

Chp. 3: A Disappointment

Vocabulary:

Immolate- kill as a sacrifice
Asseveration- earnest declaration
Antipathies- enmities, hatreds

Unimpeachable- beyond doubt or reproach
Refection- refreshment with food and drink

Summary &Analysis: Dickens cuts right to the heart of the action: Mr. Attorney-General, the head of the state's case against Charles Darnay, is in the middle of his argument. We know that he's in the middle of the argument because every sentence in his argument begins with "that." In other words, we're not exactly hearing him speak. We're *overhearing* him speak.

It's a neat little trick on Dickens's part: he doesn't want us to agree with Mr. Attorney General, so he uses **third-person narration with an interior point of view** instead of representing his speech. But back to the speech: Mr. Attorney-General thinks that the prisoner (that's Charles) has been engaging in a very long and treasonous correspondence with the French. The French? Ack! Gasp!

Hey, wait... why does the British government care about the French? Well, the French were actually involved in a nifty little battle on the other side of the Atlantic: the American Revolution. Anybody who carried information from Britain to France probably had their hands in the American Revolution, as well.

That's what the Attorney-General thinks, at least. He's going to try to hang Charles. After Mr. Attorney-General gets done talking, his opponent, Mr. Solicitor-General, gets up to cross-examine the state's first witness. John Barsad, a "gentleman," swears that he's not a spy, and that he makes his own living (although no one seems to know where his money comes from) as an honest man. He also swears that Charles Darnay hired him as an odd-jobs man once when Darnay was traveling by boat to France. Barsad testifies that Darnay carried lists from France to England and from England to France.



AGAINST Darnay: Mr. Attorney General
Represents "The Public" or "The
Government"

DEFENDING Darnay: Mr. Solicitor General
And Sydney Carton

Of course, he doesn't really specify what those lists contained—but then, when you're trying a traitor, you don't really need that many details, do you? The state calls Mr. Jarvis Lorry to the stand. Mr. Lorry testifies that he traveled to France by boat five years ago. He did see two other people on the boat, but he can't say that he can identify Charles as one of the two men. The court calls Miss Manette to the stand. Let's pause while the entire court checks her out. Sigh... she's so, so pretty.

Apparently, Charles is checking her out, too. She exchanges sympathetic looks with him. When Lucie begins to testify, it's obvious that she doesn't want to say anything that could incriminate Charles. Lucie says that Darnay helped her father when Doctor Manette fell ill on the boat. Against her will, she also testifies that Darnay exchanged some papers with Frenchmen who were aboard the boat. Apparently, Darnay also made a reference that George Washington was the better George. Gasp! Treachery! Not an insult on King George!

It was all in good fun at the time, but now the court doesn't take it so lightly. The court, in fact, seems to think that making jokes about how George Washington might not be such a bad guy is, in fact, treason. Lucie's testimony, in other words, didn't go all that well for Charles.

Next, it's Doctor Manette's turn on the stand. He says that he's been told he was on a ship traveling from France to England, but he can't remember anything from that time. Another witness, Roger Cly, gets called to the stand to affirm that Darnay stayed at a hotel about twelve miles from the coast on the night that he traveled to England. You will see this character again. He's important.

While the **prisoner's lawyer (the Solicitor General)** is cross-examining this witness, a man in the court passes this lawyer a note. All of a sudden, the lawyer has a new course of attack. He asks the witness if he's ever seen anyone who could be confused with Darnay. Puzzled, the witness says no.

Pointing with a dramatic flourish to the other end of the room, the lawyer says, "Not even that man?" Gasp! Mr. Carton (the man in the corner) looks exactly like Mr. Darnay. A coincidence, you say? Well, yes. But this is a novel. Anything can happen, folks. Just ride with it. The court case goes on for a while as lawyers try and re-try (and re-try) different theories.

Suddenly, however, Sydney Carton, Darnay's look-alike, points out that Lucie is fainting [and remember "Doubles" is a major motif in the novel because the plot reveals many elements based on the duality of man (another theme)]. (How does he notice before anyone else? Well, we're guessing that he's been staring. It's not polite, we know, but for now we're overlooking it.) By this point, the case is pretty much over. Carton's appearance has introduced too much doubt into the trial. Darnay is acquitted. (Meaning he's considered innocent). Jerry Cruncher is astonished. Unfortunately, he doesn't have much time to stay astonished. Mr. Lorry sends him back to the bank with the news.

Chapter 4: Congratulatory

Vocabulary:

Solicitor- lawyer

Incumbent- required, obligatory

Barrister- type of lawyer

Laconic- using very few words

Summary: Doctor Manette, Lucie, Mr. Lorry, Mr. Stryver, and Darnay exit the courtroom. The narrator relates that Manette has established himself as an upright and distinguished citizen, though the gloom of his terrible past descends on him from time to time. These clouds descend only rarely, however, and Lucie feels confident in

her power as the “golden thread” that unites him to a past and present “beyond his misery.” Darnay kisses Lucie’s hand and then turns to Stryver to thank him for his work. Lucie, Manette, and Stryver (the Solicitor General’s name) depart, and a drunk Sydney Carton emerges from the shadows to join the men. Lorry chastises him for not being a serious man of business. Darnay and Carton make their way to a tavern, where Carton smugly asks, “*Is it worth being tried for one’s life, to be the object of [Lucie’s] sympathy and compassion . . . ?*” When Darnay comments that Carton has been drinking, Carton gives his reason for indulging himself so: “*I am a disappointed drudge, sir. I care for no man on earth, and no man on earth cares for me.*” After Darnay leaves, Carton curses his own image in the mirror, as well as his look-alike, who reminds him of what he has “*fallen away from.*”

Chapter 5: The Jackal

Vocabulary:

Bacchanalian- tending toward drunken celebration
Eke- obtain or create, but just barely

Glib-easy and often superficial in speech
Hob-projection on a fireplace for keeping something warm

Summary: Sydney Carton, the “*idlest and most unpromising of men,*” makes his way from the tavern to Mr. Stryver’s apartment. The men drink together and discuss the day’s court proceedings. Stryver, nicknamed “the lion,” compliments his friend, “the jackal,” for the “*rare point*” that he made regarding Darnay’s identification. However, he laments Carton’s moodiness. Ever since their days in school together, Stryver observes, Carton has fluctuated between highs and lows, “*now in spirits and now in despondency!*” Carton shrugs off Stryver’s accusation that his life lacks a unified direction. Dickens points out that Stryver is only where he is in his career because he has been willing to climb over Carton’s hard work and claim it as his own. Thus, the lion will bask in the jackal’s kill. Unable to match Stryver’s vaulting ambition, Carton claims that he has no other choice but to live his life “*in rust and repose.*” Attempting to change the subject, Stryver turns the conversation to Lucie, praising her beauty. Carton dismisses her as a “*golden-haired doll,*” but Stryver wonders about Carton’s true feelings for her.

Analysis:

Dickens also uses these scenes to implement another of his favorite literary devices, parody. The Attorney-General’s long, self-important, and bombastic speech at the opening of Chapter 3 offers a highly comical imitation of legalese and serves indirectly to ridicule the Attorney-General, as well as the entire legal system. Thus the Attorney-General’s informs the jury: *[I]f statues were decreed in Britain, as in ancient Greece and Rome, to public benefactors, this shining citizen [his witness] would assuredly have one. That, as they were not so decreed, he probably would not have one.*

The Attorney-General melodramatically touts the virtues of his witness, John Barsad, and absurdly deifies him, makes him appear like a god, as though Barsad were a great figure from antiquity. When he explains that Barsad would not in fact have such a statue erected in his honor, as no such practice exists in England, his words again produce a comical effect. They draw attention to the fact that the attorney’s first sentence glorified Barsad to the point of irrelevant hypotheticals. Moreover, the redundant nature of the Attorney-General’s statement highlights his obliviousness to the emptiness of his words.

The passage makes clear how Dickens's comical characterizations have won him the admiration of generations of readers. Dickens's most "Dickensian" novels abound with hilariously grotesque characters, whose speech (usually vulgar) and appearance (usually freakish) are rendered with extreme exaggeration. With his impeded speech, violent temper, mysteriously rusty fingers, and muddy boots, Jerry Cruncher comes as close as any other character to this sort of caricature.

In addition to the caricature of Cruncher and the Attorney General, Darnay makes as uninteresting a hero as Lucie does a heroine. Both characters prove rather one-dimensional in their goodness and virtue. Only the supposedly loveless Carton promises more depth. He descends into the darkness of alcoholism while others bask in the glow of Darnay's acquittal. Reading of this, one cannot help but suspect that elaborate secrets dim his past.

Dickens devotes Chapter 5 to the character of Sydney Carton, whom he nicknames "the jackal." Given the secondary meaning of the term—an accomplice in the commission of menial or disreputable acts—the name seems fitting. Alongside his colleague Stryver, Carton seems little more than an assistant. He lacks ambition, even as the brains of the operation; in the courtroom, he spends his time staring at the ceiling; outside of it, he spends his time getting drunk. Carton accepts his pathetic state—he says to Stryver matter-of-factly, "you have fallen into your rank, and I have fallen into mine." Yet, for all of his supposed indifference, Carton betrays his desire for a better, more exalted life. He alludes several times to the respectable life that he might have lived. At the end of Chapter 4, he admits to hating Darnay because the man reminds him of what he could have been. He echoes this sentiment in Chapter 5, telling Stryver, "*I thought I should have been much the same sort of fellow [as Darnay], if I had had any luck.*" These feelings evidence his resentful awareness of Darnay as his double—a successful and happy double, and thus a mocking one. Carton views Darnay as a concrete manifestation of a life he might have led, a life preferable to his own. The closing of the chapter alludes to the secret longings of a man who will not admit to having any:

In the fair city of this vision, there were airy galleries from which the loves and graces looked upon him, gardens in which the fruits of life hung ripening, waters of Hope that sparkled in his sight. A moment, and it was gone. Climbing to a high chamber in a well of houses, he threw himself down in his clothes on a neglected bed, and its pillow was wet with wasted tears.

A great gulf exists between the life that Carton leads and the life that he imagines for himself, between the type of man that he is and the type of man that he dreams of being. Carton's complex and conflicted inner life paves the way for his dramatic development, which eventually elevates him out of his jackal status.

Allusions, Literary Devices and Questions

#	Item	Pgs.	Explanation
1	Historical Fact about the French and Americans	Guide	
2	_____ General	Guide	The Prosecution (The person trying to convince the court that Darnay is guilty of treason.)
3	_____ General	Guide	The Defense (trying to convince the court that Darnay is innocent.)
4	George joke		
5	Darnay's Double *		
6	Why are doubles * important again?	Guide	
7	"Golden Thread" is also the name of what?		
8	Animal Imagery		1. _____ 2. _____
9	Carton's conflict	Guide	