



Les Misérables

James Reimann (Editor) , Victor Hugo

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Close your eyes and let this powerful music transport you to another time and place. Les Miserables has captivated generations, but with this critically acclaimed Broadway soundtrack, a beautiful story becomes an unforgettable experience. Against the backdrop of the French Revolution, the story of escaped convict Jean Valjean and his search for grace and redemption will leave any listener moved by the parallel of God's grace towards us. This dramatic reading of the entire novel along with the dynamic new recordings of five of the most popular songs from the original score will bring this masterpiece of the ages to life once again.

Les Miserables Details

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Author : James Reimann (Editor) , Victor Hugo

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From Reader Review Les Miserables for online ebook

Dianne Hammond says

Beautiful story!! I had a very hard time reading the unabridged version. Old English and much slower reading. This was perfect!!! Even this shortened version has much more detail than the musical. If you love the show, you must read.

Damian Cummings says

The only good thing about this edited version is the binding style- (which isn't saying much once you realise many books are published like this in the States!). Jim Reimann, in his Christian faith has stripped the book of its feeling- I mean, Fantane would never do THAT! Even in their utmost desperation. No good Christian ever would, right?

Go buy the original full text and get the full feeling...

Bee says

Yes, I finally read this wonderful book! It's weird without the songs, but I hear them in my head. So many feels! I loved it, I really did. We all know the story I think? Well, if you don't and you don't feel like reading a book of over 1000 pages long, this is the perfect solution. And I loved the drawings of the characters! Such a nice touch, was that in the original too? I can't compare it to the original, but I did love it and it is a book everyone should read at least once in his/her life.

Anne says

Hands down the most beautiful fiction story I've ever read! Good versus evil at it's finest!

I have not read the full version of Les Mis nor seen the film or the musical, so I cannot compare this book to those, however compared to other fiction novels, this one stands on it's own.

Velvetea says

I love this story~ in all it's forms it's always been so emotionally inspiring! It's always given me the kind of intense feelings of affection and connection with the characters that my heart spills open every time. That's how I felt about the musical and film adaptations, anyway....I'm sorry to say that the book left me feeling pretty indifferent. Maybe I know the story too well that nothing surprised me? It seemed that the translation was SO literal that it completely left out the rich artistry and poetic airs that I so much enjoyed in The Hunchback of Norte Dame. Here, the language is over-simplified~ I read the word "totally" so many times it

became an infuriatingly repetitive little nuisance, like a biting bug stuck in my sweater. The words read like a food that's been so over-processed that it's become fake, void of nutritional benefit.

But again, I might be too harsh, having grown up with the characters and story so defined in my mind already, and the original book apparently spanned over many tomes in length. I feel it's been too condensed, too "processed", but it's still a beautifully heart-wrenching story.

Katie says

I loved the original so obviously the main story line is great!

The point of this print was to keep it understandable to today's readers, on this point it succeeded.

But i did find myself feeling rushed in the story.

Hugo, while he included an awful lot of "fluff" and extra to his edition, also took his time in the telling which added detail and charm.

All in all, a must read if you just want to know the main plot line of Les Miserables.

Sojourner says

Victor-Marie Hugo is one of the most versatile persons to have walked on earth. He was a poet, playwright, novelist, essayist, visual artist, statesman, human rights campaigner, and one of the most influential exponents of the Romantic movement in France. He has written a number of classics including *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*.

Les Misérables: The Classic Story of the Triumph of Grace and Redemption, Adapted for Today's Reader by Victor Hugo, and edited by James Reimann is a retelling of one of his most famous works first published in 1862 which has virtually immortalized him. As amply made clear in the title, it has been adapted for today's reader.

In the process of writing one of the greatest novels of all time, Victor Hugo has created one of the most famous characters in literature, Jean Valjean. The writer par excellence crafted an incredible story taking the reader right into the Parisian underworld during the uprising of 1832 with an awe-inspiring pragmatism that is unrivaled in contemporary prose. Victor Hugo vividly painted a stunning battle between good and evil, portraying the sentiment and restlessness of the poor and disenfranchised of the new republic of France. In it he focuses his attention on the plight of the escaped offender Jean Valjean who was imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread, and the determinations of the persistent policeman out to recapture him.

It is a gripping and engaging story that brings to full circle the truism "desperate times call for desperate measures." It is a sharp and stark portrayal of the pathetic and wretched condition of the common man in France during the period. When the state is unable to meet even the basic needs of its citizens, hunger and poverty can drive even a noble and honorable peasant like Jean Valjean to resort to extreme measures, however unlawful it may be. Beautiful and sad, astounding yet poignant, amazing and simple, this gem of a novel has left a deep and profound impression on me since I first read it over two decades ago. Re-reading it now is like a journey back in time. It has demonstrated the power of literature in a way like no other book does. It is also a testimony to the fact that characters like Jean Valjean, Bishop Myriel and Enjolras have the power to encourage generations of readers to acts of selflessness and kindheartedness.

Enjoy this retelling of Victor Hugo's epic 1862 in just one-fifth of the original wording!

Nate says

Wow. Just, wow. Incredible.

Like many others, I usually don't like abridged versions of classic books. However, never having read the original, I enjoyed this immensely. Someday I'd like to read the original version, but for now, this version has me in love with the story. It's got likable, relatable characters and a captivating plot, and Reimann really brings out the themes of grace and redemption.

After reading this book, I found the musical. Which, I must say, was also incredible, but being a show, it has time limits, so it can't go into the story as much as the book does. I love how the book has so much more backstory and ties all the characters together - particularly Marius and Thenardier. This is an incredibly powerful story, and everyone should read it.

Andrés Velázquez says

Sensacional este clásico, una lectura muy humana y recomendable en todo sentido, salvo para quien le da roña la literatura que sea demasiado sensible o dramática. Pero un clásico en todo sentido vaya.

Reet Champion says

Jean Valjean emerged from prison a most transformed person. His heart was cold, his life hopeless. After attempting to steal bread to feed his starving nephew and nieces Jean was sent to prison where he lived out the better part of his life. Upon gaining his freedom Jean became a true thief. But after the kindly actions of a priest Jean is put on a new path in life; one that shows more hope and joy ahead. And so begins the epic story of kindness in the midst of darkness.

Do you ever come across a book that seems like everyone but you has read? It's received rave reviews and you half-heartedly add it to the to-read list but you don't consider it high priority. You'll get around to it...eventually. Well that's the way I have felt about *Les Misérables*. And to be honest, when I see the majority going googly-eyed over a book I tend to avoid it as it usually isn't my cup of tea. However when the opportunity presented itself to read this French classic in the form of an abridged edition I jumped at the chance. And I have no regrets. While there was no doubt a good deal that I missed out on I found this modern edition of a timeless story very well done. Very few classics I come across fall under the "page-turner" category but in my own humble opinion *Les Misérables* was excellent. It reveals the triumphs and fall of mankind and how one decision can set into motion a whole series of incidents that have both positive and negative effects.

There is one thing I'm curious about though. As I read a book that had been condensed down to about 1/4 of the original I could not say if this was the way it was with the original, but Cosette seems to be the driving force behind the story yet the edition I read really didn't have much to do with her at all. If this is the way the story is indeed told, I find Victor Hugo's talent with the pen most fascinating.

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Sarah Keiger says

I really enjoyed the first half of the book, following the suspense of Jean Valjean's story, becoming Madeleine, and meeting Cosette. I did not enjoy the story of Marius as much and felt that elements became overly dramatic towards the end. Overall, a wonderful story about forgiveness and leading a righteous life.

Julie Biles says

Typically, I am not a fan of abridged books but this retelling of Hugo's epic novel does retain much of the beauty and depth of the original, which I did read but, honestly, did not enjoy nearly as much as Reimann's work.

The adaptation for "Today's Reader", which I sadly, must admit, I am one, does not feel dumbed down. The themes of grace and redemption are highlighted and developed minus the plethora of words and details. This is my second reading of Reimann's book, and I will likely read it over and over during my lifetime.

MrsMJ says

I have read this book many times. It is a great example of God's grace and mercy. Each time I read it, I aspire to have more integrity and grace.

Amalie says

Victor Hugo is an absolute genius! I love'd this book so much!

Kathi says

This was a great edition to a very long book! I will be going to see the play again and taking my daughter for the first time. I wanted to review the story line before going to see the play and this edition did the trick. I think it will be a great way to introduce my daughter to the story as well.
