

Before You Read



Jean Valjean

I spent¹ 19 years in prison², but now that I've gotten out³, I want to change my life and become a good man. I try to help the poor⁴ and take care of⁵ my dear Cosette.



Cosette

I grew up⁶ neglected⁷ in the Thenardiers' inn⁸, but Jean Valjean rescued⁹ me. We have a happy life together, but we're always moving¹⁰, like we're running from something.



Inspector Javert

I'm a policeman, and I've been chasing¹¹ Jean Valjean for years. Somehow¹², he always seems to¹³ escape from¹⁴ me, but I won't give up¹⁵. I'll find him if it's the last thing I do.



Marius

Even though¹⁶ my grandfather and I don't get along¹⁷ anymore, that's all right because I'm in love with¹⁸ Cosette. I want to marry¹⁹ her, but it's hard to find her since she and her father are always moving.



Thenardier

Ever since²⁰ Jean Valjean took Cosette from my inn, my family has been poor. I have to do many things, including²¹ stealing²², to get money for my family.

1. **spend** [spend] (v.) 花費 (時間)
(spend-spent-spent)

2. **prison** ['prɪzən] (n.) 監獄

3. **get out** 出來

4. **the poor** 窮人

5. **take care of** 照顧

6. **grow up** 長大

7. **neglect** [nɪ'glect] (v.) 忽視

8. **inn** [ɪn] (n.) 客棧

9. **rescue** ['reskjʊ:] (v.) 拯救

10. **move** [mu:v] (v.) 搬家

11. **chase** [tʃeɪs] (v.) 追捕

12. **somehow** ['sʌmhaʊ] (adv.) 不知怎地

13. **seem to** 似乎

14. **escape from** 自……逃離

15. **give up** 放棄

16. **even though** 即使

17. **get along** 和睦相處

18. **be in love with** 與……相愛

19. **marry** ['mæri] (v.) 結婚

20. **ever since** 自從

21. **include** [ɪn'klʊ:d] (v.) 包括

22. **steal** [sti:l] (v.) 偷竊
(steal-stole-stolen)

Chapter One

Two Desperate¹ Souls²



One cold evening in October of 1815, a man with a long beard³ and dirty clothes walked into the French town of Digne. The man was in his forties and very strong. He carried a bag and a walking staff⁴.

The man entered an inn⁵ and said to the innkeeper⁶, “I’ve been traveling for a long time, and I’m very tired. I need a meal and a place to sleep. I have money to pay you.”

The innkeeper looked closely at the strange man. “I know who you are. You are Jean Valjean. You’ve just been released⁷ from prison⁸. I don’t serve⁹ people like you! Get out of¹⁰ here immediately!”

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| 1. desperate [ˈdɛspərt] (a.)
不顧一切的；拚命的 | 7. release [rɪˈli:s] (v.) 釋放 |
| 2. soul [saʊl] (n.) 靈魂 | 8. prison [ˈprɪzən] (n.) 監獄 |
| 3. beard [bɪəd] (n.) 山羊鬍 | 9. serve [sɜ:rv] (v.) 接待 |
| 4. walking staff 拐杖 | 10. get out of 離開 |
| 5. inn [ɪn] (n.) 客棧 | 11. peacefully [ˈpi:sfəli] (adv.) 平靜地 |
| 6. innkeeper [ˈɪn,ki:pər] (n.)
客棧老闆 | 12. rest [rest] (v.) 休息 |
| | 13. lie down 躺下 |
| | 14. wooden [ˈwʊdn] (a.) 木製的 |
| | 15. difference [ˈdɪfərəns] (n.) 差別 |



Jean Valjean left peacefully¹¹. Outside it was dark, cold, and windy. He was desperate for a place to rest¹². He lay down¹³ on a stone bench in front of a church and tried to sleep. But a woman came out and asked, “How can you sleep outside on that stone bench?”

“I’ve been sleeping on a wooden¹⁴ one in prison for nineteen years. What’s the difference¹⁵?”

One Point Lesson

◆ **I’ve been sleeping** on a wooden one in prison for nineteen years.

我已經在牢裡的木板椅上睡了十九年了。

have been V-ing: 表示已經進行某個動作，或從事某個工作一段時間了

e.g. He **has been waiting** for you for two hours.
他已經等你兩個小時了。



The woman pointed to¹ a small house next to the church. “You could stay there,” she said.

The Bishop² of Digne was a gentle³, old man who lived with his sister and a servant⁴. He helped anyone who was in need, and he never locked his doors.

That evening, he was sitting by the fire when his sister said, “Brother, people are saying there’s a terrible man in town. The police have told everyone to lock their doors and windows.”

But the bishop only smiled. Suddenly there was a loud knock⁵ at the door.

“Come in,” said the bishop.

The bishop’s sister and servant trembled⁶ when Jean Valjean walked into their house, but the bishop was calm⁷.

“I am Jean Valjean,” said the stranger. “I’ve just been released from prison after nineteen years. I’ve been walking for four days, and I desperately need a place to rest. Can you help me?”

The bishop told his servant to set another place at the table for Valjean. “Sit down, and warm yourself⁸, Monsieur⁹ Valjean,” said the bishop. “Dinner will be ready soon.”



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| 1. point to 指著 | 6. tremble ['trembəl] (v.) 發抖 |
| 2. bishop ['bɪʃəp] (n.) 主教 | 7. calm [kɑ:ləm] (a.) 鎮定的 |
| 3. gentle ['dʒentl] (a.) 和善的 | 8. warm oneself 暖和自己身子 |
| 4. servant ['sɜ:rvənt] (n.) 僕人 | 9. monsieur [mə'sjɜ:r] (n.) 先生 (法語) |
| 5. knock [nɔ:k] (n.) 敲門聲 | |

✓ **Check Up** Fill in the blank with proper word.

Valjean found no place to _____ because he had just been released from prison.

Ans: rest



3

After the big meal, Valjean began to relax¹ and look around the small house. The bishop's house was not luxurious², but he could see the valuable³ set of silver knives, forks, and candlesticks⁴ at the table. Then he noticed the bishop's servant putting the silverware⁵ away⁶ in a cabinet⁷.

The bishop handed⁸ one of the candlesticks to Valjean. "Here, this will light⁹ your way. Follow me to the spare¹⁰ bedroom," said the bishop.

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| 1. relax [rɪ'læks] (v.) 放鬆 | 6. put away 收好；儲存 |
| 2. luxurious [lʌg'ʒʊəriəs] (a.) 奢華的 | 7. cabinet ['kæbɪnət] (n.) 櫥櫃 |
| 3. valuable ['væljuəbəl] (a.) 值錢的 | 8. hand [hænd] (v.) 傳；遞 |
| 4. candlestick ['kændl,stri:k] (n.) 燭台 | 9. light [laɪt] (v.) 照亮 |
| 5. silverware ['sɪlvərweɪ] (n.) 銀器 | (light-lit/lighted-lit/lighted) |

Once they were in the room, the bishop said, "Good night. And don't forget to have a bowl of¹¹ our fresh cow's milk before you leave tomorrow."

Valjean was so tired that he fell asleep¹² with his clothes on. But even though¹³ he was exhausted¹⁴, he woke up only a few hours later. Unable¹⁵ to sleep, he brooded¹⁶ about his past. Life had been terribly unfair¹⁷ to him, and he was still furious¹⁸ about it.

In 1795, Valjean had lost his job as a lumberjack¹⁹. But at that time he had been supporting²⁰ his widowed²¹ sister and her seven children. He was caught stealing²² loaves of²³ bread to feed²⁴ them and had lost the best years of his life for that.



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| 10. spare [spɛr] (a.) 剩餘的 | 18. furious ['fjʊriəs] (a.) 忿怒的 |
| 11. a bowl of 一碗 | 19. lumberjack ['lʌmbərdʒæk] (n.) 筏木工人 |
| 12. fall asleep 睡著 | 20. support [sə'pɔ:rt] (v.) 資助 |
| 13. even though 儘管 | 21. widowed ['wɪdɔʊd] (a.) 守寡的 |
| 14. exhausted [ɪg'zɔ:stɪd] (a.) 筋疲力盡的 | 22. steal [sti:l] (v.) 偷竊 |
| 15. unable [ʌn'eɪbəl] (a.) 不能的 | 23. a loaf of 一條 |
| 16. brood [bru:d] (v.) 沉思 | 24. feed [fi:d] (v.) 餵養 (feed-fed-fed) |
| 17. unfair [ʌn'feɪ] (a.) 不公平的 | |