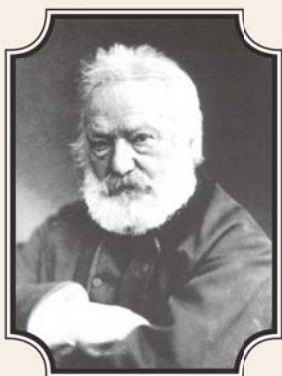


Introduction

作者簡介

維克多・雨果

Victor Hugo (1802~1885)



Victor Hugo was a famous French poet, novelist, and playwright. He was the third son in his family. His father was a high-ranking officer in Napoleon's army, and his mother was an extreme Catholic Royalist. Hugo was interested in literature, but his father wanted him to be a soldier.

Hugo published his first collection of poems, *Odes et Poesies Diverses*, in 1822. After that, he published several collections of poems, novels, and plays over a twenty-year period. After his daughter died in 1843, he focused on politics for the next ten years. When Louis Napoleon seized power in 1851 and established an anti-parliamentary constitution, Hugo called him a traitor to France. Hugo left France and lived in exile for nineteen years, during which time he became absorbed in writing. His best works came from this period. The novel *Les Miserables* (1862), along with *Notre-Dame de Paris* (1831), is considered his best work.

Hugo died in Paris on May 22, 1885, at the age of 83. He was given a state funeral. Two million people in Paris mourned his death, and he was buried in the Pantheon.

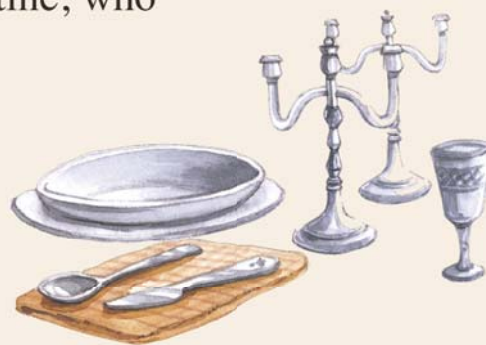
Les Miserables, translated variously from the French title as The Miserable Ones, The Poor Ones, or The Wretched



Poor, is considered one of the greatest novels of the 19th century. It consists of 5 volumes and 10 books.

This novel included Hugo's thoughts on social and religious life. Hugo wrote passionately about establishing an ideal society and worked hard for the wretched.

The main plot is about Jean Valjean, an ex-convict. Jean Valjean, a poor man, was once imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread for his starving family. After being released from prison, he steals the Bishop Myriel's silverware and wants to get revenge on society. He is caught, but the bishop forgives him. Finally, Valjean repents and begins a new life. Valjean becomes a wealthy factory owner and is appointed mayor of his adopted town. But one day an innocent man is arrested and accused of being Jean Valjean. The man is going to be tried the next day. To save the innocent man, the real ex-convict decides to go to the trial and reveal his true identity. Valjean is promptly arrested. Imprisoned, Valjean soon escapes. Later, he meets Fantine, who used to be a worker at his factory, and her daughter Cosette. Valjean saves Cosette from a life of prostitution, and they live happily together. Nevertheless, Inspector Javert keeps chasing Valjean . . .



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6

Before You Read

The characters from *Les Misérables* are going to introduce themselves. Please greet them with a warm welcome.



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.

- 1. spend [spend] (v.) 花費 (時間)
- 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'glekt] (v.) 忽視
- 8. inn [ɪn] (n.) 客棧
- 9. rescue ['reskjʊ:] (v.) 拯救
- 10. move [mu:v] (v.) 搬移



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 any more, that's all right because I'm in love¹⁸ with 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.

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'klud] (v.) 包括

22. steal [sti:l] (v.) 偷竊

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.

1. desperate ['despəɪt] (a.)
不顧一切的；拚命的

2. soul [soul] (n.) 靈魂

3. beard [bɪəd] (n.) 山羊鬍

4. walking staff 拐杖

5. inn [ɪn] (n.) 客棧

6. innkeeper ['ɪn,ki:pər] (n.)
客棧老闆

7. release [rɪ'li:s] (v.) 釋放

8. prison ['prɪzən] (n.) 監獄

9. serve [sɜ:rv] (v.) 接待

10. get out of 離開

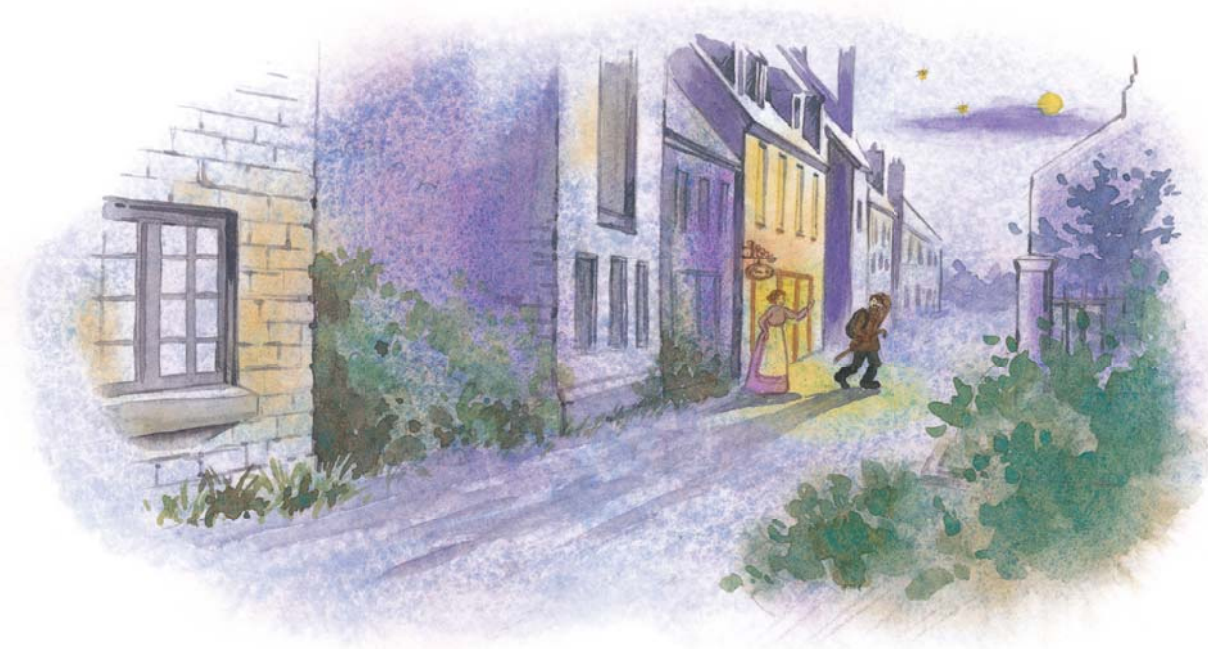
11. peacefully ['pi:sfəli] (adv.)
平靜地

12. rest [rest] (v.) 休息

13. lie down 躺下

14. wooden ['wʊdn] (a.) 木製的

15. difference ['dɪfərəns] (n.) 差別



I don't serve⁹ people like you! Get out of¹⁰ here immediately!"

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

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
ex. 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?”

1. point to 指著

2. bishop [ˈbɪʃəp] (n.) 主教

3. gentle [ˈdʒentl] (a.) 和善的

4. servant [ˈsɜːrvənt] (n.) 僕人

5. knock [nɒk] (n.) 敲門聲

6. tremble [ˈtrembəl] (v.) 發抖

7. calm [kɑːlm] (a.) 鎮定的

8. warm oneself 使……暖和

9. monsieur [mɒˈsjɜːr] (n.)
先生（法語）

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.”



✓ Check Up

Fill in the blank with proper word.

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

Ans: rest



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.

1. relax [rɪ'læks] (v.) 放鬆

2. luxurious [lʌg'ʒʊəriəs] (a.) 奢華的

3. valuable ['væljuəbəl] (a.) 值錢的

4. candlestick ['kændl,stɪk] (n.) 燭台

5. silverware ['sɪlvərweɪ] (n.) 銀器

6. put away 收好；儲存

7. cabinet ['kæbɪnət] (n.) 廚櫃

8. hand [hænd] (v.) 傳；遞

9. light [laɪt] (v.) 照亮

10. spare [speɪ] (a.) 剩餘的

11. a bowl of 一碗

12. fall asleep 睡著