

## Chapter 8

- The Marquis' carriage heads out into the country.
- As he drives, our narrator gives us a description of the land. It's parched and almost dead.
- All the crops that can be wrung out of the land have been grown and are slowly dying—like the poor people who farm them.
- Heading into the village, the carriage pauses.
- Our narrator takes this time to explain why the village looks so crummy, as well.
- See, the Marquis has been taxing his villagers within an inch of their lives.
- They don't have the money to buy food or care for their children because they're sending all of their money to the Marquis.
- In the village, the Marquis pulls aside a man whom he passed on the road.
- Understandably, the guy's a bit nervous. The Marquis isn't exactly known for his generosity around here.
- The Marquis demands to know what the guy was staring at when the carriage passed him by a few minutes before.
- Gulping, the man says that he was staring at another man who was riding below the carriage as a stowaway.
- Angry and astonished, the Marquis demands to know more.
- The peasant describes the stowaway as a tall, thin, white-faced man.
- Gabelle, the town tax collector and postmaster, steps forward to take charge of a hunt for the mysterious man.
- The Marquis' carriage heads out of town. They've almost reached the Marquis' country estate when a single woman stops them on the road.
- She's poor and desperate. Her husband has just died, their farm yields no money, and now her children are starving.
- She's not asking for food, however. She'd just like money to build a small tombstone for her husband.
- See, the woman is about to die, as well—and she's very upset at the thought that the townspeople won't be able to bury her beside her husband.
- Right now there's nothing to mark his grave. Without a headstone, no one will know where he was buried.
- Any guesses as to what the Marquis will do?
- Exactly. He rides away without listening to another word.
- Just in case you were wondering, this is exhibit B in the case Dickens is building.
- Case? What case?
- Well, we'll call it the "Why the Marquis is a heartless monster" case, for now.
- Hmm...killing a small child and ignoring the pleas of a desperate woman. Sounds like the Marquis is a monster after all.
- Luckily for him, he doesn't care.
- His carriage pulls up to a magnificent country mansion.
- As the Marquis gets out, he asks if Monsieur Charles has arrived yet.
- Hang on a second...don't we already know a Charles? What's going on here?

## Chapter 9

- The chateau of the Marquis is a pretty great place.
- "Chateau," by the way, is a French word for an estate or manor house of the nobility.
- This particular chateau seems very stony.
- It's got stone walls and stone battlements and stone lions on top of the stone battlements.
- The Marquis asks if his nephew has arrived. He hasn't.
- Asking for his supper to be laid, the Marquis stares out the window for a time.
- Finally, as he's coming to supper, the servants announce the arrival of his nephew.
- And his nephew is...Charles Darnay.
- We sort of knew that was coming.
- The two greet each other, but they don't exactly seem happy to be reunited.
- Darnay apologizes for being late. He's been detained by...business.
- Ever the gentleman, the Marquis accepts his apology.
- Darnay says that his task carried him into great danger—even possible death.
- We're guessing that he's referring to the trial for treason here.
- Moreover, he suspects that the Marquis was actually trying to support the accusations *against* him.
- Ever the gentleman, the Marquis doesn't say anything.
- Darnay suspects that the only reason he wasn't locked up forever in France is that the Marquis has been out of favor with the court for a while.
- In other words, his meddling in Darnay's business probably wouldn't have worked out the way the Marquis intended.
- Lamenting that the family name has fallen into such low regard, the Marquis suggests that people hate him because he's so much better than they are.
- Darnay doesn't exactly agree.
- Declaring that he's renounced his relationship with the family, Darnay begs his uncle to repair some of the damage that the family has done to those around them.
- Darnay says that his mother's dying wish was that the family would right some of the wrongs they've caused.
- The Marquis laughs at this folly.
- Angry, Darnay declares that he gives up his rights to the family land.
- He has a life in England now.
- The Marquis asks if Darnay has ever met a former patriot in England—a doctor with a young daughter.
- Darnay says he has.
- As Darnay leaves for the night, the Marquis mutters that he'd like to see him burned in his bed.
- Silence descends on the house.
- As the sun rises, terror grips the house.
- The Marquis has been stabbed in the night.

- Back in England, Charles Darnay, ex-French aristocrat, is making a decent living as a tutor.
- What does he teach? French, of course.
- Everything's coming up roses for him.
- Sure, it's not as lucrative as a decades-old title, but he's making honest pay for an honest day's work.
- Also, he's madly in love with Lucie.
- That is what's top on his mind as he heads over to Soho to the Manettes' house.
- The doctor is at home.
- His life has only continued to improve. He's working all the time, which makes him pretty happy.
- He hasn't relapsed into depression or memory loss in a long time.
- Darnay walks into the room, and Dr. Manette greets him happily.
- They haven't seen each other in a few days: Darnay has been busy working with his students, and the doctor has his patients.
- The doctor remarks that it's unfortunate that Lucie isn't around to greet him, as well.
- Darnay cuts him short. He knew that Lucie wasn't in.
- Sensing that this will be a conversation that he won't like, Dr. Manette asks Darnay to remember how essential Lucie is to his well-being.
- Darnay says he understands. He wouldn't mention her name—but he loves her too much to keep quiet any longer.
- Dr. Manette already knows this.
- He asks Darnay if Darnay has said anything about his love to Lucie.
- Darnay says that he'd never approach Lucie without telling Dr. Manette first. In fact, that's why he's here.
- Aww...what a gentleman, huh?
- Explaining that he understands how important Lucie is in Dr. Manette's life, Darnay says that he'll never do anything that would jeopardize their relationship. In fact, if he married Lucie, he'd want to move in with them.
- That way, their house would be disrupted as little as possible.
- Dr. Manette asks if Darnay wants him to say anything to Lucie about this conversation.
- Darnay immediately refuses.
- He knows how much Dr. Manette's opinion matters to Lucie.
- If he told her to jump, she'd ask "How high?"
- Okay, that's not actually in the book.
- But if he told her to consider Darnay as a husband, she'd marry him—without thinking about whether or not she loved him.
- Darnay doesn't want this. He asks Dr. Manette not to say anything.
- What he does ask, however, is that Dr. Manette agree to tell Lucie of this conversation if *she* comes to her father to talk about Darnay.
- In the interests of full disclosure, Darnay also wants to tell Dr. Manette about his past...in France.
- Dr. Manette seems startled. He immediately shuts Darnay down.
- He doesn't want to know about Darnay's history.

- Okay, okay: *if* Lucie and Darnay get married, then Darnay can tell him about his past. But that's a big if.
- Darnay leaves, happy with their conversation.
- A few hours later, Lucie returns from her shopping trip.
- Miss Pross meets her at the door.
- She's frantic. Ever since Darnay left, Dr. Manette has been up in his room, pacing the way that he used to. And he's been working at making shoes again.
- He won't come down. In fact, he doesn't seem to hear her when she calls.
- Lucie runs upstairs.
- Their voices are heard upstairs. Eventually the two come down; she convinces her father to fall asleep.

## Chapter 11

- It's late at night. Sydney Carton is working. Stryver is drinking.
- He's so happy about drinking, in fact, that he asks Carton to make another bowl of punch for the two of them.
- He has news.
- Stryver, it seems, has decided to marry.
- Carton knows Stryver pretty well. He asks if the woman has money.
- Stryver takes Carton to task for being such a cynic. He's actually fallen in love this time.
- In fact, Stryver's a bit worried that Carton won't like his choice of a bride.
- Once upon a time, Carton spoke slightly of the woman whom Stryver has decided to make his bride.
- Carton starts a little bit. Could Stryver mean....
- Yes. Stryver means to marry Lucie.
- Apparently, Stryver's willing to overlook her poverty.
- He's pretty magnanimous about the whole thing. Lucie will benefit a lot from the marriage, he thinks, but he's willing to take her, anyway.
- We just want to put our opinion on the record: Stryver's a pompous fool.
- Carton thinks so, too.
- While Stryver tells Carton about his plans, he also tries to dispense some free advice on how he thinks Carton should lead his own life.
- Perhaps Carton could find someone like...well, Lucie to marry.
- Lucie?
- Carton jumps uncomfortably.
- Stryver continues to offer unwelcome advice about Carton's love life.
- Luckily, Carton chooses to ignore him.

## Chapter 12

- Mr. Stryver's decided to bestow his magnanimous offer on Lucie.
- We want to vomit just thinking of it.
- He offers to take her out—twice.
- Unaccountably, she refuses.

- Not to worry, though. Stryver's sure that he's going to win her over.
- He's on his way to Soho to visit Dr. Manette (and to have a little word with Lucie) when he happens to walk by Tellson's.
- Since he knows that Mr. Lorry is a good friend of the Manettes, he drops by to share the good news.
- Mr. Lorry thinks that Mr. Stryver is too loud and too brazen to fit in well at Tellson's.
- In fact, the guy sort of sticks out like a sore thumb.
- Mr. Lorry tries to get Stryver to tone it down a bit, but Stryver doesn't seem to get the message.
- Glibly unaware of how arrogant he sounds, Stryver tells Mr. Lorry that he plans to marry Lucie.
- Mr. Lorry's upset.
- He knows exactly what the Manettes think of Stryver.
- Unsurprisingly, they don't think too much of him.
- He gently tries to break this to Stryver.
- Stryver's not the brightest kid in class. He keeps telling Mr. Lorry how perfect a suitor he is.
- After all, he's a prosperous lawyer. He's respectable and even well-off.
- Who wouldn't love him?
- In fact, after telling Mr. Lorry all about himself, Stryver's pretty sure that he should march right over to the Manettes' house and propose.
- Mr. Lorry disagrees.
- He's fairly certain that the whole thing will turn out...well, it won't be pretty.
- Stryver can't understand why this would be the case.
- After a bit of heated conversation, Mr. Lorry manages to get Stryver to agree to postpone proposing to Lucie right away.
- He tries to warn Stryver that Lucie might not think that Stryver is the amazing man that Stryver thinks he is.
- Instead, Mr. Lorry offers to head over to the Manette house to test the waters for Stryver.
- He's pretty sure that he knows what the answer will be, but he wants to save Stryver (and Lucie) from the embarrassment of a proposal.
- Stryver agrees to wait for a day until Mr. Lorry returns.
- After all, he follows Carton's lead on everything else. Why wouldn't he follow Mr. Lorry's lead on this?
- That's what Mr. Lorry's banking on.
- He heads over to the Manette house immediately.
- Mr. Stryver stretches out on the couch in Mr. Lorry's office and waits for him to return with an answer.