



WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE.

Jean Valjean, fugitive from the French authorities and one Javert in particular, plans to escape once and for all to England. His plans are interrupted by a students' law reform revolt which sweeps over the entire city. He attempts to rescue its ring-leader, young Marius, in love with his ward, Cosette. Javert appears on the scene, decides Jean is the "man higher up," senses his opportunity to right all previous humiliations and goes after him with a vengeance.

"Fighting for his life in the Faubourg St. Germain—troops all around him—he and his stupid students, getting themselves slaughtered—for what? I'd have kept him out of it, but when he didn't hear from his sweetheart he didn't care what happened. Now he's in it—trapped in a blind alley determined to die for his silly cause. Aren't men fools?"

"Now (continuing), when will this Cosette be back?"

"She's here—but I'm trying to get her to go to England to-night."

"England? And he's never to see her again perhaps?" To her it is a flash of hope that she may be able to part these two.

"If we tell her where he is she'll want to go to him."

"She couldn't get there. You might, but she couldn't."

CHAPTER 6.

Plans to Rescue Marius.

"Why should I go to him?"

"Don't you want to save him—for your daughter?"

"Why should I? She belongs to me—to me. I have a right—she's all I have—why, he may be beyond help already. Nothing to be gained, nothing, I tell you. What's this boy to me that I should risk my life—for him?"

Eponine looks up at him and nods. Then adds in a quiet voice:

"I know just how you feel, but it seems that they love each other. What are we going to do about that, you and I? That defeats us both, doesn't it?—Well, shall I tell her or will you?"

He looks down at Eponine. The cunning, crafty look in his eyes goes away. This girl has the courage and is showing him the only way out for him to take.

A knock at the door interrupts them. A coachman comes in and announces the horses in readiness for the flight to Calais. Jean is between Eponine and the coachman. He looks from one to the other. He decides.

"Cosette! Cosette!" (then to Eponine) "Can you show me the way—can we get him out?"

"I know the way in, but heaven knows if we'll ever get him out."

Jean is now galvanised into action.

"Cosette!" he repeats as the girl appears in the doorway of the room where she has completed packing, "we've found Marius! We're going to him now."

"Let me go with you!" gasps Cosette eagerly.

"It's impossible—you must stay here."

He dismisses the coachman with a word as he and Eponine disappear through the door into the streets of terror.

Free at Last.

Jean and Eponine come out. They are in the light for a brief second as they look around cautiously. Javert has the house spotted from an opposite window.

"Valjean!" To a gendarme, "Come on, follow, that's the man I want."

As they start off, two students fighting with a gendarme emerge from a doorway. Instinctively the gendarme with Javert stops to aid his comrade and Javert goes on alone.

Through narrow streets around dark corners and then up a dozen or so stone steps rush Jean and Eponine.

"Quick! He's following us—get up the stair—we're there!" gasps Eponine.

Javert arrives just as they disappear into the building. He fires with a command to "Stop!"

The street where Marius and his companions are barricaded is a blind alley. A house nearby is afire and over the barricade of doors, paving stones, etc., the defenders are firing, one by one. Wounded are strewn about the streets.

Javert is caught in the dead-end passage when a student steps behind him. Joined by others, breathless, dishevelled, they bar the way.

"Police! Spy!" is the warning cry.

"Spy, possibly: police, certainly" is Javert's calm reply.

"Ha! We've got one of them. The guillotine will run here and now!" shouts one, fingering a wicked-looking blade.

"He's Mine."

"Let me. This man has persecuted me for 10 years—he's mine!" It's Jean's voice.

"Do it then!" The knife is thrust into his hand.

"I'll do it as it was done in the galleys—the pistol in the mouth."

Cries in the distance attract the others and they rush off, leaving Jean and Javert alone. Jean turns to his old enemy, his thoughts flooded with revenge.

"Now, Javert, the hunt ends."

"End it then."

"It had to be one of us. You bounded me; you pursued me—it's you who drive me to this—you and your law!"

"Do your part. I've done mine. I stand by everything I've done. I take what comes."

(Continued on page 58.)

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