



## Les Miserables (Stepping Stones)

*Monica Kulling (Adapted by) , Victor Hugo (Adapter)*

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## Les Miserables (Stepping Stones) Details

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Author : Monica Kulling (Adapted by) , Victor Hugo (Adapter)

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## From Reader Review Les Miserables (Stepping Stones) for online ebook

### Louise Jennings says

After watching the film that came out in 2012 I decided to give this book a try and unfortunately due to the time it was written and the style it was written in I was unable to finish. It is a very hard book to read but if you want to delve deeper into the film and can cope with a very hardworking book I would recommend this book. It is not the fault of the writer but of the difference of our times.

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### Ebookwormy1 says

An age appropriate accounting of this fascinating story that uses concrete language to communicate the key plot points. There are some slight literary flourishes, though they are inconsistently done. Most notably, the book begins as if it is a letter written from Valjean to Cosette at the time of his death, but the author loses the first person voice several times. In addition, the final scenes are somewhat convoluted by this lack of consistency in switching from Valjean to an omniscient narrator. There are probably other editions for kids that are better, but this is the one we have, and it's adequate. An enjoyable single sitting read for a mama who loves the story, and a joy to introduce to our youngsters.

For the highly recommended original publication, as well as other resources and presentations of this story see my review...

Les Miserables, Hugo, 1862

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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### Lila says

This was a good kid's translation of Les Miserables, but not a lot happened. I know what happens in Les Miserables, and nothing really was the same. Although I liked it, I think it could do better.

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### Ankhubayar Erdenebat says

A shortened adaptation for younger readers. We both read it together. me&my daughter?

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### Lucretius says

Recently reread this. Yes, there are potentially frustrating diversions into history and social commentary, but who are we kidding, this is one of the greatest books EVER!

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### **Koby Parker says**

I will start out by saying this book was amazing. I tried to read the original "Les Miserables" but it was extremely difficult, considering I'm only thirteen. So I got on the Barnes and Noble website and ordered "Les Miserables (A Stepping Stone Book)" and I am so glad I did. The plot begins by introducing the main character Jean Valjean. He is writing a story to his daughter Cossette. The rest of the book except for the end is what the story he is writing says. The whole book is a giant, descriptive adventure. I felt as if I was living it. Even though it is a simplified version of the original, it leaves out no emotions or details. It also has some historical events in it. Trust me, you won't be bored.

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### **Keelyn says**

It's hard to imagine how someone could manage to get a 1000+ page book shortened enough so that it is only slightly over a hundred pages while managing to keep the entire story. Monica Kulling, however, does a wonderful job. Her adaptation of the book is written like a letter from Jean Valjean to Cosette, which means it cuts out a lot of back story, because Jean Valjean would not know of those things. However, all the important parts of the book are still kept in, including things that are not in the musical version of Les Miserables, such as Jean Valjean being arrested again and escaping after falling into a river.

Some of the best parts about this book is that because it is written in the form of a letter, we see more of Jean Valjean's emotions, what he was feeling at certain times of the story. One of my favorite sections was when Jean Valjean at the Thenardier's inn to take Cosette away. In that section of the book it is very clear how kind and loving this older man is to a young girl he has never seen before in his life.

Because of the way the book is written there are a number of scenes that had to be cut out, which I understand, however, I wish there was a way that they could have been left in. Those scenes mostly include the Students fighting at the Barricade. Those scenes are some of the most powerful in the originally book, in the musical, and the movie, making this version seem a little lacking as many people who have seen the musical or movie will likely agree.

All in all though, it was a wonderful book to read, especially for young adults who may have seen the movie or musical and want to read the book, but do not feel as though they are up to being able to read the full version of Les Miserables.

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### **Sarah Chandler says**

I think Monica did an exceptional job at adapting Les Miserables! I thought the formatting of the story was a tiny bit annoying though.

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### **Molly says**

Les Miserables is my favorite Broadway production, so I figured I'd be doing myself a disservice NOT to

read the book.[return]The book is not very different from the musical; just a great deal longer and denser.[return]I do not however regret devoting so many hours to this book. It was a fascinating look at life in nineteenth century France and it had many fascinating pieces omitted from the musical. My favorite bits excluded from the musical:[return]- Marius's history[return]- Jean and Cosette's time at the convent[return]- Javert's perspectives on everything

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### **Ben says**

The story is a classic and one of my very favorites, and if only for the story and characters which were a product of Victor Hugo's imagination do I give this work 2 stars. I already have a certain aversion to adaptations, but they are a good way to introduce classic works to my son -- I don't think he would have the patience for Hugo's 1,000 + page classic at this age. This work represented all of the things that I dislike about adaptations: changes in style, too much condensation (this book could have easily been tripled in length), elimination of certain characters and events (retaining only those viewed as essential to the plot) and introducing too many characters in too short a time (this ties back to the last two points raised) -- my son enjoyed the story, but he couldn't keep track of all of the many characters, with French names, introduced over the course of a mere 100 pages.

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### **Jennifer Parent says**

An abridged summary that I was able to read quickly to my 9 and 12 year old boys before taking them to see their sisters in the school edition musical of Les Misérables. It was a quick read that didn't take more than 2-3 hours.

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### **Ali says**

Bit of a curate's egg. Ended up probably enjoying the diversions more than the story. Marius and Cosette were beyond annoying.

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### **Ren says**

My 6yo loves the movie. We tried giving him one of our copies of the novel which is unabridged, well my husband did. He had told our son if he read the book we'd take him to see the Broadway production. I found this kids version on Amazon and put out a feeler for it on the classical education forum I belong to. I purchased it and my little guy read it in 4 days while we were on vacation. I read it too and thought it was a great child version of the story. I recommend it to anyone with a child who is interested in the story.

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### **Shinee says**

It is a story about life of man who is generous, intelligent and good care of the others. The man was breadwinner in his sister's household and steals a loaf of bread to feed them. Unfortunately he was put in jail

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nineteen years for that. From that time he became a les miserable man and started story

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### **Heather Painting says**

I have a lovely copy of this book. I've read it so many times, the spine has crumbled and broken apart.

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