

Les Misérables

The story begins with a person who was just released from prison, and his name was Jean Valjean. Because he was an ex-convict, most people didn't help him, not even giving him a glass of water. Yet the bishop let Valjean stay at his house. One night, Valjean, surrendering to greed, stole the bishop's silver. To his surprise, the bishop not only forgave his crime but also gave the silver to him. Because of the bishop, Valjean decided to turn over a new leaf.

While I was reading this part of the book, it made me feel a little confused. Were people so cruel at that time? They refused all of Valjean's requests. Only the bishop decided to help him. I cannot but wonder what most people will do if a pathetic-looking man knocks on their door and asks to stay at their place. Will they block him outside the door, or will they let him get inside and stay? It may be difficult to decide. They don't know whether the man is a good man or not. If I were the people in this book, I think I would also say no to Valjean. Therefore, what the bishop did to Valjean impressed me a lot. The bishop opened his mind with no discrimination. It is hard for people nowadays to do what the bishop did.

After getting help from the bishop, Jean Valjean changed his name to Madeleine. He sold most of the silver to start his own business, and succeeded. He built a school, a hospital, and a house for old people afterwards. Though most people didn't trust what he did at first, Madeleine didn't stop doing the kind deeds. In time, Madeleine earned people's trust and became mayor of Montreuil.

Released from prison, getting a new identity, succeeding in business, building institutions for the needy, and becoming a mayor. What a dramatic life it is, especially for an ex-convict! Madeleine was such a generous man. At present, you can still see many successful people who give lots of things back to the society. No matter how much money it makes, a company won't be successful without giving something back to the society. I also admire Madeleine's perseverance. He didn't care about what people said about him, and he kept doing what was best for everyone to create social justice. I believe if there is a person like Madeleine these days, the Nobel Prize will absolutely belong to that person!

Unfortunately, even though Valjean changed his name to Madeleine, his fate did not change accordingly. Javert, a devoted police inspector, found out that Madeleine was Jean

Valjean and persisted in getting him back in jail. There were so many times when Javert almost caught Valjean, but Valjean always managed to flee. However, Javert would never give up looking for Valjean. But when Javert finally got Valjean outside the sewers, he just let Valjean go and then threw himself into the Seine and drowned in the end.

Why did Inspector Javert kill himself? Javert believed that it is human nature to be evil, and he also thought all the criminals should be locked up in jail. That's why he kept chasing Jean Valjean for such a long time. But after he found out how kind-hearted Valjean was, the belief that he used to insist on was shattered. So Javert decided to end his life. To be honest, I think killing oneself is really a foolish idea. Human beings can change their own minds. When doing something wrong, we just need to apologize. People will forgive our wrong doing, and give us a second chance to start another new life.

This book is filled with detailed and vivid descriptions of people from Paris's lowest class. It reflects how serious the gap between the rich and the poor was in Paris at that time. I am inspired by this adapted version of *Les Misérables*. And I look forward to reading the full-length story Victor Hugo wrote, knowing I will get more from the original version!