

**The Nineteenth Century Novel**  
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**Lecture – 38**  
**Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities, Book III Chapters 8-12**

Hello and welcome back to week 9's lectures. We will be looking at chapters 8 to 12 in this session, and the chapters are from book III. In this session, we will see how the revolutionary plot comes to a clash, a massive clash with the domestic plot. And we will also see how and why Darnay had been arrested by the revolutionary guards, and who is the man, the third man who has accused him. So all these questions will be answered in this session.

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**The tribunal**

- Before the unjust Tribunal, there was little or no order of procedure, ensuring to any accused person any reasonable hearing. There could have been no such Revolution, if all laws, forms, and ceremonies, had not first been so monstrously abused, that the suicidal vengeance of the Revolution was to scatter them all to the winds.
- A life-thirsting, cannibal-looking, bloody-minded juryman, the Jacques Three of St. Antoine. The whole jury, as a jury of dogs empannelled to try the deer.

So we have a tribunal for another time. I think, this is the third time we see a tribunal coming together to accuse an innocent man, and this is how the tribunal is set up in the eyes of the narrator, the third person narrator. “Before the unjust Tribunal, there was little or no order of procedure, ensuring to any accused person any reasonable hearing. There could have been no such revolution, if all laws, forms, and ceremonies, had not first been so monstrously abused, that the suicidal vengeance of the revolution was to scatter them all to the winds.”

So like the previous times, both in England and in France, there is no or little order of proceedings, and the narrator comes out and says that this is an unjust tribunal. It is not an honest

or just one. But then again, there is a kind of a logic to this kind of set ups which is that, the revolution would not have happened if all the laws had not been abused in the first place, if all laws were not broken in the first place.

So the laws were broken by the nobility, by the aristocracy, and therefore, the revolution was born, and the revolution was bloodthirsty, and it had a kind of a suicidal vengeance as its desire. So further, the narrator says that “a life-thirsting, cannibal-looking, bloody-minded juryman, the Jacques Three of St. Antoine. The whole jury, as a jury of dogs empanelled to try the deer.” So look at the metaphors employed by the narrator to describe the jury.

The jury is called as the jury of dogs, and these dogs are trying to kind of try the deer, and kind of kill it. So that is the set up of this particular tribunal. And one of the jury members is especially life thirsting, blood thirsty, cannibal looking, a man who would eat other men, and very bloody minded. And that man is Jacques Three, and this Jacques Three is the man who did accompany Defarge to the Bastille cell which was occupied by doctor Manette.

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Defarge's revelation

Flashback

past to reveal a particular mystery

Bastille

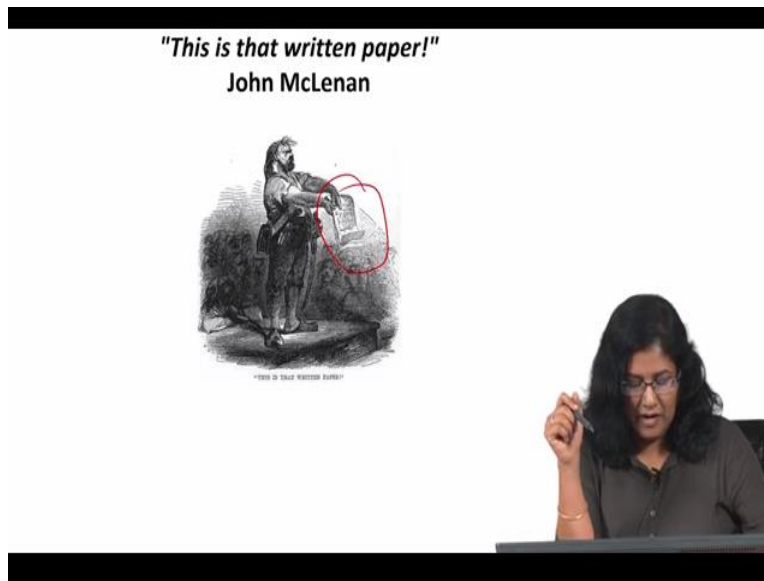
It falls. I mount to the cell, with a fellow-citizen who is one of the Jury, directed by a gaoler. I examine it, very closely. In a hole in the chimney, where a stone has been worked out and replaced, I find a written paper. That is that written paper....this is the writing of Doctor Manette.

Defarge comes forward to offer a key revelation in this entire novel. So what is this revelation? So we have a kind of a brief flashback. The readers are taken back to the past to reveal a particular mystery. Let us see what that is. “It falls.”, it being Bastille. “I mount to the cell, with a fellow citizen who is one of the Jury, directed by a gaoler. I examine it, very closely. In a hole in

the chimney, where a stone has been worked out and replaced, I find a written paper. That is that written paper. This is the writing of doctor Manette.”

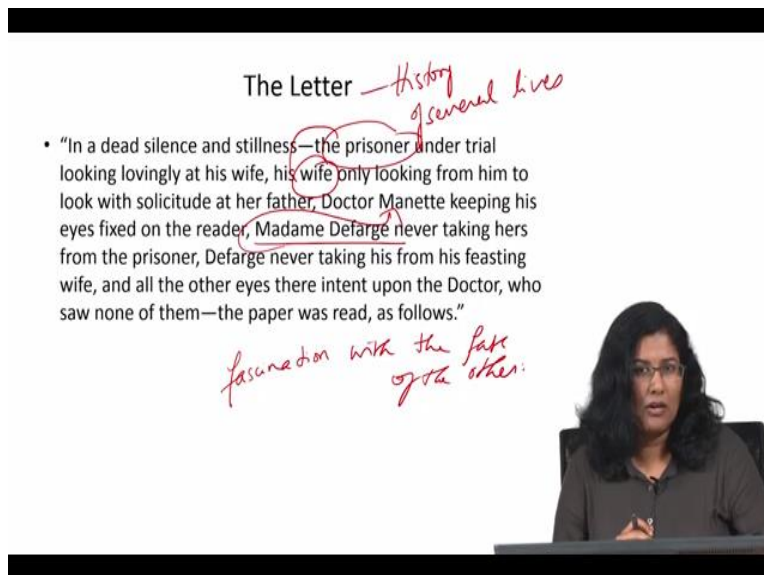
So when the Bastille was destroyed by the revolutionaries, Defarge is able to recover a letter written by doctor Manette and hidden in the wall of the chimney. So he has secreted, Defarge had secreted this letter, and he is now bringing it to everybody's attention now at this moment.

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This is the illustration by John McLenan, and this is the letter that he holds out for everybody to see. This is Defarge.

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What is in that letter? So in that letter is the history of Doctor Manette's reasons for being imprisoned, and there are other histories that connect various people who are involved in the revolution. So let us see what that is. So the letter is kind of a history of the past, and history of several lives which were injured and destroyed by the family of Evremondes.

“In a dead silence and stillness, the prisoner under trial looking lovingly at his wife, his wife only looking from him to look with solicitude at her father, Doctor Manette keeping his eyes fixed on the reader, Madame Defarge never taking hers from the prisoner, Defarge never taking his from his feasting wife, and all the other eyes there intent upon the Doctor, who saw none of them, the paper was read, as follows.”

So before that it was read out, what is the status of the people whose lives would be effected by the letter? What is the prisoner looking at? Who is he looking at? Darnay is looking at his wife. His wife is just looking at Darnay, and Doctor Manette is keeping his eyes on Defarge, and Madame Defarge is keeping her eyes on Doctor Manette, and Defarge is not taking his eyes off Madame Defarge.

So look at the way the sight is interlocked between all these peoples. So they seemed to be caught up by one another, there is a fascination with the fate of the other. With Defarge, he wants to prove his loyalty to the regime by this act, an act which betrays doctor Manette and others in so many ways. So let us see what the letter holds.

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## The Substance of the Shadow

- “I describe everything exactly as it took place, constraining my mind not to wander from the task. Where I make the broken marks that follow here, I leave off for the time, and put my paper in its hiding-place.”



This is written by Doctor Manette as Defarge mentioned, and Doctor Manette says that “I describe everything exactly as it took place, constraining my mind not to wander from the task. Where I make the broken marks that follow here, I leave off for the time, and put my paper in its hiding place.” So Doctor Manette says that whatever I write is the absolute truth, and where there are broken spaces it just means that I stopped writing and I hid the paper in the spot where I had secreted it. So this is the context for some of the missing lines.

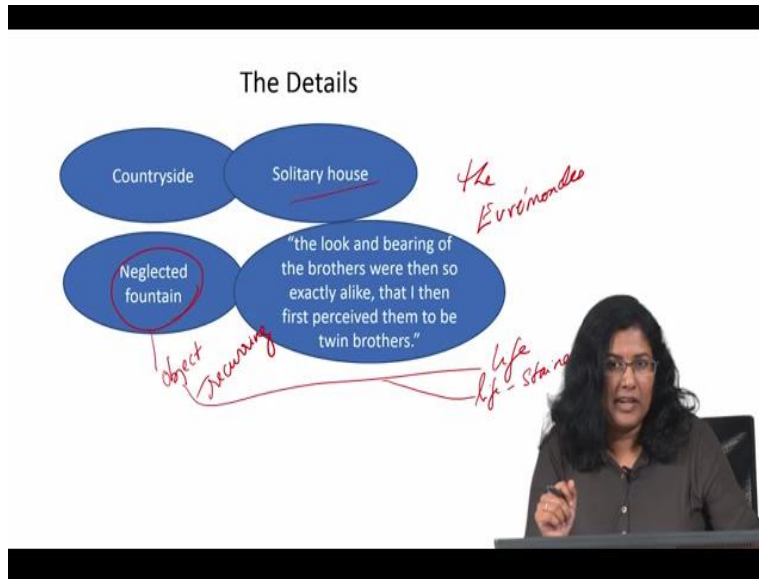
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## John McLenan's Illustration



And he offers his tale. So this is Doctor Manette in his youth. So he is accosted by two men who get off a carriage in the middle of the night, and they ask him to come and offer his services to an injured person.

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And they take him to the countryside, to a solitary house, and that house has a neglected fountain. So this object is very interesting because it keeps recurring in the novel, and what is the function of this object? It has several functions. One is, if it is neglected, then life that the fountain symbolizes is also neglected, and then life is stained as well because of the crimes that happen by its side.

If you think about the village fountain where a child is killed and where Gaspard is also hanged, we see that the waters of the fountain are stained by the crime and by punishment as well. So neglected fountains are a running trope in this novel. And when he is taken to, when the doctor is taken to the house, the doctor realizes that the two men look alike.

"The look and bearing of the brothers were then so exactly alike, that I then first perceived them to be twin brothers." So these are the Evremondes, the twin brothers with which this history is connected. And these are the men who bring the doctor from his nightly walk back to the solitary house to give succour to someone who is very ill.

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## The First Patient

- “The patient was a woman of great beauty, and young; assuredly not much past twenty. Her hair was torn and ragged, and her arms were bound to her sides with sashes and handkerchiefs. I noticed that these bonds were all portions of a gentleman's dress. On one of them, which was a fringed scarf for a dress of ceremony, I saw the armorial bearings of a Noble, and the letter E.”



And who is that first patient? The patient is a woman. It is not just a woman, but a woman of great beauty. She is beautiful, but when Doctor Manette sees her, he realizes that she has been assaulted terribly. So let us read the excerpt and see. “The patient was a woman of great beauty, and young; assuredly not much past twenty.” She is very young, she is not above 20 years of age.

“Her hair was torn and ragged, and her arms were bound to her sides with sashes and handkerchiefs.” She was tied up. I noticed, I referring to Doctor Manette, “noticed that these bonds were all portions of a gentleman's dress.” So these bindings, the strips of clothing material that bound this woman, comes from gentleman's outfit.

“On one of them, which was a fringed scarf for a dress of ceremony, I saw the armorial bearing of a Noble, and the letter.” This is very significant because it kind of identifies indirectly the noble. So this is referring to the Evremonde brothers, especially one particular Evremonde who is accused of, who is kind of involved in this assault.

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**The Patient's hysteria**

- "My husband, my father, and my brother!" and would count up to twelve, and say 'Hush! There was no variation in the order, or the manner. There was no cessation, but the regular moment's pause, in the utterance of these sounds."

Manette's shoemaking

Darnay's counting his paces in his La Force cell

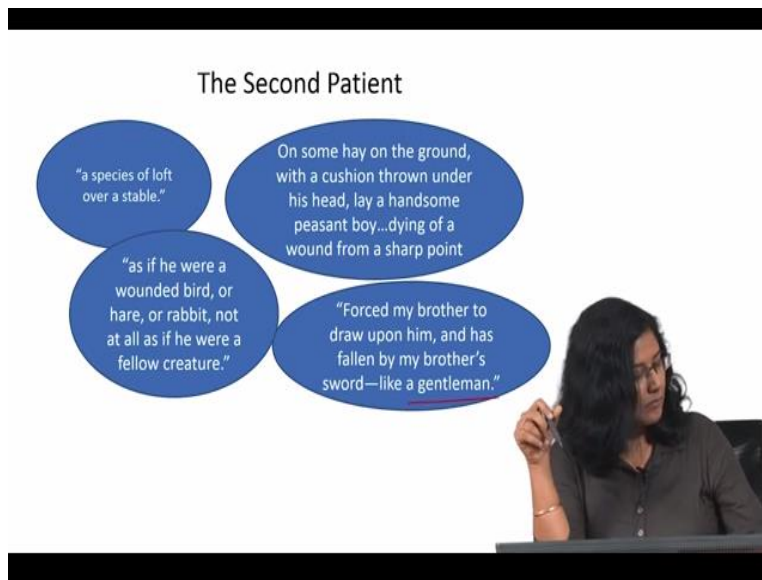
*imprisoned literally.*

And this is what the patient constantly cries out. She says, “My husband, my father, and my brother!" and would count up to twelve, and say 'hush!' There was no variation in the order, or the manner. There was no cessation, but the regular moment's pause, in the utterance of these sounds.” So she is hysterical. She repeats these words, the husband, father and brother, and then there is no stopping her cries.

And this is kind of resembling the methodical, repetitive activity of Manette's shoemaking. And it also resembles Darnay's counting of his paces in his La Force cell. So this girl or this woman is also imprisoned, literally, because she is bound up and shut up in the solitary house. And just like the other prisoners, she is also a prisoner of both of her mind and of her body.

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Doctor Manette is also told that there is another man who is also in need of the doctor's service, and this is the second patient. And the doctor finds him in a species of loft over a stable. And on some hay on the ground, with a cushion thrown under his head, lay a handsome peasant boy, dying of a wound from a sharp point. So this is the second patient. He is dying of a sword injury. It is a fatal injury, and this boy is handsome and he is a peasant boy, a country boy.

And the two men look at him as if he were a wounded bird or a hare or a rabbit, not at all as if he were a fellow creature. So this is the thought process of Doctor Manette communicated in that letter. And the doctor says that two men by his side looked at him as if he were an animal, a creature of the woods, not as if he were a fellow human being. And he says the elder Evremonde brother says that, this boy forced my brother to draw upon him, to draw his sword upon him, and he has fallen by my brother's sword like a gentleman.

It is very ironic, the comment that the elder Evremonde brother makes because he is kind of pointing out the fact that this peasant boy is dying like a gentleman, because he is dying by a gentleman's sword. He should not have that kind of death which is respectable. So that is the implication of that comment, and he is not very happy with that fact.

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Illustration by Fred Barnard, 1874



This is the illustration by Fred Barnard for the 1874 edition, and this is Doctor Manette and the boy, the two Evremonde brothers looking at him.

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### The History

- She had not been married many weeks, when that man's brother saw her and admired her, and asked that man to lend her to him—for what are husbands among us! He was willing enough, but my sister was good and virtuous, and hated his brother with a hatred as strong as mine. What did the two then, to persuade her husband to use his influence with her, to make her willing?"




The boy tells a history, the story of the reason behind their presence in the solitary house, and the boy tells Doctor Manette that this woman who is in the home was his sister. And “she had not been married many weeks, when that man's brother saw her and admired her, and asked that man to lend her to him, for what are husbands among us! He was willing enough, but my sister was good and virtuous and hated his brother with a hatred as strong as mine. What did the two then, to persuade her husband to use his influence with her, to make her willing?”

So the younger Evremonde brother had noticed this peasant girl who was just married, and he wanted to exploit her sexually, and he ask the husband to offer his wife to this noble man. But then the girl refused to go to him, and they try to influence the husband to make her wife go to the younger Evremonde brother. And what did they do?

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The boy's testimony

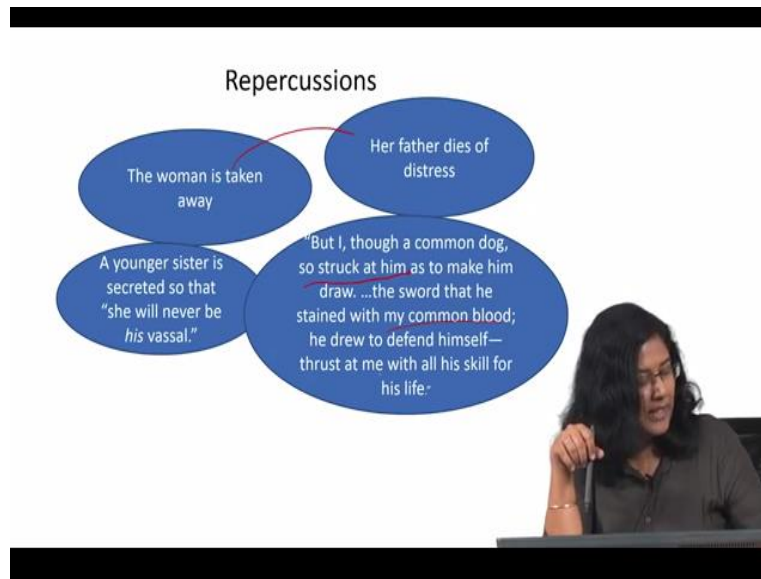
- "You know, Doctor, that it is among the Rights of these Nobles to harness us common dogs to carts, and drive us. They so harnessed him and drove him. You know that it is among their Rights to keep us in their grounds all night, quieting the frogs, in order that their noble sleep may not be disturbed. They kept him out in the unwholesome mists at night, and ordered him back into his harness in the day. But he was not persuaded. No! Taken out of harness one day at noon to feed—if he could find food—he sobbed twelve times, once for every stroke of the bell, and died on her bosom."



So they kind of harassed the husband, they physically assault him, they tie him up to a cart, they make him move in a carriage. So they kind of try all kinds of assaults and he finally dies, the husband dies. "You know, Doctor, that it is among the rights of these nobles to harness us common dogs to carts and drive us. They so harnessed him and drove him. You know that it is among their rights to keep us in their grounds all night, quieting the frogs, in order that their noble sleep may not be disturbed. They kept him out in the unwholesome mists at night, and ordered him back into his harness in the day. But he was not persuaded. No! Taken out of harness one day at noon to feed, if he could find food, he sobbed twelve times, once for every stroke of the bell, and died on her bosom."

So what they do to the husband is that they harnessed him to a cart, and they make him drive on the fields. And this is quiet a laboursome activity. And this man is exhausted, and he is also kept the whole night in the open fields. And these unwholesome mists are also not very healthy. And the next day, when he was taken out of the harness in order to feed, he just cries and dies on the bosom of his wife. So for this reason, the boy is coming to get vengeance on the nobleman.

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So once the husband dies, the woman is taken away. Her father dies of distress, the father of the woman dies of distress, and the younger sister is secreted so that she will never be his vassal. So the boy, the peasant boy who is telling the tale kind of hides his younger sister so that she will not meet the same fate as her elder sister. And the boy comes to get vengeance. He says that even though I am a common dog, so struck at him as to make him draw.

So the boy strikes at the younger Evremonde brother who has assaulted his sister, and he does so in such a fashion that nobleman is forced to take out his sword, and the sword is "stained with my common blood, he drew to defend himself, thrust at me with all his skill for his life." So the Evremonde brother, the younger Evremonde brother fought for his life with this peasant boy, and ultimately the Evremonde brother killed him, injured him. The boy is dying.

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## Summons

- “Marquis...in the days when all these things are to be answered for, I summon you and yours, to the last of your bad race, to answer for them. I mark this cross of blood upon you, as a sign that I do it. In the days when all these things are to be answered for, I summon your brother, the worst of the bad race, to answer for them separately. I mark this cross of blood upon him, as a sign that I do it.”



And the boy says that, he tells the elder Evremonde brother, “Marquis, in the days when all these things are to be answered for, I summon you and your, to the last of your bad race, to answer for them. I mark this cross of blood upon you, as a sign that I do it. In the days when all these things are to be answered for, I summon your brother, the worst of the bad race, the answer for them separately. I mark this cross of blood upon him, as a sign that I do it.”

So he says that you will pay for this. You will be summoned when the day comes, when the appropriate day comes, you will be summoned for this kind of crime that you have committed against my sister, against my sister's husband, against me. You and your brother will pay for this. And he just makes a mark of cross in the air from his blood, and he says that this will be a kind of a seal that would call you to answer for the crimes against humanity that you committed.

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The Cross of Blood, illustration by John McLenan



And this is the illustration of the boy making the cross in the air, and that is Doctor Manette and we have the elder Evremonde brother here. This is an illustration by John McLenan. You can see that this man is in shadow. Once again Dickens is playing on this contrast between shadow and light. And here the boy, lighted up. Metaphorically he is almost angelic there.

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### The aftermath

Doctor Manette writes a letter to the Minister about his recent cases

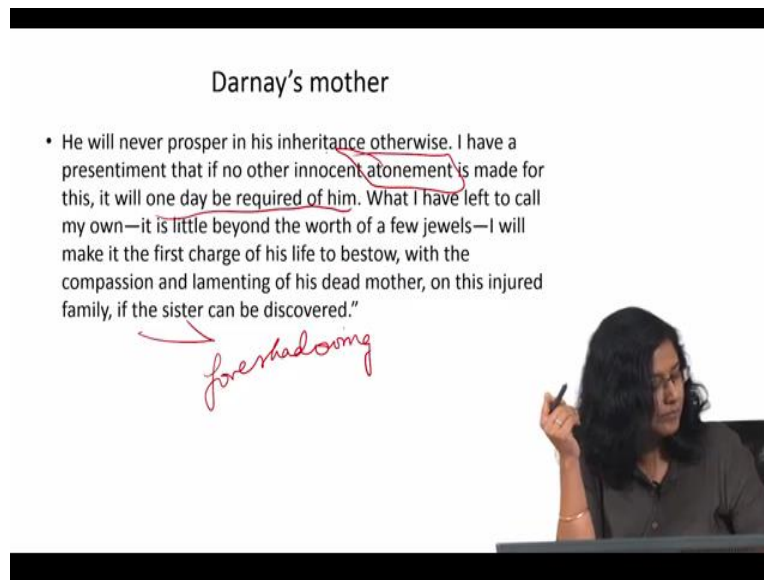
"The wife of Marquis Evremonde: Her hope had been, she said in great distress, to show her, in secret, a woman's sympathy. Her hope had been to avert the wrath of Heaven from a House that had long been hateful to the suffering many."



And once the doctor sees to these two patients who eventually die, he is kind of allowed to go home. And doctor Manette tries to write a letter to the minister about his recent cases. And this particular letter is intercepted by the two Evremonde brothers. And the wife of Marquis Evremonde comes to see doctor Manette, and "her hope had been, she said in great distress, to show her, in secret, a woman's sympathy. Her hope had been to avert the wrath of Heaven from a

house that had long been hateful to the suffering many.” So we have the wife of the elder Evremonde brother coming to visit doctor Manette, and she knows about the crimes that these men committed against this poor woman's family. And she hopes that she will be able to somehow avert the anger, prevent the anger of Heaven from their family, because their family had become hateful because of the sufferings that they wreaked on the peasants.

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The slide features a black header bar at the top. Below it, the title "Darnay's mother" is centered. A bulleted list contains a long quote from the text. The quote is: "He will never prosper in his inheritance otherwise. I have a presentiment that if no other innocent atonement is made for this, it will one day be required of him. What I have left to call my own—it is little beyond the worth of a few jewels—I will make it the first charge of his life to bestow, with the compassion and lamenting of his dead mother, on this injured family, if the sister can be discovered." The words "otherwise", "atonement", and "required of him" are circled in red. A red arrow points from the word "foreshadowing" (written in red cursive) to the word "otherwise". On the right side of the slide, there is a photograph of a woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark shirt, sitting at a desk and looking towards the slide.

Darnay's mother

- He will never prosper in his inheritance otherwise. I have a presentiment that if no other innocent atonement is made for this, it will one day be required of him. What I have left to call my own—it is little beyond the worth of a few jewels—I will make it the first charge of his life to bestow, with the compassion and lamenting of his dead mother, on this injured family, if the sister can be discovered."

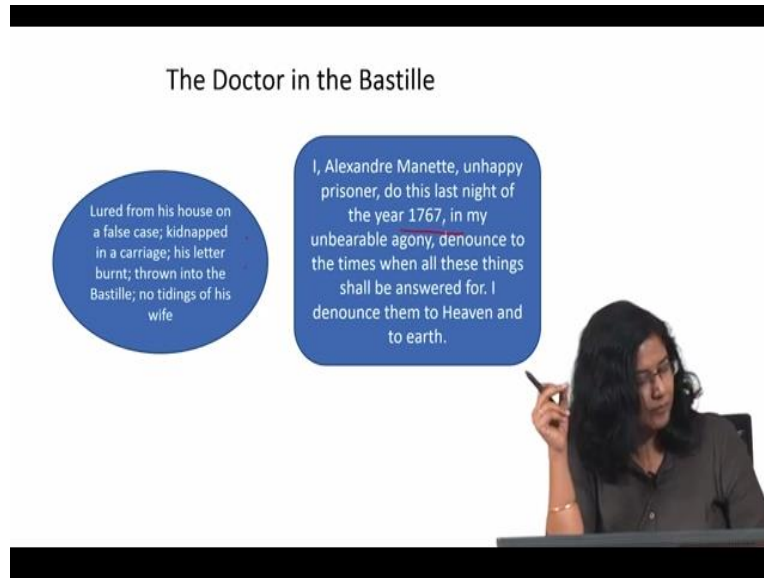
foreshadowing

This is Darnay's mother's words, and she believes that Darnay will never prosper because of his father's and uncle's crime against the people. She says that “He will never prosper in his inheritance otherwise. I have made a presentiment that if no other innocent atonement is made for this, it will one day be required of him. What I have left to call my own, it is very little beyond the worth of a few jewels, I make it the first charge of his life to bestow, with the compassion and lamenting of his dead mother, on this injured family, if the sister can be discovered.” So she says that his son has to kind of make reparations to this family which has been injured by the activities of her husband and her brother-in-law.

And she says that I do not have a lot to call my own, I just have a few jewels, and I make it the first charge of his life, the charge of Darnay to give these jewels, with a lot of compassion and lamenting to this particular family, the injured family if the sister who is hidden away by the brother can be discovered. So Darnay's mother's words are also foreshadowing, because she knows that one day Darnay will be asked to make a kind of a repayment for the crimes that his

father and his uncle committed against this particular family. So she wants Darnay to make atonement, innocent atonement for the crimes of the Evremonde family.

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So the doctor, after meeting the wife of the elder brother, tries to write that letter to the minister about his recent cases in which these two Evremonde brothers were implicated. But one night when he is in his home, he is “lured from his house on a false case, he is kidnapped in a carriage, his letter is burnt, and he is thrown into the Bastille, no tidings of his are given to his wife.” So look at the way that very easily the doctor is kidnapped by the two aristocrats.

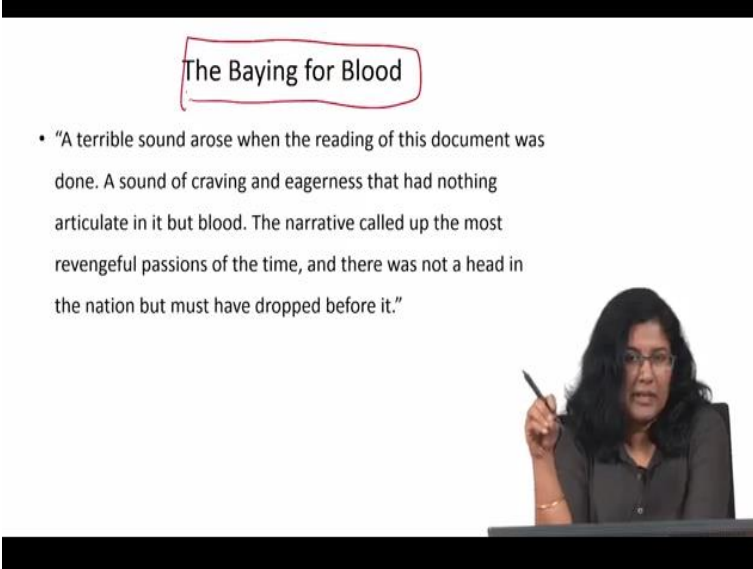
They do have a lot of influence with the state; therefore, they are able to carry out their plan. And Doctor Manette is thrown into the Bastille in secret, and his wife is not given any kind of information about his whereabouts, and they continue to suffer. This is what Doctor Manette writes in that letter to finish off the history of his past. He says that “I, Alexandre Manette, unhappy prisoner, do this last night of the year 1767, in my unbearable agony, denounce to the times when all these things shall be answered for. I denounce them to Heaven and to earth.”

So like the peasant boy who denounced the Marquis and his younger brother, Alexandre Manette too denounces these noble man. And he says that on this last night of the year 1767, I denounce this noble family. And he says that I am in unbearable agony, and these two men shall answer for the crimes that they committed. Not only against the peasant boy's, family but also against mine,



because he was also made to lose his life for about 18 years for just doing his service as a physician to these two innocent boy and girl who died because of horrible assaults against them.

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The slide features a title "The Baying for Blood" enclosed in a red hand-drawn box. Below the title is a bullet point containing a quote: "A terrible sound arose when the reading of this document was done. A sound of craving and eagerness that had nothing articulate in it but blood. The narrative called up the most revengeful passions of the time, and there was not a head in the nation but must have dropped before it." To the right of the text, a woman with dark hair and glasses is visible from the chest up, wearing a dark top and holding a pen in her right hand, appearing to be presenting the slide.

“A terrible sound arose when the reading of this document was done. A sound of craving and eagerness that had nothing articulate in it but blood. The narrative called up the most revengeful passions of the time, and there was not a head in the nation but must have dropped before it.” So the people, when they hear about the history of the peasant family, when they hear about the injuries that were committed against the doctor, through the doctor's own testimony in that letter, they just bay for blood, they just want the blood of the Evremonde family.

So a terrible sound kind of comes out of the people who are listening to the reading, and they are all eager to have nothing but blood, the blood of the family which committed that crime. And who is the last remaining relative from this family? And that is Charles Darnay. And the narrator says that, the narrative, the letter, called up the most revengeful emotions of the time, and there was not a head in the country but must have dropped if that person had committed a crime against the peasant's family. These people would have executed that man, and there is no other way he could escape the anger of the people. Thank you for watching. I will continue in the next

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