Leblanc who just left. Marius thinks this might be true because the man hasn't grown old--he has seen him before in court and at home with his father. He springs back up to the peep-hole when he hears Jondrette tell his wife that they will wait until five o'clock for their daughters to return as they may need them then. The young lady, Jondrette says—it is "she." Rage, hate and surprise mingle in her face when she realizes what Jondrette meant by those words: it was indeed her daughter who came here earlier today! She would like to kick a hole through her daughter's stomach for being so haughty while she herself lives such a miserable life!

Jondrette tells his wife that he's had enough of being poor. A man will be coming back at 6pm with 60 francs, and Jondrette is confident that the man will give in to them. If not, they'll beat him up. As he leaves the room, he instructs his wife to prepare a charcoal stove for when the man comes back.

Chapter 13: Marius has finally figured out that the Jondrettes are behind this, and he knows that they have to be stopped. It's one o'clock in the morning, so he has five hours to stop them from hurting anyone else. He realizes there's only one thing left for him to do—go over to Rue du Petit-Banquier and rescue "Ursula" (Marius doesn't know her name yet).
A man named Marius is given a warning about a trap that's going to be set for another man. He was warned by someone who overheard the plot and wanted to help. The police inspector tells him that he knows of the area where this will happen, and gives him two pistols so that he can shoot if needed.

Some time passes, and Bossuet and Courfeyrac are walking up the Rue Mouffetard. They see Marius but don't want to interrupt him because he's talking with someone—actually, he's following Jondrette (who has a gray cap on). When they're alone, Jondrette comes out of a shop holding something big that looks like an iron bar.

Marius is nervous. He's carrying two guns, and he's about to rob the man who lives next door. The neighbor is named Jondrette, and Marius wants to steal his money in order to save Cosette from her life of poverty with him. Jondrette has just returned home, and he tells his wife that they've set a trap for the police officer who keeps coming around asking questions about them. They're going to catch him tonight when he comes over for their rent payment again. Meanwhile, Marius crawls under the bed while one of Jondrette's daughters goes into the room next door where she thinks there might be someone hiding because something fell on the floor earlier in the day when she was walking by it. She smiles at herself in a mirror as she hums a song and calls out to her father that she can't see anyone under or behind any furniture in this room either; no one is here except her father, mother, brother and sister—and then she shuts the door behind her after saying these words aloud so everyone knows that everything is safe now.

Chapter 17: Marius looks through the peephole and sees that the hovel is now brightly lit up. The stove has been burning for a while, and there are piles of old iron and ropes in front of the door. This makes it an ideal place for a crime to take place.

Jondrette tells his wife to go downstairs and keep watch. Meanwhile, he sits at the table with a candlelight illuminating his face.

Six o'clock strikes and Jondrette begins to pace around. Then M. Leblanc arrives with the sixty francs, which he places on the table. They sit down together and Marius feels horror but no fear because he thinks that he will be able to stop Jondrette at any time if necessary.

Chapter twenty-one is about Leblanc and his daughter, who are in a hideout with the Jondrette family. The younger girl has been injured, so her father asks how she's doing. Her mother replies that she will be fine after being treated at the hospital. Meanwhile, Jondrette complains to Leblanc about their family's poverty since he lost all of his money gambling on horse races. He says it's not his fault because they were cheated out of their winnings by someone else who had an unfair advantage over them. As Marius watches from behind some curtains, he notices an ugly man enter the room wearing only a vest and no shirt or shoes; he also has tattoos on his arms and face smeared with black paint. Then another man enters carrying a picture under one arm; this second man is dressed like a painter but looks more like a criminal than anything else. When Leblanc tells him that there must be something wrong with the painting if it was brought into such an area as theirs (a shabby house), Jondrette says there's nothing wrong with it—in fact, he claims that it is extremely valuable!

Jondrette asks Leblanc for 1,000 crowns. Leblanc leaps up from his chair and starts to walk away from Jondrette's request. However, Jondrette continues to talk about how poor he is and stares at the door while saying this. He suddenly makes a fast transition into an angry man who stands up straight and yells out
"Do you know me?"

The door opens, and three masked men enter. The leader of the group asks if everything is ready. They say it is, but Leblanc has turned pale and seems to be looking for a way to escape. Three of the original men arm themselves with irons and stand guard at the entrance while Marius raises his hand toward the ceiling, preparing to shoot his pistol. Thenardier remarks that Leblanc does not recognize him: Leblanc looks him straight in the face and says no. Thenardier advances towards him and exclaims that he is indeed thenardier (the inn-keeper). This seems to shock leblanc who turns red in the face but still denies knowing this man even though they must have met before because now he recognizes his voice from when he was a child living at Montfermeil; however, it's clear that lebland doesn't want anything more than to get away from these people as soon as possible so he can tell Valjean about them without having any further confrontation with them himself.

Meanwhile, Marius is trembling in every limb and almost drops his pistol. He realizes that this man is the one who had saved his father's life. Moreover, he now sees that Leblanc was not a hero but a mere criminal. Should he have him captured and delivered to the executioner? That would be exactly opposite of what his father wanted. It would mock his last wish, yet at the same time, if he doesn't fire, Leblanc will be executed for no reason whatsoever. What should Marius do? Should he ignore his father's testament or allow a crime to happen? He feels as though he's going mad and collapses on the floor with confusion about whether or not to shoot Leblanc.

Meanwhile, Thenardier is pacing in frenzied triumph and crowing that it was the old man who came to his inn in 1823 and carried off Fantine's child from him—a sanctimonious child-stealer who stole a girl from whom he could have extracted enough to live on his whole life. Now he’s taking his revenge, and he laughs at the man’s gullibility in going along with his ruse. Thenardier pauses, panting, and Leblanc says only that he is mistaken—he is a poor man rather than a millionaire, and Thenardier must only be a villain. Thenardier cries that rich men call people like him villains because they haven’t had enough to eat; meanwhile, all around them are those with more money than they could ever spend but still complain about their lot. He claims to have been at Waterloo where he saved an unnamed general (Napoleon Bonaparte) when no one else did anything for him; now this debt should be repaid by giving him what everyone owes him: wealth beyond measure!

Marius is shocked by Thenardier's confession that he was the man who stole his father's coat at Waterloo, and also because of the way he spoke about his father. Marius now knows for sure that Thenardier is a thief. He looks at the picture of Pontmercy (his father) carrying another wounded soldier—it’s him and Thenardier at Waterloo.

Leblanc has been watching Thenardier and his men. He then overturns a table and chair before jumping out of the window, but he is restrained by six men. Bigrenaille lifts up a lead bludgeon, but Marius stops him from hitting Leblanc with it because he wants to shoot Leblanc in the head—he must be hiding something if he hasn't cried for help yet. However, Thenardier shouts not to harm Leblanc; they should come to an understanding instead.

The man remains passive and doesn't want to give in to despair. Thenardier says he wants only 200,000 francs from the man, which can't be a huge amount for him. He tells Leblanc to write a letter saying that he's in desperate need of his daughter and she must come immediately. The letter is signed Urbain Fabre.
Thenardier takes the letter and sends out several men with his wife to get Lark (the girl).

Only five of the men are left. They don't seem to be enjoying themselves, instead acting bored while waiting for something to happen. Marius wonders who "the Lark" could be, since he knows that the "U" refers to her father. He also knows that if he waits long enough, he'll see her come and give his life for hers.

Thenardier tells Leblanc that he assumes the Lark really is his daughter. The girl will follow his wife to a fiacre, and the men will lead her to a place where she will be released as soon as the 200,000 francs are handed over: if not, his comrade will take care of her. Marius is struck dumb at this news; he realizes that he must make a decision about whether or not to shoot Thenardier with his pistol. However, Thenardier is too far away for him to reach without being caught himself. He worries that if they arrest Thenardier now, then something terrible may happen to the Lark in retaliation from one of Thenardier's accomplices.

The Thenardier woman runs in and says that the old man lied to him. Marius is relieved, but then he realizes they have his wallet. The Thenardier asks why he was trying to get away, and he replies that it's because he wants time. He takes the red-hot chisel from the fire and threatens them with it. Later on, a large sou piece cut into a knife (Valjean's hidden tool) would be found at the apartment. But for now, one of his legs are still tied down onto the bedpost.

A prisoner says that he should be executed because all the other prisoners are wicked. He is ordered to cut off his arm, but refuses and says that it's not worth defending his life. Thenardier tells him that he will do it instead, and Marius is horrified at this sight. The man then lays a burning chisel on his arm without flinching or showing any hatred towards them. Instead of hating them back, he just tells them not to fear him more than they fear themselves; after throwing away the chisel from his wound through the window, he remains disarmed. Thenardier and Madame Thenardier discuss what they should do with him, when suddenly Marius hears them say in a low voice that they can only kill him by cutting his throat; however, Marius has been struggling between two contradictory impulses: firstly wanting to save this man’s life (which was why he told Javert where the house was), but also wanting revenge for Cosette being taken away from him (when she had been staying there). Now realizing there is no way out of this dilemma except killing someone who doesn't deserve it—and seeing a paper written by one of their daughters earlier saying “The bobbies are here” which fell out through the crevice in the wall—he pushes it back into their room so they think an English patrol saw her writing about where she lives and came looking for her there (although really she wrote those words as part of an assignment); now believing this story rather than thinking Eponine betrayed them herself, they see no choice but to leave through another door while pretending everything is fine so nobody suspects anything. They run towards another exit, but Bigrenaille grabs hold of Thenardier and demands that everyone draw lots to decide who goes first. Meanwhile, Thenardier shouts how insane Bigrenaille has become; Suddenly though, Javert appears behind both men.

One night, Javert ambushed the house and arrested Azelma. He had waited for a signal from Eponine, but he grew impatient and used Marius’s pass-key to go upstairs himself. The Thenardiers pointed their gun at him; however, he said that there were 15 policemen outside who would not let them fight back. Thenardier fired his gun; however, it misfired. A group of police officers entered the room with guns drawn and handcuffed all of them except Madame Thenardier because she was shielding her husband as she held a stone above her head threatening to crush anyone who approached her.
Javert greets the six prisoners merrily, greeting them all by name. Then he asks for the prisoner to step forward. The old man has disappeared through the window—the rope ladder is still shaking. Javert grits his teeth and says that he must have been the most valuable of all.

**Volume 4, Book 1**

The narrator describes 1831 and 1832 as two revolutionary mountains, crossed by social masses and even civilizations. After the Restoration, people were tired of war and wanted to find a shelter. They believed that the Bourbon royal family possessed divine right rather than being part of history. Therefore, it dismissed individual sovereignty and liberty, which led to its fall in 1830. However, during this time period people had grown used to calm intelligent discussion on free speech and press at least until 1830.

The Bourbons were overthrown by a revolution, but they lost their power without any authority. The July Revolution that ousted Charles X had many friends and foes who watched it with fear and anger. In this revolution, the narrator says right defeated fact; it was beautiful and pure. Wise men must do away with conflicts between right and fact.

Chapter 2: 1830 Revolution

The narrator notes that the revolution of 1830 was halted midway by the bourgeoisie. The middle class, after attaining its goals, stopped being a revolutionary class and instead became an interest group. Chapter 3: Louis-Philippe

Chapter 3: Louis-Philippe

Louis Philippe is described as sober, patient and morally upstanding. He was patriotic but preferred his family to his country. He valued domination more than dignity and treated other nations differently depending on the moment (he was not very attentive). He knew dates and details well but was ignorant of passions or inner aspirations of crowds (he had witnessed trials in '93). His manners were from old regime while habits were new one (transition embodied). His fault was that he cared too much about private matters rather than public ones. Although it's too early to make a definitive judgment on him as king, at least he seemed like a good man when Hugo wrote this book.

Chapter 4

The narrator wants to make clear that Louis-Philippe was brought to power by revolutionary change. His position had been offered to him, but democracy and royalty were not compatible. The July Revolution had different interpretations in France, among the old parties as well as the republicans and legitimists. Revolutions are unlike revolt because they spring from necessity rather than right; yet many legitimists criticized the revolution's change of king from a Bourbon to an Orleanist, whereas republicans struggled against having any king at all.

Meanwhile, the questions of poverty, education, prostitution, wealth consumption and other topics continued without being resolved. Instead of dealing with these issues in a practical way, thinkers considered them abstractly instead. They asked themselves material questions about man's happiness and
how to make him happy out of social prosperity. Socialism attempted to unite these ideas but they existed before communism or capitalism were developed. Meanwhile people remained without bread as foreign affairs grew more hazardous due to discontent arising from all these problems.

By 1832, discontent was growing. In Paris, this took place largely in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine, where subversive pamphlets were read in bars and people talked about plots to overthrow the government. Evidence of secret societies began to arise like a report noting that they needed sulphur, charcoal and water or when children playing on the Champ de Mars found materials for making gun cartridges. The Society of Friends of ABC continued to meet at Café Musain in Paris.

The Faubourg Saint-Antoine was an area of Paris that was known for its revolutionary ideas. The people there were upset about the oppression they suffered under and wanted to change it, which led to the French Revolution in 1789. However, these revolutionaries acted savagely without thinking of how their actions would affect other people around them or what kind of civilization they would be creating by doing so. Therefore, instead of trying to create a new civilization from scratch or bring back one from the past, we should try to make positive changes without destroying everything we have now and move forward with our current society while making sure not to destroy anything else in the process.

A leader for the revolutionaries called Enjolras was holding a meeting at the Café Musain. He asked how many people could be counted on to fight against the army and sent certain friends to different neighborhoods throughout Paris. It was decided that there were not enough artists committed to this revolution, so Grantaire would go talk them into joining forces with him in support of their cause.

After everyone leaves, Enjolras wonders if it's the time to act. He decides to go and check on Grantaire at Richefeu's himself.

Enjolras opens the door and peers through the smoke in search of his comrade.

Volume 4, Book 2

Marius moves out of his house after witnessing Javert's ambush on a man. He spends the night at Courfeyrac's place and pays his rent in full to move all his belongings. When Javert comes back, the porter says that Marius has moved away because he doesn't want to testify against Thenardier, so he gives him five francs each week.

Marius is heartbroken that he did not learn more about the young girl, the Lark. He stops working because of his passion and torments, and descends into poverty once again—poverty now not noble but idle. His only solace is to think that perhaps he still loves him, given that one glance. Sometimes Marius wanders around the Latin Quarter, down the Rue de la Glacière, and then to the river of the Gobelins (a neighborhood in Paris), where there’s an ancient-looking green meadow. Once when there are passersby, Marius asks them for their name for this spot: they answer it’s called “the Lark’s meadow,” a name from French history. Every day, Marius returns to this meadow.

Around this time, Eponine is released from prison and lurking around the Rue Plumet. She then returns a biscuit to Babet's mistress (meaning that there's nothing to be done).
Marius used to be friends with M. Mabeuf, but he doesn't seek out his company anymore. They only nod at each other when they pass in the street.

One night, M. Mabeuf is reading and surveying his plants when he's startled by a female voice asking him if she can water the garden for him. The girl has come from the shrubbery and says that she'll do so in exchange for some information about Marius. He tells her that Marius lives at the meadow of larks, but then wonders if it was actually an apparition or a goblin who spoke to him.

A few days later, Marius goes to the Lark's meadow and spends more time there than at home. He dreams of "her" and then hears a girl cry out, "Here he is!" She introduces herself as Eponine Thenardier, an older sister of Azelma and Gavroche. She has grown up since she was in jail but is even shabbier now that she’s been released from prison.

Eponine keeps talking, but then she says that Marius doesn't seem happy to see her. She could make him look happy if he wanted. She has something for him and asks if he'll promise to smile when he sees it. Then she gives the address of a woman who might be his girlfriend. He turns pale and grabs Eponine's hand, asking where this place is so that they can go there together. He calls her by name, "Eponine," which makes her ecstatic because no one else does (except Valjean). In exchange for keeping the girl's address secret from her father, she agrees to take him there without being seen with someone like herself—a prostitute or thief. Marius tries to give Eponine some money as thanks for helping them out, but she lets it fall on purpose as an excuse not to take it from him because doing so would make things too complicated between them.

**Volume 4, Book 3**

A small house in the Rue Plumet with a garden of about an acre and a half belonged to the mistress of a chief justice in parliament. It was used for secret purposes, so that he could enter and exit as he pleased. The house fell into disrepair after '93 but it started being occupied again at the end of the Restoration.

In October 1829, an older man rented a house in the sorry state it was in. After some repairs, he moved into the house with his daughter and maid: Valjean, Cosette, and Toussaint. He had saved Toussaint from poverty at a convent where she worked as a nun. Once Fauchelevent died, Valjean asked the prioress to accept 5,000 francs so that they could leave—for Cosette's education since she wouldn't immediately become a nun like her father hoped for.

Jean Valjean now lives under the name of Ultime Fauchelevent. He has three other Paris dwellings so that he can escape if he is ever caught by Javert again.

In chapter 2, Valjean tells Toussaint that Cosette is the mistress of the house. They live in Rue Plumet and go to give alms or charity to the poor people in Paris. Since he had been included in a census, Valjean was required to patrol as part of the National Guard three or four times a year (he didn't want anyone to know that he's over 60). Toussaint venerates Valjean: when a butcher tells her that he's "a queer man," she replies that he's a saint. However, it might have been better for him not to grow his garden because it attracts too much attention.
Chapter 3 is about the Rue Plumet, a garden that has been overgrown by nature. There’s an old bench and statues in it. The narrator muses about how natural things are interconnected with each other because of God's will.

Cosette had left the convent when she was a young girl, and she didn't know much about life. She hadn't learned how to be a woman yet. The garden became her place of refuge because it was so mysterious to her, and she would spend hours in there alone.

Cosette loves Valjean. She likes to ask him why he'd rather keep his room cold and eat black bread, while her room is warm and has carpets, and her meals are much nicer than his. It seems like she remembers that Valjean rescued her from a forest where she went to fetch water. He never tells Cosette about Fantine or anything else related to her mother because he doesn't want their relationship tainted by the past. He thanks God for giving him such a wonderful life with Cosette despite all of the hardships in his life.

Cosette notices that she's becoming a young woman and begins to think of herself as pretty. However, Valjean doesn't like this development because he fears Cosette will be stolen away from him. He wants her to stay the young child he has raised her to be.

Soon Cosette, whom Valjean never refuses anything, develops a taste for fashion and style. She begins to go out with Marius more often than she used to. Despite the fact that she's lost some of her grace, she's gained great charm because she knows how beautiful she is now. The narrator notes that people may have grown suspicious of love at first glance, but claims that this is how most people fall in love. Marius glances at Cosette and realizes just how pretty he thinks she is too. One day when they're walking together and he seems cold toward her, Cosette decides to take revenge by teasing him—but their glance changes everything between them as they begin falling madly in love with each other.

Chapter 7: Valjean begins to notice Marius in the Luxembourg. Later, he says that the young man has a pedantic air. Cosette only repeats, "That young man!" as if she's looking at him for the first time. He then thinks it was he who pointed Marius out to her. Valjean concludes that the boy is in love with Cosette, who doesn't know he exists. He thinks about how his life and joy will be taken away by this unknown person just because of his desire to lounge around in a park all day long.

After Valjean realizes Marius has been following him, he stops taking Cosette to the Luxembourg. She doesn't complain or ask questions, but she becomes sadder and sadder. Valjean, who isn't used to seeing people unhappy like this, doesn't understand what's going on with her. Finally after 3 months of not visiting the park together as a family unit, he asks if she wants to go: she lights up and says yes! But when they arrive at the Luxembourg that day Marius is nowhere in sight. The next day when Valjean suggests they visit the park again Cosette says no without even thinking about it first. This upsets Valjean but also stuns him because of how gentle and kind his daughter is being towards him despite everything else that's happening around them both at school and home right now.

Meanwhile, Cosette is sad that Marius hasn't come to visit her. She's putting on a brave face for Valjean, who doesn't know the truth.

Chapter 8 is when Valjean thinks that Cosette might leave him. He's more unhappy than she is, but he doesn't know for sure whether or not he should be worried about her leaving him. One October morning
in 1831, they went for a walk to see the sunrise and continued their strolls even after becoming sad.

Cosette sees a procession of men who are chained to each other and have iron collars around their necks. They wear torn clothes, and their faces look grim. The sun makes the scene seem even more dismal than it is, but the men begin singing as they march along. A woman tells her five-year-old son that he should learn from this example not to steal or do anything bad in his life. Others in the crowd cheer them on for being punished so severely while they're still alive.

Valjean sees a vision and tries to run, but he is unable to move his feet. Cosette is terrified by what she's witnessing. Valjean tells her that these are convicts on their way to the galleys (or prison ship). He also says that sometimes they're still men. On the way home from seeing this, Cosette asks him many questions about convicts and whether or not they're human beings. The next day, it's a holiday in Paris so Valjean takes Cosette out for some fun there in hopes that she'll forget what happened before with the convict. But then one night, when Cosette was playing outside with flowers, she asked her father if the galleys were like prisons.

**Volume 4, Book 4**

Cosette and Valjean are happy to help the poor, as they now have more money. They go to visit people who need help, but Valjean gets a wound that he says is from an accident at work. He stays home for a month with fever, which makes Cosette worry about him.

Cosette is happy to see her father getting better. She spends time with him, and as the weather gets warmer, she feels happier herself. One day when Cosette convinces Valjean to go outside for 15 minutes, she laughs and plays in the garden. He thinks about thanking Thenardier for taking care of Cosette after he was imprisoned.

One evening, Gavroche was hungry and went out for a walk. He came across an apple tree in the garden of two old people who were talking about how much rent they owed to their landlord. It seemed like they didn't have enough money to pay it all back.

Gavroche falls asleep and wakes up near twilight. He sees an old man talking to a young, slender one who is dressed like a dandy. The boy grabs the old man by his collar, but then he's on the ground with the old man's knee on his chest. The boy tells him that he doesn't want to work and asks what job he'd like if money was no object. He says he wants to be a thief because it would be exciting and fun.

The man tells Montparnasse that if he declares himself an idler, he should prepare to work because laziness is the hardest work of all. If you don't work, you'll only be a slave: working leads to freedom. He says Montparnasse can easily create a knife out of a sou-pièce, hidden away, and he'll be able to cut off chains and do any kind of malice he'd like but will only be a parasite. The old man turns his back on him and walks away.

Montparnasse watches Father Mabeuf walk away. Gavroche sneaks up to Montparnasse and takes his purse out of his coat pocket. He throws it over the hedge, where Mother Plutarque catches it. She thinks that the purse fell from heaven, because she doesn't know how else it could have gotten there.
Chapter 1:

Cosette's grief has begun to diminish. She notices a handsome young officer pass by the gate each day, and he ignores his friends when they say that she is looking at him. Meanwhile, Marius still despairs about Cosette. He's not like her; she can get over her sorrows quickly.

Valjean leaves the house on a routine trip. Cosette is worried about him and looks out the window but sees no one. The next day, she walks in the garden at nightfall when there’s another shadow nearby. She turns around quickly to see if anyone is there, but no one is visible.

The next day, Cosette tells Valjean about what happened. Valjean reassures her that everything will be okay. However, he is worried as well and stays up all night in the garden watching over her. The next two nights are the same, but on the third night, Valjean calls out to Cosette from his hiding spot. A shadow made by a chimney looks like a man with a hat and it retreats when she turns around to look at it. She doesn't question why this would happen or think about it again because she's not afraid of anything happening to her anymore now that Jean has returned home for good.

One night, a few weeks later, Valjean is gone and Cosette is sitting outside in the garden. She gets up from her seat on the bench and wanders around for a bit before returning to it. Upon her return, she notices that there's now a large rock next to where she was sitting earlier. She asks Toussaint if they've always had that rock by the bench because it wasn't there when she left. Toussaint says no; he hadn't noticed anything like that before either (and he'd been watching out for intruders). He tells Cosette not to worry about things like this - scary stories are good for keeping people awake at night but nothing ever happens in real life! Then Cosette tells him again not to talk so loudly, as if someone might hear them through all the doors and walls of their house!

The next day, Cosette is relieved that she didn't really see the stone. When she returns to the garden, it's still there. She picks it up and sees a letter inside. The narrator says love reduces everything else in the world to one person, and makes one person feel as if they're infinite and filled with goodness. It was hard for Marius not knowing where his soul could be found because of how much he loved Cosette.

Cosette reads the letter, which is fifteen pages long. It tells her about love and sorrow and destiny. She thinks that it was written by one person, but she doesn't know who wrote it. All day she feels bewildered because of what happened to her when the handsome officer passed by.

Marius goes to the bench and waits for Cosette. He has been following her ever since they met at the barricade a year ago. Now, he often stands outside of her home and hears her singing through the shutters. He loves her very much and asks for forgiveness from Cosette because he had to come see her again after a long time apart.

Cosette is about to faint, but Marius catches her. He asks if she loves him and she says he knows that she does. They kiss and then tell each other everything about their pasts, childhoods, etc. At the end they ask each other’s names.
Volume 4, Book 6

The Thenardiers had two sons, but they got rid of them because Madame Thenardier loved her daughters. The first son was swapped for a girl when Gillenormand's mistress lost her own son in the croup epidemic. She then handed over the second boy to get money from Gillenormand every month at 10 francs a month. Madame Thenardier felt bad about giving up the boys, but she was consoled by her husband who said that it was fine and not to worry about it.

One day, the police raided a neighborhood and found Magnon guilty of theft. The boys were playing in the backyard when they got caught. They locked up the house and began to wander around. Meanwhile, Little Gavroche was surveying a shop-front to determine whether he could steal away a bar of soap to sell in the suburbs, which would pay for his breakfast. Two small children entered the house sobbing; perhaps they were begging for alms from people who passed by on their way home from work or school. As the man shoos them out, Gavroche follows them and asks what's wrong with them as they cry while walking down an alleyway that leads into another street where there are more houses packed together than anyone could count on both hands. When asked why they're crying so hard, one boy responds that it's because they have nowhere to sleep tonight since their parents kicked them out of their homes earlier today after finding out about how bad these kids had been behaving lately at school—a place where teachers send students whose behavior is not good enough for public schools but too bad even for reformatories or orphanages (places designed specifically for troubled kids).

The boy and girl wander the streets. They come across a young beggar who is around 13 years old, wearing a short petticoat, and they give her their shawl to keep warm. The boy says that if the wind keeps up he will cancel his weather subscription because it's too cold outside. He and the girl haven't eaten all day so they go into a bakery shop to buy some bread but there's only black bread available so Gavroche demands white bread instead. The baker can't help but smile at this request from such a small child, but gives him what he wants anyway. Gavroche takes the smallest piece for himself as well as giving them each half of another loaf of bread which was given to him by an elderly lady earlier in the day.

As they head up towards the Bastille, Gavroche calls out to a disguised Montparnasse who says he’s going to find Babet. Gavroche tells him that not long ago, he met a bourgeois who gave him some money and then took it back again. He also mentions how easy it is for Montparnasse to disguise himself as someone else because of his appearance. Then, Gavroche turns around and sees a police officer and tells them they must leave before the policeman notices them.

The boy, Gavroche, leads the young boys to a monument near the basin of the Bastille canal. Napoleon had wanted this monument built but it was left unfinished after his death. It is now black with time and falling into ruins. The children enter through an opening in its side that resembles a house. They are not afraid because they know what to expect from Gavroche who has led them there before when they were hungry and needed shelter from bad weather.

The narrator notes that the bourgeois might look at the monument disapprovingly, and ask what it’s good for. However, in fact, Napoleon intended this to protect small beings who have no parents or shelter from cold and rain. Gavroche invites them to his bed made of straw with a wool blanket for warmth and protection from rain. The boys admire him as he teaches them some slang words so they can fit in better.
He says they will be able to swim in the Seine River during summertime and sneak into theaters or operas (and watch guillotines).

The boys hear scratching as they lie down to sleep. Gavroche says it's the rats, but he had a cat that was eaten by them. The boys are scared, but Gavroche holds their hands until they fall asleep again. Then he hears someone call his name and descends to find Montparnasse who tells him that they need him for something important. He crosses over the market gardeners' carts to reach Rue Saint-Antoine in order to help out with whatever is going on there.

That night, Thenardier and two other prisoners had planned an escape from the prison. They were placed in a dormitory next to each other with beds against the chimney. Above them was a crumbling part of the prison that was its weakest point. The three men found out that Babet had escaped earlier in the day, so they began to pierce through one of their walls using a nail they'd found. It took about forty-five minutes for them to make a hole big enough for all three of them to climb down on ropes and meet up with Babet and Montparnasse, who were outside waiting for them.

Towards one a.m., Thenardier had seen two shadows pass in front of his dormer-window. Later, it was found that he'd drugged a soldier and stolen his uniform to escape from jail. There were holes in the ceiling and roof of his cell, but no one knows how he escaped through them or jumped from roof to roof until reaching Rue de Roi-de-Sicile.

Finally, Thenardier reached the top of one building and found that his rope was too short. He began to despair, thinking that perhaps his accomplices had managed to escape without him and left him behind. However, he heard a commotion in the prison below as guards discovered their escape attempt. His friends were arguing about whether they should wait for him or not. Montparnasse said you don't leave your friends in trouble, but Brujon argued that he must have been caught by now.

Thenardier had the idea to toss a rope down, but he didn't call out because he was too cold. Montparnasse saw him and helped bring Gavroche up. Thenardier ordered Gavroche to climb up and save his father, which is what happened. They recognized each other at this point. The gang discussed their next crime while they lowered Thenardier back down the ladder.

Volume 4, Book 7

The narrator begins by describing the many ways in which people can be lazy, including stealing and being hungry. He thinks that this kind of slang is important to study because it's a way for people to express themselves when they don't have access to proper words or dictionaries. It also shows how different professions develop their own language. For example, there are specific terms used by printers, philosophers, duchesses and even Shakespearean puns. However, the narrator will only focus on slang related to poverty because it's a linguistic attack on social order.

The historian must study the social ills of people, especially in times of great suffering. The history of public events is only one side to a greater story that includes the pains and sorrows within their hearts and minds. A historian should also be aware of how language has changed over time, because it’s an important part in understanding society. Slang provides insight into the way people think about certain
things, like metaphors for eating or thieves. As slang changes form and meaning over time, it can easily become corrupted as well.

The songs of the galleys came from a cellar that existed below the Chatelet. The prison was called Le Trou and had a stone ceiling and mud floor. Men who were condemned to the galleys were kept there before being transferred to Toulon, where they worked in chains attached to beams along the length of the prison cell. They weren't allowed to lie down or else their neck collars would strangle them. The men sang slang songs as a way of coping with this miserable existence. Slang thus reflects desperate thoughts from society's most wretched people, which is why it has survived for centuries even though it changes frequently.

In chapter 3, the author talks about how convicts' songs changed over time. In earlier times, they were melancholy and sad, but by the late 1700s they became cheerful and insolent. This is a sign that prisoners lost their sense of guilt for what they did wrong. The author does not blame Enlightenment philosophers like Diderot or Rousseau for this change in mood; rather he blames those who stirred up people's emotions with appealing but illogical ideas that could not be controlled by reason.

The French Revolution was the turning point in the history of ideas. It put an end to dangerous thoughts, as it was like a sword that killed off feudalism and spread truth by arming people with natural rights. However, there is still some regret about how angry peasants were able to scare their masters.

Although we no longer have to fear mass hysteria, people still face misery. Society must grow in order to prosper, and progress requires intellectual and moral growth. People who refuse to change are simply condemning themselves. They must work toward a better society that is harmonious so that it doesn't collapse like other civilizations of the past such as Babylon, Rome, or Egypt did.

**Volume 4, Book 8**

It was Eponine who pointed out the Rue Plumet home to Marius. This is where he went every evening in May of 1832. He only held Cosette's hand and exchanged common compliments with her. They were very much in love, but they didn't do anything special together.

Chapter 2: Marius had told Cosette that he was an orphan and a lawyer, as well as being on bad terms with his wealthy grandfather. He also said that she cared little about worldly attributes. However, it didn't even occur to him to tell her about the night at the Thenardiers' and her father's strange flight. The lovers never asked what their love would lead to.

Valjean is happy that Cosette is feeling better and doesn't suspect anything. They spend hours in the garden together, and Marius usually leaves after midnight without Courfeyrac noticing it.

Marius is on his way to see Cosette when he sees Eponine. He hasn't thought about her since she led him to Cosette's house. The narrator notes that love can make someone more evil, but it can also cause the person who loves to be too distracted and not do good things. Marius greets Eponine with the formal "you" and she says, "Say—" but then stops herself from saying anything else because of embarrassment or sadness, quickly says goodbye again, and leaves without finishing what she wanted to say.
One day, Marius sees Eponine on her way to the Rue Plumet, so he ducks out of sight. She follows him and watches as he slips into the garden. Later that night, six men enter the Rue Plumet together and begin to talk softly about whether they're in the right place or not. They ask if there's a dog in the garden because one of them has a ball for it to eat. One man goes up to see if this is really where they are supposed to be but then suddenly an unexpected figure appears—it's Eponine's father Thenardier!

Thenardier asks what Eponine is doing there, and says she shouldn't be in the way. She sweetly asks how he managed to escape and how her mother is doing. She hugs him, as well as five others including Brujon and Montparnasse. She says that she's made some inquiries, but it turns out this house has little money; it belongs to poor people who have very little money. Eponine begs Montparnasse not to enter the house with them, saying that they won't find anything of value here anyway because these are just poor folks who don't have much money at all. Finally, Eponine firmly tells Montparnasse not to enter the house because she doesn’t want him or any of his friends coming into her home while everyone’s asleep like thieves in the night. She'll scream for help if they do so, which will cause all six of them to get caught by police officers. Even though she's hungry sometimes, cold most days, and hasn't had a decent meal in months, none of that matters anymore since death would come soon enough anyway.

Montparnasse is the leader of a gang and he tells them to go in and do the job. Thenardier says nothing, but Brujon suggests that they should leave. Eponine watches as they retreat into the darkness. Meanwhile, Marius has found Cosette weeping in the garden. Her father may be planning to move away with her for six weeks, which will force Marius out of his hiding place and back into reality. He asks Cosette if she would like to come along with him; he talks formally (using “you”) rather than addressing her by name or calling her “my love.” She asks what he expects her to do—she will go wherever her father goes because she loves him so much. Then Marius tells Cosette that it’s useless for him to try going on without her because he doesn't have any money or passport papers; all he can offer is his life at 16 Rue de la Verrerie (the address where we first met Jean Valjean).

The old man is still waiting for his grandson to come home. He has been doing so for four years, though he's not sure why. His daughter tells him that a portrait of her sister looks like Marius. However, when she asks if they can reconcile with the boy, he says he hates him and calls him an ingrate and wicked scoundrel.

Still, Mademoiselle Gillenormand’s attempt to insert Theodule as the new heir hasn’t worked. Theodule is vulgar and gloats too much about his mistresses; finally Gillenormand tells his daughter not to invite him anymore. One June evening, Gillenormand is thinking lovingly but bitterly of Marius, when the butler asks if M. Marius may come in. He stammers yes, and Marius enters.

Gillenormand's joy is not clear in his harsh words to Marius, asking why he has come. He says it isn't to beg Gillenormand's pardon and that he wants something else. Gillenormand asks what it is. Marius tells him that he wants pity for himself because of all the advantages of youth. However, this comes too late--Gillenormand rises up saying that Marius has everything while he wastes away and doesn't have a right to ask for pity from anyone anymore. This makes him more furious and angrier as he thinks about how much Marius will leave if the request is denied—he cries out that Marius has become a dandy with debts (debts are bad). Finally, after all these things said by Gillenormand, Marius finally admits what it was that he wanted: permission to marry Cosette at last.
Gillenormand rings for his daughter, who looks at Marius, frightened. Sarcastically, Gillenormand remarks that Marius has come merely for a formality. He asks if Marius earns anything by his trade of lawyer and Marius says he does not earn much. Gillenormand exclaims that he’s 21 years old and has no profession or income. He orders him to leave the house immediately but then changes his mind when he hears “Father!”

Marius tells Gillenormand that he’s in love with Cosette. Gillenormand responds that it’s natural to be in love at his age, and Marius should simply come talk to him about it. He will smooth everything over for them. The old man then starts laughing and tells Marius to make the woman his mistress; this shocks Marius, who picks up his hat and says that Gillenormand has insulted his wife by asking him to do such a thing: he can ask nothing more of him. This stuns Gillenormand, who stands there speechless for a moment before racing out the door; but when he returns, Marius is nowhere to be seen. In despair, the old man raises his hands toward his head and collapses into an armchair; then suddenly regains consciousness as if waking from a dream.

**Volume 4, Book 9**

Chapter 1: That same day, Valjean decides to go to England because of recent political troubles in Paris. He also notices Thenardier around the area more often than usual and thinks that he might be planning something. So, Valjean sits on a bench outside his house and sees a piece of paper fall right next to him. It says "MOVE AWAY FROM YOUR HOUSE." Valjean suspects that it came from Thenardier since no one else was around at the time.

In chapter 2, Marius wanders the streets of Paris all day. He's so miserable that he barely notices Courfeyrac and his friends, who are trying to get him out to a funeral procession for General Lamarque. At two in the morning, Marius returns home and finds Courfeyrac waiting there with some of his friends from the barricade. They want him to go with them, but he can't think about going anywhere other than Cosette's house at nine o'clock. When he arrives at her house at nine on time, she isn't there. He shouts up to her window but no one is inside her room either—she must have gone somewhere else without telling him first. So Marius sits down on the steps outside of her house in despair until Eponine shows up and tells him that his friends are waiting for him over by Rue de la Chanvrerie where they're building a barricade because government troops are coming into town again.

M. Mabeuf has been going through a terrible financial crisis, despite Jean Valjean's money landing in his lap. He had to sell all of his belongings, including furniture and books he'd collected over the years. Still, he remains serene about it all. One day, Mother Plutarque informs him that she doesn't have any money for food or other necessities. Mabeuf gazes at all the items on the shelf like a father looking at his children and takes one book off the shelf before returning with 30 sous (a French coin). He does this several times until each time is more difficult than the last because he's getting more somber as each item goes away from him.

The president of the Horticultural Society where Mabeuf is a member comes to know about his destitution. The minister invites him for dinner, but all are shocked by his rags at the minister's home. He then returns home and reads Diogenes Laertius (a biographer) in Greek that he had sold earlier to pay for Mother Plutarque’s doctor’s bill.
Mabeuf sits in his garden the next day with a drooping head. He hears shots and clamors as people fight, but he pays little attention to it.

**Volume 4, Book 10**

Chapter 1 The narrator describes revolt as a small spark of electricity that spreads and grows, rising from bitterness, enthusiasm, repressed instincts, youthful courage and other causes. Some theories say that this spark strengthens governments not overthrown. Revolutions in France had let out social grievances without resolving them but revolts following were not worth the bloodshed. Instead one popular movement must be distinguished from another each uprising must be considered on its own merits and causes.

Chapter 2: The narrator believes that revolts and uprisings are a perversion of democracy. Revolts are the war of a whole against a faction, whereas uprisings are the war of one part against another (rather than the whole). He points out several historical instances in which this has been true.

Riot and insurrection are both forms of conflict. Although riot is usually a material affair, the latter is always based on morals. Nevertheless, an insurrection is often associated with violence that can be avoided if people follow reason and justice instead. Universal suffrage allows riots to express themselves more peacefully in the future by giving them access to voting rights so that wars will eventually become obsolete.

The narrator says that the bourgeois are unable to see subtle differences. In June 1832, there was a revolt or insurrection, but it ended in sadness and melancholy. The people involved were respectful of what they did. The author will describe some details about the event because these things often get lost in history books.

In June, Paris was filled with rumors of a revolt after the death of General Lamarque. On the day of his burial, people began to arm themselves and assemble in groups. The National Guard joined them as they marched through the streets carrying their leader's body. Behind them were students, refugees, children, carpenters on strike and other workers who wanted to honor him by marching behind his coffin. The government watched this procession uneasily as some criminals took advantage of the situation to rob houses or loot shops along the route.

Chapter 3: The spark for June events was when General Lamarque died in June; on that day rumors spread throughout Paris which led to armed workers assembling together around Bercy Street (in eastern Paris). They walked with a massive crowd including students, refugees and children from all over France behind Lamarque's coffin while shouting "Long live freedom!" This huge march scared politicians because it included both enthusiastic supporters of revolution but also criminals who used this opportunity to rob homes or loot shops along their way.

A hearse was passing the Bastille when it stopped at a bridge. A man named Lafayette gave a farewell to Lamarque and then there was an official who fired shots into the air. The crowd started to drag the hearse across the bridge, but some people in uniforms went on horses and made them stop. Then someone shouted that Lafayette should go to town hall and Lamarque should be sent to Pantheon (a church). So
they started dragging him again while shouting "To arms!"

There is a lot of difficulty in tracing how riots spread and grow. Within 15 minutes, there were 27 barricades in one neighborhood alone as groups pillaged the small arms factory, looted stores, pursued National Guard officers, distributed arms and converted wine-shops into guard houses. One man who died was found to have on his person a map of Paris with intricate streets.

On June 5th, the center of Paris becomes a maze for soldiers. The streets are full of traps and ambushes, so the soldiers get confused while trying to fight back against students and other citizens.

In the years leading up to 1789, there were many rebellions in Paris. The church and government leaders seemed afraid of these uprisings. They would stop a fight if it was going on nearby during weddings or dinner time. In 1789, however, people are more worried about what is happening around them than they have been before. People start spreading rumors that there are hundreds of warriors hidden in a cathedral and more than 800 people get arrested by 9:00 PM that day for taking part in fights earlier that afternoon.

**Volume 4, Book 11**

Chapter 1 At the time when an insurrection breaks out in Paris, a small boy named Gavroche is walking down the Rue Menilmontant with flowers in his hands. He sees that there are pistols at a merchant's shop and decides to take one. On his way to join the battle, he sings popular tunes from the streets of Paris. After helping his father escape prison, Gavroche returns to find that they've left him behind again and he wonders where they went. He runs through several streets before arriving at Rue Saint-Louis and then Rue du Parc-Royal shaking his head at businessmen who are dressed nicely on their way home from work.

In chapter 2, a boy named Gavroche is walking through the streets of Paris. He calls out to his comrades that it's time to fight. At that moment, a horse belonging to one of the guardsmen falls down and Gavroche helps him pick up his horse. The man thanks him for helping him and asks if he knows what day it is today. Gavroche says no but then realizes it must be July 30th because there are posters all over town advertising "The Return of the Bourbons." A rag-picker comes by with her basket on her back talking about how expensive meat has gotten lately and then talks about King Louis XVIII returning from exile in England after Napoleon abdicated power earlier in the year. She also mentions how much she dislikes Napoleon Bonaparte's son who they now call "King of Rome" since he was born during Napoleon's reign as Emperor of France. They talk about these things until they notice that Gavroche has a pistol sticking out from under his jacket which makes them tell him not to walk around with such weapons or else something bad might happen to him like being shot by another kid playing at being an adult soldier just like their fathers were doing across Europe right now fighting each other in some stupid war between kings over land none of them could even find on a map anymore anyway so why bother?

A hairdresser is shaving a veteran. The two of them are talking about the past when a loud crash occurs and the window shatters. The hairdresser thinks it's a cannonball, but the soldier picks up a pebble and figures out that Gavroche broke it with his slingshot for revenge against those who chased away two boys earlier.
Chapter 4 Gavroche meets up with Enjolras, Courfeyrac, and their friends. They march to the Quai Morland where they're joined by students, artists, artisans, and others who are armed with clubs and bayonets. There's also an old man; M. Mabeuf. Earlier in the day they had met up with him walking around as though he was drunk; Courfeyrac recognized him because he'd often accompanied Marius home when Marius was alive. He told Mabeuf to go home because there is fighting going on; however, Mabeuf said that it was all good and followed them anyway now Gavroche marches ahead singing one of his popular tunes while everyone follows behind him in a long line

The crowd grows as they go along. Courfeyrac runs up to his room and gets his purse and hat. The porter says someone wants to speak with him when he comes back down the stairs. A thin, freckled man steps out of the shadows and asks for Marius. Courfeyrac doesn’t know where he is; he says he’s off to fight on the barricades. The pale young man offers to join him anyway because it sounds like fun. Even though they intended to go toward Saint-Merry, the crowd deviates (as crowds tend do) toward Rue Saint-Denis instead.

**Volume 4, Book 12**

Chapter 1: The Rue Rambuteau is a street in Paris. It was once the site of a famous barricade, which took place during the French Revolution. Today, people who visit that street don't know about it because it's just another ordinary street. But if you stretch out an "N" and touch it on one end with the Rue Saint-Denis and at another end with Halles, along its base would be three streets—the Rue Mondetour cutting through these strokes at crooked angles—all of this creating seven unevenly cut up islands or houses.

There are several small roads in the area that dead-end. At the end of one of these is an old tavern called Corinthe, which has been passed down from generation to generation and now belongs to a family named Hucheloup. They live on the second floor while they let out rooms downstairs for rent. The owner's son, Courfeyrac, comes here with his friends regularly because he feels comfortable there and knows most everyone who works there well. However, when he was young his father died suddenly and his mother became very depressed about it; as such she began serving poor quality food and wine at her tavern. She also stopped cleaning much so things got dirty but Courfeyrac still came back even though it wasn’t really what he had known before growing up there with his dad running everything smoothly just like before.

On June 5, 1832, two friends attend the funeral procession of General Lamarque. They meet with Grantaire at a cafe and talk about women and how they have been treated. He is very drunk but talks about his life in the revolution. Grantaire feels that God has not done enough for humanity; therefore, he does not believe in Him anymore because of all the wars and revolutions that have happened throughout history.

The students do not pay much attention to the lecture, but instead start talking about Marius's love life. Grantaire starts drinking again and gives a long speech. At that moment, a small boy enters the room and asks Laigle if he is Bossuet (his nickname). The boy says that a tall blonde man on the boulevard told him to tell Bossuet "ABC" from him (the man). Laigle hands 20 sous to the boy, who tells them that his friend Navret sent it. When he leaves, Grantaire begins describing various types of street urchins while Laigle thinks ABC must mean Lamarque's funeral as they have money now for it. Rubbing his hands in excitement, Laigle says they can touch up their revolution now with this new money. Grantaire does not
think much of this revolution: it is neither fantastic nor evil; just mediocre at best in his opinion. They stay at the tavern all day and night without leaving until dawn breaks through into their room.

Grantaire drinks a lot of alcohol after lunch. The others also drink heavily and become intoxicated as well. Suddenly, they hear the sound of an armed mob running behind Courfeyrac and Gavroche down the Rue Saint-Denis. Bossuet shouts that they can make a barricade here to protect themselves from the National Guard as they continue their recruitment efforts. However, Courfeyrac signals for them to stop in order to avoid any conflict with the guardsmen because he doesn't want anyone getting hurt or arrested during this demonstration.

Chapter 3 is about a narrow street in Paris, where the houses are well adapted for barricades. The people living on that street go into their homes and close their shutters when they hear the noise of fighting outside. They pile up barrels and stones to form a high rampart around the barricade. A man named Bossuet tells some travelers to stop their coach, which they do, and it's used as part of the barricade. One woman named Hucheloup goes upstairs into her house while another one named Mateloup tries to follow her but Grantaire stops her from going up there because he thinks she's ugly with dark hair. Enjolras yells at him not to disgrace them by making fun of women who are helping them fight against soldiers who want to destroy freedom for everyone in France. Grantaire seems embarrassed that he did something wrong so he sits down quietly and falls asleep quickly after looking lovingly at Enjolras.

Chapter 4 of Les Misérables is about Courfeyrac reminding the widow Hucheloup that she complained about the law before when a patron shook out a pane from her window and paid a fine. He says they're fighting for her now, so she shouldn't complain anymore. The crowd builds barricades in the streets, smashing street lanterns and building them higher than usual. It's an eclectic group of people who don't know each other but work together to build these barricades with great teamwork despite their differences. Gavroche is like a whirlwind, shouting orders everywhere at once while asking for Enjolras' gun if he dies first.

Chapter 5: The barricade is made of stone and wood, with a red flag flying from one side. It's fortified by tables and chests that are filled with ammunition. Courfeyrac distributes the ammunition to his men as they prepare for battle. They load their guns as darkness falls around them, preparing for an impending battle.

During the revolution, students spent hours waiting for something to happen. They would recite love poems and one of them was written down by the narrator. Meanwhile, a torch lit up in the barricade where they were stationed.

Chapter 7 suggests that the government is waiting for reinforcements. Gavroche spies a man with a large musket at the tavern and starts to play around him, suddenly becoming giddy and gleeful. At this point Enjolras approaches Gavroche and tells him to go out into the streets to see what's happening. As he leaves, Gavroche indicates that this man is a police spy.

The man introduces himself as a police officer named Javert. He says that he's here to determine whether or not the revolutionaries are planning anything on the right bank of Paris, near Jena Bridge. Four men immediately throw him into the room and search him for any information. They find a note from the prefect demanding that Javert find out about any insurgent activities in his area of authority. The men tie
him up with rope in the center of room so they can decide what to do with him later. Enjolras tells him that he's going to be shot ten minutes before they take over their barricade, but until then no one will use their gunpowder since they want it available for fighting off attackers when it is needed most at dawn tomorrow morning.

The narrator recalls an event that helped him understand the nature of social revolution. In particular, he tells about a man named Le Cabuc who was part of the crowd in the street. He suggested they break into a house near them and shoot from there because it would be more effective than firing from behind barricades. The others said no one lived inside, so Le Cabuc went over to try to get in anyway. He started banging on the door and eventually shot at it through a small window after being told by someone else not to waste their bullets since no one was home.

Enjolras turns around to see a horrified Cabuc. Enjolras orders him on his knees, and he falls to the ground. Enjolras then shoots him in the head. The onlookers turn their heads away from what they just saw. A silence falls upon them as Enjolras declares that what Le Cabuc did was horrible, but he had no choice but to kill him because insurrection must be disciplined. He obeyed justice by killing him, but now must also condemn himself for doing so since better things are coming in the future and it is for those things that they die now.

Later, it will be discovered that Le Cabuc is actually Claquesous. He leaves no trace and dies in the night. After this incident, Courfeyrac sees the small young man who had asked for Marius earlier that day.

**Volume 4, Book 13**

Marius was in so much pain that he didn't care if he died. He felt like nothing mattered anymore and just wanted to die. However, at the opportune moment, someone called him to go with them to fight on the barricade. Marius went through a few streets until it became too dangerous for him to continue walking because of all the people gathered there. They were whispering and carrying weapons but no one questioned what they were doing or how many people had joined them already.

The narrator paints a picture of the city, beginning with the Halles quarter. It's dark and there is no light or movement in it. Swords and bayonets can be seen gleaming all around it, but they're invisible to each other because of the darkness. The battle would have to end soon so that one could tell whether this was just a riot or a revolution. Nature seems to reflect this tone: heavy clouds are on the horizon and the sky hangs low over the streets.

Marius is one road away from the barricade, but he pauses to think about his father. His father was a hero who fought in several wars for France and died before Marius could get to know him. Now Marius has an opportunity to be brave like his father, so he tells himself that it's time for him to fight for liberty with his friends at the barricade against tyranny.

There is no such thing as a foreign or civil war, just wars and unjust wars. We need to fight in order to progress towards truth, reason, and justice. For example, when the English are ejected from France it's a great day for everyone because peace will follow. Marius thinks about these things while he watches his friend die on the barricade below him.
Volume 4, Book 14

Chapter 1: Shortly after ten, a young voice sings a popular song. Enjolras and Combeferre realize that it's Gavroche, warning them. Gavroche arrives and says that the enemy is here; he grabs Javert’s gun. Forty-three insurgents kneel inside the barricade, six in windows of the tavern. After several minutes, heavy footsteps become audible from within the darkness. From within the darkness a voice asks who goes there! Enjolras responds by saying “The French Revolution!” The street erupts in light as they army fires on them with gunfire, felling their flag and wounding several men through out their barricade area. One of Enjolras' friends picks up their fallen flag while asking for someone to replace him so he can get help for his wounded comrades. No one answers until Grantaire volunteers to take over holding up their patriotic banner high above his head once again

Mabeuf, who was sitting at the counter of a wine shop for some time, is suddenly startled by shots. He walks out and sees Enjolras asking people to raise the flag. Mabeuf takes it up and starts climbing up the stairs of the barricade. All around him take off their hats in respect as he ascends. Mabeuf's aged appearance seems to make him part of another age altogether—the French Revolution (1789–99). When he reaches the top, he raises the flag proudly while everyone else shouts "Long live!" Suddenly someone yells from below that they are firing on them now. Mabeuf repeats his cry before falling back down to earth after being shot himself.

Courfeyrac tells Enjolras that the man on the table is not a member of the Convention of Terror. He has, in fact, been there since before the revolution started. His name is Mabeuf and he's old-fashioned but kindhearted. Enjolras raises his voice and announces to everyone that this man has set an example for all revolutionaries by showing courage under adversity. The holes in Mabeuf’s coat are proof of how much he cared about others in need; therefore, his coat will be their flag from now on.

A small group takes Mabeuf outside and puts him on a table at a nearby tavern. As soon as Gavroche notices them bringing out a body, he warns everyone behind the barricade to get ready because soldiers with bayonets were approaching it quickly. Gavroche fires Javert’s gun without checking whether or not it was loaded, which makes everybody laugh at him except Marius who just walked into town. Suddenly, one bullet flies through several people standing near Gavroche and hits one soldier right between his eyes—Marius fired from far away using Javert’s rifle; nobody saw it coming even though they had all heard the gunshot.

As Marius enters the tavern, a soldier aims at him but is stopped by a young man in velvet pants. A shot pierces his hand but does not hit Marius. Enjolras calls for firing and then Marius tells the army to leave or he will blow up the barricade with some gunpowder he has. The sergeant says that they will all blow up together, so they should leave instead of staying there and dying. After thinking about it for a while, Marius agrees and drops his torch towards the powder barrel.

Marius is sitting with the other revolutionaries, and Enjolras tells Marius that he's now in charge. The death of Cosette, the fighting at the barricade, Mabeuf's martyrdom, and now Enjolras telling him to lead seem like a nightmare for Marius. He doesn't recognize or even see Javert. Meanwhile, soldiers are swarming around the end of the street but don't dare reenter because they're afraid of getting shot by insurgents. One insurgent is missing - Jean Prouvaire - who was taken prisoner earlier. Then they hear
someone yelling "Long live France," followed by a gunshot sound from nearby soldiers' guns. Enjolras turns to Javert and says his friends just killed Jean Prouvaire.

Marius remembers seeing a barricade, and he heads for it. Someone calls his name, and he looks around before finding Eponine lying on the ground. She's bleeding profusely from her hand and back, but she tells him that she stopped a bullet aimed at him. The bullet passed through her hand into her back when it was deflected by something sharp in her pocket. Now all she wants is to sit next to Marius so they can die together as friends.

Eponine initially didn't know why Marius wanted to see the house. She thought he must think she was ugly, but now she's happy because everyone will die and she'll be able to remember all the times that they've seen each other. At that moment, Gavroche sings a popular song again, and Eponine hears it and says it's her brother who shouldn't see her because he'll scold her for being out there in the cold. Eponine seems weaker, so Marius asks what happened to her; did someone hurt her? She tells him about how Cosette helped them earlier this evening. He takes out his handkerchief and gives it to Eponine as a token of friendship. She thanks him for keeping his promise not to leave until they meet again tomorrow at noon on Rue Plumet where they first met when their paths crossed by chance several months ago near Valjean's home. As she dies, Eponine smiles at Marius and tells him that although she doesn't love him anymore than any other person in the world now, there was a time when she loved him very much indeed—she hopes he isn't angry with her for saying so before dying from consumption (TB).

After Eponine had given Valjean the note to leave his house, she dressed as a man, delivered Cosette's letter for Marius and told him about how he could contact her in England. Her real intention was to help Marius find Cosette. She also joined the barricades with Courfeyrac and Enjolras because she wanted to be close to Marius. When they were about to die on June 5th, 1832, Eponine realized that if she died without telling Marius her feelings for him, it would torture her forever. So while everyone else was fighting off their attackers at the barricade, Eponine went over there and confessed her love for Marius before being shot by soldiers.

Marius is happy that Cosette loves him, but realizes there's nothing he can do to be with her. He writes a note saying it was impossible for them to marry and that he will die. On another note, Marius asks Gavroche to deliver the first letter tomorrow morning—the barricade won't be attacked until daybreak. Gavroche wants to stay at the barricade, but doesn't know what else to say. Gavroche runs off thinking about how quickly he could deliver the letter and get back in time for battle.

**Volume 4, Book 15**

At that moment, Jean Valjean is experiencing the same kind of turmoil as Paris. Cosette had resisted leaving Rue Plumet and they'd gone to bed in silence. The next day Toussaint told him about the fighting going on in Paris but he wasn't listening because his thoughts were focused on how safe they would be abroad. Suddenly, he saw a reflection of Cosette's blotting book where she drafted her letter to Marius before copying out a final version for him.

Valjean has lost a lot in his life and he is strong, but now he seems to have reached the end. He can't imagine living without Cosette. Valjean puts together all of the information and realizes that Marius was
involved with her abduction, which makes him hate Marius even more because it's not fair for him to love another man's fiancée. After talking to Toussaint about fighting around Saint-Merry, Valjean goes out into the streets.

Chapter 2: Valjean pauses at his doorstep, thinking about all the things that have happened. He is discouraged and depressed, but then he hears a distant gunshot. Gavroche appears from around the corner looking for something to eat. After asking what's wrong, Valjean puts a coin in Gavroche's hand for him to buy food with. However, instead of going to buy food like he was told, Gavroche throws rocks at streetlamps because it amuses him more than buying food does. Afterwards he realizes that Valjean gave him money so that he wouldn't break any more lamps and tells himself not to smash lanterns anymore out of respect for Valjean who just wanted to help him without expecting anything in return.

Valjean is warming to Gavroche, so he asks him about the letter. Gavroche says it's for Cosette and that it came from the barricades. Valjean wants to know where his answer should be sent. Gavroche tells him that it should go to the barricade in Rue de la Chanvrerie.

After Valjean reads Marius's letter, he goes inside and feels joy at the death of a man that he hates. Then, however, he realizes that everything must take its course and leaves. Later on in the day, Valjean puts on his National Guard costume with a gun under his arm.

Meanwhile, Gavroche heads back to the barricades. He is singing when he sees a hand-cart by the side of the street and a drunken man from Auvergne sleeping in it. He thinks that this would be perfect for their barricade, so he tips him out and writes a note saying that they received the cart as a gift from France.

Gavroche pushes the cart down a street. He passes by a group of National Guardsmen who are sleeping. One guard suggests that there is more than one person outside, but another guard doesn't believe him and thinks it's just one person with a lot of stuff in his cart. Gavroche runs into an armed soldier who asks questions about what he's doing out so late at night. Gavroche answers back in defiance, and then says that he has to go find a doctor for his wife because she's having her baby right now. The sergeant gets angry and orders the soldiers to shoot, but they miss their target as Gavroche throws the cart at them and runs away from them towards the barricade while saying "tata" over and over again.

**Volume 5, Book 1**

The most famous barricades in Paris were not from the Revolution of 1848. The narrator notes that it was often common people, rather than those who had privileges, who suffered during revolutionary violence. In the insurrection of June 1848, there were two major barricades: one at Saint-Antoine and another at Temple. Saint-Antoine's barricade was made out of all sorts of odds and ends and rubbish from the streets; it symbolized the despair, confusion, and fury felt by ordinary people during this time period.

There, people would attack the revolution (universal suffrage, the assembly, and the republic) in the name of revolution. Meanwhile, across town at Faubourg du Temple there was a barricade that was attacked by thousands. The leader of this barricade held out for three days before he died. All but one of his followers were killed as well.
A navy officer named Courtenet built the Antoine barricade. A weak man who had been in the galleys, Barthelemy constructed the Temple one. Later on, he would duel Courtenet and kill him, then he would be hanged for it.

The Rue de la Chanvrerie barricade is only a small part of the later Paris barricades. The insurgents took refuge in another house and tended to their wounded that night, while Enjolras stayed with Javert in the tavern. At 2:00 am, there were still 37 men left. Near dawn, they gained renewed energy and Combeferre led the conversation towards Caesar who was betrayed by Brutus among others (also known as Marcus Junius Brutus).

Chapter 3 In 1815 Napoleon had returned from his first exile on Elba and conquered France within a month. He was defeated at Waterloo by allied forces under Wellington’s command after marching into Belgium to fight them head-on instead of maneuvering around them as planned; he then abdicated for a second time and went into permanent exile on Saint Helena where he died six years later aged 52 without having ever set foot on French soil again.

Chapter 3: Enjolras returns from making reconnaissance and says that the entire army of Paris is ready to strike. The populace has abandoned them, however, so they must build up the barricade and show that republicans don't abandon the people. Chapter 4: Enjolras says only thirty men should remain so as not to waste more lives. Combeferre says they may all want to get themselves killed but they must think about their wives and children. They shouldn't be selfish because it would mean murder for those families who would grow helpless and wretched without them. Marius raises his voice and says that he's right; family men should leave now or stay forever because suicide would only mean murder for their families too if they died in battle while leaving behind women and children who were left alone with no one to take care of them. Slowly, others among their ranks begin pointing out other men, saying that some have families at home or are married, etc., until five step out (four National Guard uniforms). Four of these start arguing over who will stay in which uniform when a fifth falls onto the ground—Valjean has just entered the barricade! Bossuet asks who he is but Marius answers gravely—he knows him well enough already! Everyone welcomes Valjean warmly into their group despite his past crimes since there's nothing else anyone can do except fight together against tyranny!

Enjolras has expanded his thinking. He's committed to progress and both the French Republic and human equality, fraternity, peace, and harmony. The men should picture a future where everyone is educated so that they can all be equal in fighting for justice; this will end injustice just as if history had ended. If they die here, it'll be like dying in the light of the future because their deaths will have contributed to ending injustice by educating people about equality through universal education.

Marius wondered why Fauchelevent (Valjean) was there. Meanwhile, Enjolras entered and gave Javert a drink of brandy. Javert asked to be bound rather than against the post. He recognized Jean Valjean: he wasn't even shocked. The men prepared for the attack silently, no longer hoping for victory; they fixed their eyes on the edge of the street. Then a cannon appeared pushed by artillery-men; everyone fired at them but none were struck down. Bossuet shouted Bravo! for their adversaries while Combeferre noted that it was a new technology for cannons to be able to move like that without horses or wheels in order to fire more accurately at barricades from afar as opposed to being mounted on carts with wheels which would make aiming difficult and inaccurate since one could not truly aim over such long distances from atop moving vehicles like those used during sieges centuries ago when armies were much smaller in size.
compared today's modern armies where thousands of soldiers are deployed in battle at once requiring greater accuracy in targeting enemy positions otherwise any chance shots fired off into the distance would miss completely wasting precious ammunition and resources whereas now thanks to this new technology cannons can target enemies far away with great precision using advanced ballistics technologies making modern warfare more efficient resulting in higher survival rates among both troops and civilians alike thus reducing casualties overall leading ultimately towards achieving peace through war...

Marius asks Gavroche what he's doing there, and Gavroche says he delivered the letter to the porter who was asleep. Marius asks if he knows that man (Valjean), and Gavroche lies and says no. Meanwhile, an infantry company appears at the end of the street, and the cannoneers re-load their weapon. The insurgents burst forward, but this time the cannon rips through a wall with grape-shot and kills two people. Enjolras takes aim at an artillery sergeant, a young man who probably has a family; they shouldn't kill him because it would be wrong to take away someone else's father or husband or son for something that person didn't do. However, Enjolras doesn't listen; instead of aiming at his face—where it wouldn’t hurt anyone else—he aims for his heart so that other soldiers won’t have to suffer from losing their loved one in battle again.

Valjean fires at the ropes that hold up an old woman's mattress. It falls into the street but Valjean retrieves it and places it in front of a cannon ball. The next cannonball is less powerful, thanks to the mattress.

Cosette wakes up from a dream about Marius, who she thinks will find a way to see her. She gets dressed and opens the window, but then is overcome by sadness when she sees birds in a nest outside her window.

The army continues to attack, but the revolutionaries are still holding their ground. Valjean shoots a soldier in the head, causing him to fall off of a chimney and land on his back. Bossuet asks why he didn’t kill him, but Valjean doesn't say anything.

The narrator notes that the National Guard is known to be zealous against insurrections. At times like these, civilization believes it's in danger and takes swift action. This includes executing an insurgent like Jean Prouvaire after just five minutes.

On June 6th, the National Guard company is commanded by Captain Fannicot. He's a supporter of the government and hopes to defeat the insurgents on his own. He sends his company rushing down the street, but they're immediately shot at by insurgents and killed. Enjolras is annoyed that their ammunition was wasted for nothing because barricades are usually crushed in the end, though sometimes improbable things do happen.

Chapter 13: Enjolras exclaims that Paris seems to be waking up with barricades being built on other streets and a woman firing at the army from behind a window. Women throw old pieces of pottery and utensils onto soldiers in Rue Saint-Denis. The army has to stamp out flares on multiple sides, but they are successful within half an hour.

Chapters 14 and 15 both show Courfeyrac's humor getting better as he realizes that Enjolras manages to be great without a love interest. The author will likely mention how Bossuet laughs about this. Suddenly, they hear another cannon attack the Saint-Merry barricade. The insurgents fire at it but Enjolras shows
concern about their ammunition supply for the fight against the cannons; fifteen minutes later, all of their ammunition is expended.

A boy named Gavroche, who was hiding behind a barricade with the rebels, heard that they were going to retreat. He decided to help them out by reloading their guns for them while they retreated. Courfeyrac told him not to leave because it was too dangerous. Gavroche found an easy way around this problem and crawled on his belly toward the soldiers' guns while bullets flew all around him. The soldiers laughed at him as he sang songs from his childhood and played hide-and-seek with death. After several close calls, one of the bullets finally got through and struck him in the leg; however, he continued singing until another bullet hit him in the head and killed him instantly.

Two small children are walking along the Luxembourg Garden on a sunny day. They were taken in by Gavroche, who was acting as their guardian. These boys are part of Thenardier's family and have been leased out to Magnon.

A boy is hungry and wants his father to buy him food. They watch a man with his son, who is dressed as a National Guardsman. The family stops to feed the swans, and the younger boy takes a bite of his brioche but spits it out because he’s not hungry anymore. His dad tells him to throw it away for the swans, and he throws it into the water near the edge. At that moment, they hear drums beating from afar, so they leave. Meanwhile, two little boys approach the water’s edge looking for food; one of them leans over and grabs some cake while fighting off some other birds there at the same time; then he gives this piece of cake to his brother.

Gavroche is dead. Marius barely notices that a bullet grazed his head, but Courfeyrac bandages it when he returns to the barricade. Enjolras whispers to Combeferre that Valjean's way of defending the barricade isn't normal for someone who doesn't kill anyone. It’s an odd situation in the tavern as a firestorm rages outside.

Chapter 18 The narrator notes that a barricade creates a kind of dreamscape, into which one may enter without remembering any of the death and shadows outside of it. The clock strikes midday. Enjolras orders the men to carry stones up to the roofs of the houses. They barricade the window below and secure the wine-shop’s doors. Enjolras tells Marius to stay outside and observe. When the drum beats for battle, they will rush from inside their barricaded position to join in on fighting at another location nearby called “the Barricades” where there is an ongoing fight against government forces led by Javert. Valjean steps forward and asks if he can be part of those who kill Javert, which is granted by Enjolras.

Chapter 19: Valjean is left alone with Javert. He unties the rope and drags him out of the wine shop, where Marius witnesses their disappearance into a nearby lane. Valjean sees that it's Eponine's body lying on the ground, and he realizes who she is. He tells Javert to take his revenge for all that has happened because he believes he knows her. Instead, Valjean cuts Javert loose and says that they're both free from this moment onward.

Valjean tells Javert his address, in case he should escape. Javert snarls that Valjean annoys him and sets out to find him. Valjean fires a shot into the air and returns to the barricade. Meanwhile, Marius realizes that this was the man who had approached about Thenardier's murder, but Enjolras told him his name is Javert. He asks what it means and then hears a gunshot followed by Valjean telling everyone "It has been
done." Marius feels uneasy after hearing this.

The barricade is about to fall because the masses have abandoned it. Now, no one will open their doors to those who are fighting for utopia. It's almost always too soon when a movement turns into revolt. However, progress can never be stopped and even after catastrophe, there's still hope for change.

However, the narrator says that sometimes people resist change. They want to keep their possessions or family life instead of joining in on progress. Some insurgents may make errors, but they're admirable for their courage and commitment to changing the world. These men didn't hate King Louis Philippe; they just wanted a better way of living, without kings who claimed divine right.

The author claims that it's love of art, which translates to its ability to understand the light in everything, that really makes France strong. The future will support art with science and both will improve life on Earth. This idea is reflected by this book called Les Miserables and how each character learns basic lessons about goodness throughout their lives.

Chapter 21: The army is attacking the barricade. It seems like it will fall, but the soldiers on it continue to fight back with great strength and courage. They have been fighting for 24 hours straight without a break and are running low on supplies, but they don't give up. Their bravery reminds us of the Trojan War from Homer's "Iliad." Combeferre, Courfeyrac, Enjolras and Marius all die in battle.

Enjolras and Marius are the last two leaders of the barricade. The center gives way, and a final assault succeeds in breaking through. People begin to retreat confusedly into a locked house. Enjolras tells them to go inside, but they stay outside with one person: Marius, who has just been wounded on his collarbone and is about to faint.

The soldiers begin to lay siege on the wine-shop. They are angry because a sergeant was killed and rumors of a headless body in the tavern have angered them further. Enjolras says that they will fight until their last breath, then he kisses Mabeuf's hand (the only kiss he has ever given). The battle becomes monstrous and ignoble as paving stones are thrown from windows, followed by an attack on the door when it finally yields.

When the soldiers reach the second floor, they find only Enjolras still standing. He throws away his club and tells them to shoot him. Suddenly, everyone is quiet as they watch this man who has no weapons. A soldier lowers his gun and says that he feels like he's about to shoot a flower.

Grantaire, who had been sleeping off a hangover since the night before, wakes up. A soldier shouts for everyone to take aim at Enjolras and Grantaire cries out "Long live the Republic!" and crosses the room to stand by Enjolras' side. He presses his hand in support and smiles. The soldiers open fire on Enjolras with eight bullets, killing him instantly. They also kill Grantaire as well as others hiding in the attic of an apartment building where they were staying while planning their rebellion against Napoleon's government after he took power earlier that year.

Marius fell unconscious after the battle. Jean Valjean, who was there to help the wounded, carried Marius away and hid him behind a building. He then surveyed his surroundings to find an escape route for both of them. He noticed that there was an iron grating covering a hole in the ground underneath him, so he
lifted Marius into it and went down himself as well. They found themselves in a long corridor underground.

**Volume 5, Book 2**

The narrator compares Paris's sewer system to its intestine. The sewers are full of filth and mud that could nourish the land if they weren't deposited in rivers, which flow into the ocean. If there were a way to transport water from fields directly into cities and send human waste back to the fields, production would increase and reduce misery. Instead, there is disease and waste beneath one Paris.

Chapter 2: If Paris were to be lifted off like a cover, the sewers would look like an impressive tree grafted onto the river. The sewer of Paris is ancient and has served as many things in its lifetime, including being a hiding place for thieves. Now it's seen as a conscience of the city because all civilization's filth is laid bare rather than concealed above ground. To better understand society, we should enter the sewers so that we can reconstruct society from what lies below.

Chapter 3

At some point in Paris' history, the sewer flooded and sent mud back into the city. This happened as recently as the beginning of the 19th century. Even then, people were hesitant to visit or think about cleaning up this place; it was considered a lower world. However, one day in 1805, Napoleon's Minister for Interior Affairs told him that an intrepid man wanted to visit these sewers. His name was Bruneseau.

Once Bruneseau went past the sewer's entrance, eight of twenty workers refused to follow him. They had to clean things up, count grates and vents, map branches and track currents. They found vaults from the 17th and 18th centuries as well as dungeons that were hollowed out in ancient times. The visit took seven years (from 1805-1812), during which time all of the sewers were disinfected so they wouldn't be scary anymore.

Chapter 5 Today, the sewers are clean and cold. They were rebuilt by a man that no one remembers: Bruneseau. Chapter 6 However, Paris' underground labyrinth is now ten times as large as it was at the start of the century. The ground upon which the city is built is difficult to dig into but quick to crumble because of its instability. In 1832, when cholera arrived in Paris, there had not yet been any extensive reconstruction projects for sewage systems; therefore some parts of the sewer system resemble those from antiquity with uneven terrain and cesspools that cause disease.

Chapter 1 It’s so easy to fall in love with this city—the beauty of its old buildings, its romantic streetscapes—but I’ve always found something even more fascinating about New York City: how it works! Who would have thought that a place like Manhattan could work? No other island on earth has ever supported such a population density or such an enormous amount of commercial activity without sinking under its own weight or drowning in filth and corruption."

**Volume 5, Book 3**

Jean Valjean is in a dark sewer, having just been blinded by the midday light. He finds his way through
this fog and decides to go downhill instead of uphill because he thinks it will get him closer to the Seine River. However, he ends up going left instead of right and then realizes that this path may lead him too far away from civilization so he decides to trust fate and turn right.

Valjean is dragging Marius, who's still alive. He thinks he's going to the Grand Sewer but instead ends up in the Montmartre sewer, one of Paris' most complicated systems. Valjean feels gloomy and even horrified because he doesn't know if Marius will die or if someone else will enter the sewer and kill them both. Suddenly, he realizes they're now descending into a deeper part of the system but knows it would be more dangerous to turn back than continue forward.

Valjean realizes that he's in a part of the city where there are no police. Suddenly, he hears voices and vehicles overhead. He turns around to see policemen who have been following him for some time now approaching him from behind.

On June 6th, the police ordered that sewers be searched because they thought that insurgents might take refuge there. Jean Valjean watched them from the shadows as they turned left towards the Seine river.

Two men were seen by the Seine. One was trying to catch up with the other, but he waited until they got near a place where criminals would meet. A policeman signaled for a coachman to follow them. The first man in rags went along the quay toward Jena Bridge (ideal for escaping), but instead of going up it, he turned into an alley and disappeared behind some rubbish at the water's edge. The policeman couldn't see him anymore, so he looked below and saw iron bars leading to a dark vaulted corridor that led under the bridge.

Valjean continues to march through the night, stumbling along. He is so tired that his strength begins to give out. At about 3 a.m., he reaches a place where there are four paths in front of him—a sewer with two ways up and down, and two ways forward. Valjean chooses the path leading downhill because it's safer than going upwards, even though it means walking by water that could drown him if he fell in (which does happen later on).

Valjean stops to rest. He puts his hand on Marius's heart and finds that it is still beating, although he has many other wounds. Valjean dresses the wounds and looks at him with hatred in his eyes. He finds a note in Marius’s pocket asking that he be taken to Gillenormand's address. Valjean continues walking, becoming aware of how far away from Paris he must have gone by the absence of vehicles above him, until finally reaching the city limits where there are no more buildings or people around him.

Valjean is like a man walking along the beach who doesn't notice that it's getting harder to walk. He can only realize this when he looks back at where he came from, and realizes that his feet have sunk into the sand. This is similar to Valjean in Paris's sewers because there was both water and dirt, which created a kind of quicksand.

Valjean is now in a part of the sewer that's filled with water. He feels like he can't go back, but then the water reaches his waist and he has to hold Marius up. Suddenly, Valjean steps on something solid and climbs out of the water. He stops for a moment to pray.

Chapter 7: Valjean sets out again, though he is exhausted. After a hundred paces, he looks up and sees
daylight at the end of the vault. He no longer feels his fatigue or Marius’s weight. He reaches the outlet but stops when he discovers that it's closed by a grating with two rusty locks like those used in prisons.

Jean Valjean sits Marius by the wall and tries to open it, but nothing works. He asks himself how he can get out of this situation without getting caught again. Jean Valjean turns his back on the bars and slides down to the floor. All he thinks about is Cosette.

Valjean is walking down the street when he hears a voice behind him. It's Thenardier, who says that they should share their prize money. Valjean doesn't recognize him and thinks he's dreaming. Thenardier tells Valjean to give him half of his money if he wants to get out alive. He assumes that Valjean killed Marius for his money, so if Valjean gives up half of it then Thenardier will let him go free. However, since they're in the middle of an open space with no one else around, it would be easy for them to trace where the murderer came from if someone found Marius' body later on.

Valjean finally feels at peace after having escaped from the sewer. He then sees Javert, and is overcome with fear. Thenardier had set Valjean free while knowing that Javert was waiting for him above ground. In turn, Valjean asks Javert to help carry Marius home in his carriage.

The trio arrives at the Rue des Filles-du-Calvaire and Javert addresses the porter. He says that Gillenormand's son is brought back, dead. The porter doesn't seem to understand but wakes up Marius' great aunt, who calls Basque (the servant) and they go for a doctor. Javert touches Valjean's shoulder and they descend the stairs together. Valjean asks one more favor: let him go home for an instant so he can get his daughter out of harm’s way before being arrested again.

Chapter 11: Valjean wants to tell Cosette where Marius is and to warn her of what's about to happen. He tries not to think about suicide, but he accepts his fate. As they arrive, Javert tells Valjean that he'll wait for him downstairs. Valjean ascends the stairs and looks out the window from the second floor. Javert has gone. Chapter 12: Meanwhile, Marius is carried into the living room with a shallow wound in his ribs, slashes on his arms, and a broken collarbone; it's unclear how serious the cuts on his head may be as Basque prepares bandages while Dr Barthelemy inspects him then Gillenormand comes around looking at Marius astonished saying that he was dead but now here alive so what happened? He says that he got himself killed fighting against grandfather just because of hatred towards him (Gillenormand) only for this old man to suffer more misery which made Gillenormand cry saying "I've gotten myself killed over there on those barricades just because I hate you” as if trying to make up for everything all these years by being nice now when its too late! The doctor calms him down telling him "don't worry sir!”

Marius's grandfather is upset that Marius has spent his life fighting for the Republic instead of enjoying himself. He doesn't want to accept that Marius was killed in the war, and he thinks it would be better if he were dead than alive. The grandfather yells at him for dying, but then realizes that he isn't actually dead. The grandfather cries out in joy and collapses from shock.

**Volume 5, Book 4**

Chapter 1: Javert walks down Valjean’s street, his head drooping. He takes the shortest way to the Seine. At the angle of the Notre-Dame bridge, he stops for a moment and thinks about what just happened
between him and Jean Valjean. It was an excruciating inner turmoil that divided his conscience in two; he had never experienced such a thing before. For several hours, he had been at odds with himself over whether or not to imprison Jean Valjean again—he knew it was against regulations and social organization to do so—but something made him release him anyway. Now they both have put themselves above all rules and regulations, which is something that doesn’t make any sense to Javert because he has always relied on these rules in order to function properly as a police officer.

Javert cannot understand Valjean's behavior. He sees him as a convict, someone who is not worthy of kindness or mercy. Javert also remembers Madeleine and realizes that she was actually the one who did something wrong, not Valjean. This makes no sense to Javert because he's always believed that if you commit a crime then you deserve punishment. In addition, he has never seen anyone be so kind to another person before because it would go against his beliefs about justice being served by punishing people for their crimes. It upsets him greatly that there are exceptions to this rule and it confuses him even more when he starts questioning what other possibilities might exist in the world beyond just doing your duty as an officer of the law.

Javert feels that he has a new superior to the police chief—God. However, he doesn’t know how to act in front of this new authority or how to hand in his resignation to God for having committed great infractions against this new law. His soul is being derailed and he feels that God is creating a state of anarchy. He sees only two ways of escaping his despair: recapturing Valjean and sending him back to the galleys or suicide because there's nothing left for him anymore since everything was taken from him by Valjean.

Javert doesn't go to the barricade, though. He goes to a police station and writes several recommendations for the police force based on his experience with criminals: they should have chairs in their cells, pay only two sous (a small sum of money) if they want to see the warden, and gendarmes shouldn't repeat what prisoners say when being interrogated. He leaves this letter at the table addressed to administration and returns home over the Seine River.

Javert looks into the water and sees his own reflection. Then, he takes off his hat, places it on the edge of a quay (a narrow pier), stands up over the parapet (the railing at the top of a bridge or wall), and jumps into the water.

**Volume 5, Book 5**

Boulatruelle, a convict who had previously tried to follow Valjean into the forest, was now working as a road-mender. One day he saw someone familiar in the woods and vowed to find out what that person was doing there. He pursued him but lost sight of him in the trees. Boulatruelle climbed up a tree for better visibility but then accidentally fell off it and broke his leg.

Boulatruelle sees a man enter an open glade and approach a chestnut tree. The man jumps down from the tree, zigzags through the underbrush, flails among nettles and hawthorns, then leaves behind a pick-axe in front of the tree. Boulatruelle cries out “Thief!!” into the horizon.

Marius is sick for a long time. His grandfather sits with him every day, and a well-dressed man comes by
to check on him and bring supplies. Six months after the riots have ended, France has mostly forgotten about them.

When the doctor announces that Marius will recover, Gillenormand's spirits are greatly improved. Before he didn't believe in God, but now he prays and says "Long live the Republic!" Meanwhile, Marius continues to think about Cosette. His grandfather's kindness hasn't entirely won him over—he thinks that when his grandfather learns about Cosette again, his true character will be revealed once more. He remembers how harsh his grandfather was towards his father before he died and wonders if it has anything to do with their relationship (which is not as strong as it used to be). Gillenormand notices that Marius hasn't called him "father" since being restored to health. One morning they argue about politics based on a newspaper article, and Marius firmly states that those men of '93 were giants (a reference to the French Revolution). Gillenormand remains silent for a long time after this comment.

One day, Gillenormand tells Marius to eat meat because it will help him regain his strength. He also says that he has something important to say: he wants to marry Cosette. His grandfather agrees and laughs merrily, while Marius is surprised and trembles a little bit. Gillenormand says that the girl has spent her time waiting for him instead of marrying someone else if he died. She’s charming and discreet, Gillenormand adds, and if Marius doesn't love him anymore then at least marry her so she can be happy too. The old man bursts into tears as well, which surprises Marius even more than what he said before about wanting to marry Cosette. After all this talk about marriage, the young man asks if they can see each other again today; after some hesitation on his grandfather's part (he's still crying), Gillenormand agrees with a nod of his head.

Cosette and Marius arrive at his room. Cosette is delighted, but also afraid of what might happen next. Jean Valjean follows them to the door, then stops outside. The porter can't remember seeing him before, but he still feels like he's seen him somewhere before. Gillenormand asks for Cosette's hand on behalf of Marius, and Valjean bows in response. Then they pause so that everyone else will talk loudly enough for the couple to speak privately about their engagement plans with each other.

The grandfather exclaims that Cosette is beautiful, but then he turns gloomy and says that they won't have much to live on after he dies. Valjean says that Marius has stumbled upon a girl who's actually a millionaire. Meanwhile Marius and Cosette gaze at each other, unaware of all this.

Valjean has already buried the money that he got from Laffitte's at the forest of Montfermeil. He had returned to get it when he needed it, and now keeps only 500 francs for himself. He knows Javert is dead, because he saw in a newspaper article that said that Javert was found drowned at a probable case of mental illness and suicide.

Chapter 6: Valjean and Gillenormand prepare for the wedding. They invent a family history for Cosette, in which she is an orphan with Valjean as her guardian. A dead person willed her money anonymously, so there’s no need to explain that detail. Since Cosette already calls him father, it doesn’t matter that he isn’t really her father; she continues to call him father despite this fact.

Chapter 7 The wedding day arrives at last! All of Paris is agog over the event. Marius and Cosette are married inside Notre-Dame (the bridegroom dressed in black), while Thénardier and his gang lurk outside waiting for their chance to rob somebody rich when they leave the church after the Mass or during some
other part of the festivities later on (Thénardier has chosen not to commit any crimes since being released from prison).

Gillenormand is excited about the wedding, but he thinks that people in the past were better at organizing such events. People today are too serious and don't have manners or luxury like they used to. Cosette and Marius stop listening to him because they're only looking at each other. Gillenormand's aunt has been shocked for a while now, but she decides to leave her inheritance to them after all. They'll live with her father when they get married.

Marius sees Cosette every day, accompanied by Valjean. He doesn't entirely understand the man and wonders if he might have seen him in the barricade. Marius is haunted by thoughts of his dead friends and it's difficult for him to believe that he has become rich, has a family, will marry Cosette—all things that are unexpected. Once Marius asks Fauchelevent if he knows Rue de la Chanvrerie but Fauchelevent replies that he doesn't know where that is. Marius decides that was just a hallucination.

Marius goes around asking for two men: Thenardier and the man who saved him. But Madame Thenardier is dead, and no one can find her husband or daughter Azelma. The other man was brought to Rue des Filles-du-Calvaire by a coachman on June 6th; he stood at Javert's command on the quai (around 9 pm); another man came out of a sewer grating with someone whom he appeared to be carrying in his arms. He put this person into the carriage before going away with Javert into the dark.

Marius wants to find out who saved his life. He asks the police, but they have no record of any arrest on June 6th. The coachman must have made it up. Marius wonders what happened to this man and wishes he knew how much money Cosette has so that he could find him. Valjean stays quiet about the whole thing.

**Volume 5, Book 6**

Chapter One of "Les Misérables" is the wedding night. The ceremony takes place in Gillenormand's house on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins. The prior evening, Valjean gives Marius 600,000 francs and a chamber in the Gillenormand house is set up for him. A few days before the marriage, Valjean had accidentally crushed his right thumb but didn't make a fuss about it; he only carried his arm in a sling. Therefore he couldn't sign the document and so Gillenormand did instead.

Chapter 1: February 16th 1833 was chosen to be Javert’s final punishment for Jean Valjean because…

The Rue Saint-Louis is closed for renovations, so the wedding carriage has to go down a different street. It's Shrove Tuesday, and there are lots of children in costumes walking around. A wagon full of people dressed up as characters from the Middle Ages passes by, and one of them thinks she knows who's inside the wedding carriage because they're wearing a sling on their arm. The girl says that she's sure it’s someone who lives nearby—maybe her father? She tells him that she needs to follow the carriage to find out where they live so he can come back tomorrow night. He calls her Azelma but says he needs to hide again tomorrow night after he goes home tonight.

Cosette and Marius were both happy. They had been through a lot, but they'd found each other in the end. Their families accepted them as well. It was wonderful to see everyone getting along at their wedding.
party. Gillenormand seemed particularly joyful today—he wasn't even upset about his political views anymore! However, he did seem worried when Fauchelevent left early because of Basque's injured hand.

After dessert, Gillenormand makes a toast and delivers an inspirational speech about love and joy. He gives them his blessing. A little after midnight, all have left except for the narrator who sits in the house looking at light shining on it because of God's presence in marriage.

Valjean went to the room where he and Marius had been when they first arrived at the Rue de l'Homme Armé. He returned to his old home, which was now empty. He opened a valise that contained Cosette's clothing from ten years ago and remembered how he'd found her shivering in the forest, carrying water, and how they'd crossed together. His head dropped as he began to sob over these memories of their journey together.

In this chapter, the narrator explains how Valjean has struggled with his conscience throughout the story. He begs for mercy and resists doing what he knows is wrong. In this final part of the book, he feels like he's going through a last battle between good and evil. He enabled Cosette's happiness by giving her up to Marius, but should he keep her away from him? Should he sacrifice himself or Cosette? Is it selfish to keep her close or is it his duty as a father figure to protect her? He struggles with these questions until dawn when all at once, he realizes that God sees everything so there's no need for him to doubt himself anymore.

**Volume 5, Book 7**

Basque opens the door to a man named Fauchelevent who asks for Marius. He says that he wants to surprise him, so Basque can't say anything about it. Valjean waits in the drawing room, which is still messy from the wedding party earlier in the day. When Marius sees Fauchelevent, he's happy and tells him to stay here with them because they're all going to live together now.

Valjean interrupts Marius and tells him something important. He is an ex-convict, who was sent to the galleys for 19 years for theft and condemned to life imprisonment because of a second offense. Valjean assures Marius that he's not Cosette's father but a peasant from Faverolles whose name is Jean Valjean. After a moment, Marius looks at him with recognition in his eyes. He believes what Valjean says about himself without hesitation.

Jean Valjean tells Marius that Cosette was an orphan, and he needed to take care of her. He fulfilled this duty while he could, but now she is "Madame Pontmercy," and all he has to do is make the 600,000-franc restitution and acquaint Marius with who he really is. Marius is stupefied and asks Jean Valjean why he hasn't kept this secret, since it seems like no one cares—there must be another motive. Jean Valjean slowly answers that it's a strange motive: honesty. It was tempting to embrace this new family and live with the married couple, but his place in society doesn't allow for him to have a family; not even this one. He's left outside as if there were no place for him at all—and when he gave Cosette in marriage, any inklings of family ended completely between them. He can lie if it will help her out (as Fauchelevent helped him), but now that it would only benefit himself—he cannot. Everything would have been arranged perfectly without anyone getting hurt—if only Jean had kept the name Fauchelevent (one given to him by Fauchelevent himself out of gratitude)—except his own soul.
Valjean says that there is a silence that lies, which means he has lied for years. He was pursued and denounced by himself for stealing bread to live. Today, he will not steal a name because Marius despises him and he wants to respect himself as an honest man. Valjean pauses then says it is dishonest to take another’s name because of the way people are judged based on their names. Both men are silent in thought before Valjean asks Marius if he can imagine what would happen if his identity were revealed after years of concealing it.

Marius says that he will ask his grandfather's friends to attain Valjean’s pardon, but Valjean says that it isn't necessary because he is supposed to be dead. The only pardon he needs is a pardon of conscience. At that moment, Cosette enters and asks what they're talking about. She prattles on happily and Marius tells her to leave as they are discussing business, but she refuses saying she won't be bored. He finally agrees to let her stay if she promises not to interrupt the conversation again; however, when she tries too hard for attention with silly stories, Marius becomes annoyed and tells her not to talk at all unless spoken to directly. She leaves in tears after promising him again that she'll behave herself this time around.

When Marius is alone, he shakes his head and says that poor Cosette will be devastated if she finds out. Valjean trembles and says that he hadn't thought about telling Cosette. He begins to sob. Marius reassures him that he'll keep the secret safe from her. Valjean asks if it would be better not to see her again at all. Marius answers yes, but then Valjean suddenly turns around and yells that what he wants is to go see her—this is why he confessed everything in the first place because if Marius permits it, then maybe once or twice a month when they're less likely to be caught sneaking into each other's houses at night, they can meet up together like this so long as Marius allows it since these are the only times where they can really talk freely without fear of being overheard by anyone else or getting caught by someone who knows them both personally outside of their disguises as Mme Thénardier and Toussaint Louverture.

Marius is troubled by the revelation that Valjean was a convict. He wonders if he should have told Cosette about it, or asked questions about him. Now he realizes that even if he had found out, it wouldn't have changed anything between them. Still, Valjean trusted him with his secret and now Marius seems to be coming around to accepting him as sincere.

Marius then asks himself why Valjean came to the barricade, and he recalls how Valjean dragged Javert down the street. He also remembers that there was a gunshot. Marius wonders how it's possible for crime and innocence to coexist in one person—the monster shadowing an angel. Marius realizes that God works in mysterious ways; man cannot know everything about Him or His plans. But he keeps coming back to what he knows: Valjean is a convict, which makes him repulsive in Marius’ eyes. Because of this, Marius did not ask further questions of Valjean when they met at Cosette's house because he was afraid that this darkness would cast a shadow onto his life with Cosette. So now, while trying to get closer with Cosette by asking her more about her childhood, instead of learning more about her past from someone who cared for her as much as anyone could care for another human being (Valjean), he shuts his eyes completely out of fear that any time spent talking with such a "monster" will only bring trouble into their lives together (a common theme throughout the novel).

**Volume 5, Book 8**

The next day, Valjean arrives at the Gillenormand's house. He waits in the antechamber on the ground
floor and Cosette comes to meet him. She asks why he wants to see her there, but he says that it doesn't matter where they meet. Then she invites him to dinner with them, but he refuses because she has a husband now.

Cosette wonders if Marius and Valjean are angry with her because she's so happy. She asks him why he doesn't want to see Marius anymore, but then Valjean turns pale. He tells Cosette that his only desire is for her to be happy, and he uses the informal "tu" form of address when talking to her, which makes Cosette very happy. However, once again he switches back to the formal "vous" before leaving.

The next day, Valjean returns and things change again. Cosette no longer questions the changes that are happening in her life. She is adapting to the new norms of her household. Marius always tries to be absent when Valjean visits them. Cosette begins to settle into married life and becomes more detached from Valjean every day. One day, however, she calls him "father" instead of "Monsieur Madeleine" or just "Jean" as she had been doing before this incident happened. He tells her to call him by his name and not father because it's weird for a daughter to call her father "father". She laughs at this and continues calling him Jean like before but fails to see how sad he has become after hearing his name coming out of her mouth once again after such a long time.

Cosette doesn't call Valjean 'father' anymore, but he continues to see her every day. One April afternoon, Marius suggests that they go back to the garden in Rue Plumet. Cosette and Marius are still gone when Valjean arrives that evening. He waits for them but then leaves because he's getting tired of waiting. The next day, he asks Cosette how they got there and she says on foot and by carriage. She explains that it was too expensive to take a cab all the way there so they took a cab part of the way and walked the rest of it. Valjean notices how frugal their spending habits are so he suggests buying another carriage or hiring another maid since one is clearly not enough for them both now since they're living together as man and wife (and probably having sex).

One day, Cosette tells Valjean that Marius had said something odd to her: whether she’d be brave enough to live on only the 3,000-livre income of his family rather than the 27,000 of hers. Valjean only listens in gloomy silence. He begins to realize that Marius suspects the money comes from a corrupt source. The next day, the two habitual armchairs are gone. Valjean has understood Marius’s intimations and doesn’t return again for a while. Cosette exclaims at this but soon gets distracted by other things going on in her life with Marius anyway. She sends a servant over to ask if he was ill or just traveling again and says he is simply beginning to travel again himself now as well after being sick for some time (a lie).

Throughout the spring of 1833, passersby in the Marais begin to notice an old man dressed in black traveling from the Rue de l’Homme Armé to the Rue Saint-Louis each day at a certain hour. Each time he reaches the Rue des Filles-du-Calvaire, pauses and gazes into that street with a tragic air. A tear falls down his cheek, and then he returns home. Little by little, he completes less and less of this journey until one day he doesn't leave his house anymore. Children sometimes follow him and laugh at him because they think it's strange that someone would cry all alone on a street corner for no reason.

**Volume 5, Book 9**

The author warns the reader not to blame Marius for marrying Cosette. He was just doing what he
thought was right. The narrator also says that Marius shouldn't spend any of his 600,000 francs before learning their origin. Meanwhile, Cosette is still attached to Valjean deep down inside. Sometimes she gets upset about Valjean's long absences with her husband, but she loves him even more than her husband and allows herself to be drawn away from Valjean because it's normal for youth to turn away from old age.

One day, Valjean returns from his walk and doesn’t leave the next day. The porter asks him to eat something, but he fails to do so. She then calls a doctor and sends him to Valjean’s apartment. When the doctor leaves, he tells her that it is probably because of someone dear dying that he is not eating anything. Someone else should come by as well for visits; maybe she can bring one of her children with her?

One day, Valjean has a fainting fit and falls out of bed. When he comes to, he finds that his reflection in the mirror is unrecognizable. He realizes that he looks old and weak; just a few months ago, however, he looked much younger. In addition to this realization, Valjean also begins writing a letter to Cosette explaining why it's important for him to see her again before dying. He then stops writing when someone knocks on the door.

The next day, Marius is leaving the table when Basque hands him a letter from someone in the antechamber. The letter smells of tobacco and looks like it was written by Thenard. It tells Marius that he has information about his father's death, but he will only tell him if Marius drives out a certain individual from his household.

The narrator mentions that there is a man in Paris who can change villains into honest men. He does this by giving them a suit, which makes them look respectable. The Baron was seen at several dinner parties wearing one of those suits. This man wants to go to America and start his secret business for free: there's an assassin living with him named Jean Valjean—a former convict. Marius knows about it already, but he says coldly that he knows it.

The man becomes upset and says he will sell the information about Valjean's wealth. Marius tells him that he already knows this, because the man is Thenardier, who was once an innkeeper in Montfermeil. The man denies it, but Marius calls him a rascal and throws a 500-franc note at him. Surprised by the gesture, Thenardier takes off his coat to show respect for Marius' money. He adjusts his tone of voice as well as his appearance, which allows him to see Marius without recognizing him from before—a detail that helps prove later on in the novel that thenardier was not really looking at Marius when he saw Jean Valjean earlier (when they were both fighting).

Thenardier found out that the man in the sewers was named Marius Pontmercy, and he also discovered Cosette's name. Marius says that he'll tell Thenardier “the rest of the story.” In 1822, a man named M. Madeleine became very rich and founded hospitals, schools, and did other good deeds in his town. When he ran for mayor, an old convict revealed a secret from Madeleine’s past—he had been arrested before as Jean Valjean for stealing bread when he was starving to death after serving nineteen years on false charges of theft. That convict stole over half a million francs from Madeleine by forging his signature on bank documents and then escaped to Paris with those funds under another alias (Marius witnessed this). He killed Javert (the police inspector) who tried to stop him at the gates of Paris.

Thenardier looks at Marius as if he were conquered, but then smiles. He says that they are on the wrong
track. First of all, Valjean didn't rob Madeleine—they are the same person. Second, Javert killed himself (Javert). He pulls several newspapers from his pockets and shows them to Marius; one was published in 1823 and establishes that Valjean and Madeleine are one in the same; another newspaper is dated June 1832 and announces Javert's suicide. Suddenly, Valjean seems like a hero to Marius because he saved someone's life by sacrificing his own identity for twenty years!

However, Thenardier states that Valjean is actually an assassin and a thief. Marius becomes distraught once again as he listens to the story. On June 6th 1832, a man was in the Grand Sewer of Paris to hide himself when he saw another man dragging a corpse on his shoulder. The other man demanded the key from him but then took off some of his coat so that he could trace him later on. Now Thenardier takes out a strip of cloth from his pocket and Marius springs up in shock as he realizes it's part of the coat worn by the assassinated man which matches perfectly with his own black coat stained with blood.

Marius is furious that Thenardier has lied to him. He shouts at the man, calling him a liar and a villain. Marius throws 1,000 francs at the man and tells him to get out of there. Two days later, he leaves for America under an alias with his daughter Azelma. In America he continues his illegal activities by trafficking in slaves instead of alcohol.

Marius rushes out to the garden and tells Cosette that they must call a carriage. She thinks he's gone crazy, but she follows him. He tells her that Valjean went to the barricade to save him, and saved Cosette too. Marius has been monstrously ungrateful, so Gavroche delivered his letter not to Cosette but rather directly to Valjean.

Valjean weakly calls out that the knocker may enter. Cosette and Marius rush into the room. Valjean is overwhelmed, stammering that he thought he'd never see her again. He says that she must forgive him, then, and Marius as well. Marius cries that Valjean is asking for his forgiveness after having saved him at the barricade and in the sewers. Valjean tells him to be quiet; he doesn't want people to know about all this because it will ruin his reputation. Tomorrow, Marius says, you'll come home with us; Cosette exclaims how happy she is for "father" to live with them now.

Valjean says that it would be nice to live with Cosette and Marius, but he is going to die. He asks God for strength; however, he knows that dying will not hurt him much because he will go to heaven.

Valjean gets up and takes a crucifix from the wall. He lays it next to his bed, and Cosette cries that they've found him too soon only to lose him again. Valjean kisses her sleeve, and he explains how much money they really have. The porter comes upstairs, but Valjean says he doesn't need a priest because he has one already. He points above his head, and the narrator notes that the Bishop was probably present at this point in time as well.

Valjean's breathing is laboured, and he asks Cosette to come closer. He tells her that dying in this way surrounded by love is a good thing. He points out the candlesticks on the chimney piece, hoping that whoever gave them to him would be pleased with what he could do with his life. Valjean tells Cosette about Montfermeil, when he first touched her hand and gave her a doll; how she should forgive the Thenardiers for being wicked people and remember Fantine's name (Fantine was Cosette's mother).

The narrator takes us to a cemetery where we find a plain stone with French poetry written on it. The
poem is about the person buried there, but doesn't reveal his name or any background information.