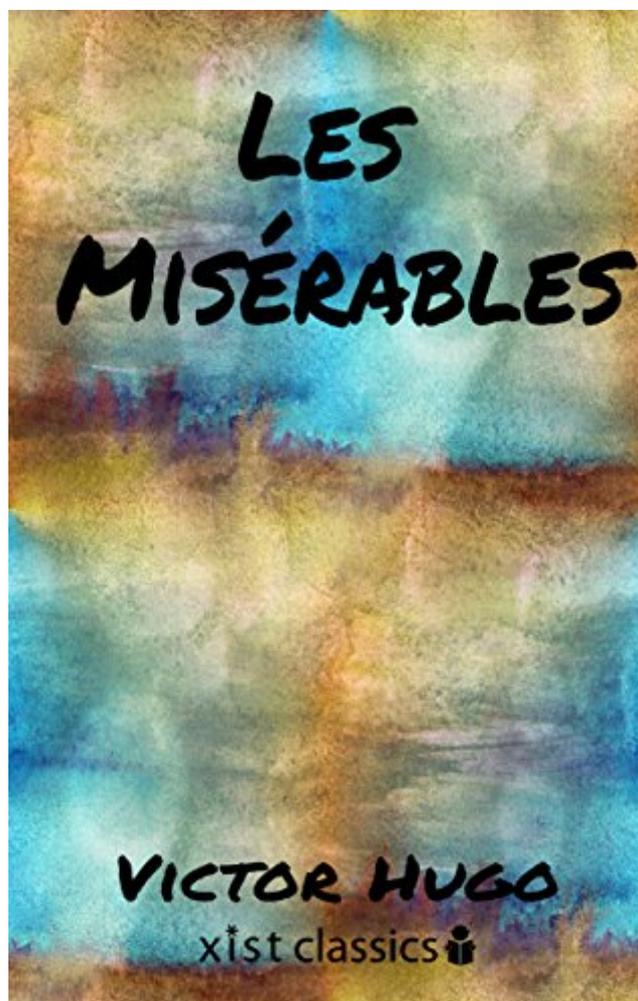


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# Les Miserables (Xist Classics)



## Synopsis

An epic novel of nineteenth-century France, *Les Misérables* tells the story of Jean Valjean, an ex-convict who works to redeem his past. Popularized by the film and musical, the novel is a sweeping masterpiece of character, adventure and emotion. This Xist Classics edition has been professionally formatted for e-readers with a linked table of contents. This ebook also contains a bonus book club leadership guide and discussion questions. We hope you'll share this book with your friends, neighbors and colleagues and can't wait to hear what you have to say about it. Xist Publishing is a digital-first publisher. Xist Publishing creates books for the touchscreen generation and is dedicated to helping everyone develop a lifetime love of reading, no matter what form it takes. Get your next Xist Classic title for Kindle here: <http://amzn.to/1A7cKKI> Find all our books for Kindle here: <http://amzn.to/1PooxLI> Sign up for the Xist Publishing Newsletter here. Find more great titles on our website.

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## Customer Reviews

Having not read many literature books in my lifetime, undertaking to read one of the finest piece of work ever written is a challenge. If you are like me and have read the reviews on before tackling this gigantic novel then I do not need to go on about how great this book is and what it is all about. Also,

if like me, you are a beginner in the world of fine literature, the following are a few tips I would give to those who haven't read *Les Misérables*. Here goes:

1. Get the book and do not be intimidated by its size. It is huge but the chapters are not very long and this version is made so that it is easier to understand. If you compare several different translations, you will see the difference.
2. Make sure to buy the Signet Classic version translated by Lee Fahnestock and Norman MacAfee (ISBN 0-451-52526-4). One reviewer said that this was the best version available and I totally agree with that. This is the new version based on the 19th Century Charles E. Wilbour translation. I had another version of this book and this one is by far the only completely unabridged paperback and also more reader-friendly.
3. Have a dictionary handy as there are many words that need translation.
4. Knowing the French language/history is a bonus but not required. Although knowing about French history will make some of his detailed descriptions of France not so tedious. In one chapter entitled "In the Year 1817" he talks about what was going on in France in that time period and although I read every single word, I must confess I was confused because it is all based on the history of France in that year of which I know nothing.

Here's my story about how I came to love this book. If you're an average schmuck, with a job (not in academia), a life, and some curiosity, this review is for you. If you're a literary blueblood, this review isn't for you. If your sworn enemy in life used to be your closest friend until they disagreed with you about whether Beowulf was a real person, be offended by my apathy and go away. If you had to turn off the TV newscasts on 9/11 because they were getting in the way of your arguments of whether sonnets devalue prose, just move on down to the next review. I'm not a Literature buff. I tolerated English in high school and college because I had to, skipping what I could, skimming what I could get away with, and bluffing where needed. The thought of picking up a stack of books and being dictated a marathon schedule to read them by still makes me bristle with quiet rebellion. After school I ended up with a job with lots of down time between bursts of madness. I decided to make use of slow time going back and leisurely reading some of the 'classics' that I probably should have read before. Twain, Tolstoy, Dickens, Stowe and others pulled from the titles of Cliff's Notes (Hey, if Cliff says they're important....) Funny, but classics are much more palatable when they are read on a leisurely timeframe. Some I liked, some I couldn't care less about, but *Les Misérables* was, literally, a life-changing text. I fell into *Les Mis* completely by accident. One day I forgot to pack whatever book I was working on that day and dug around looking for something other than Harlequins and Clancys.

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