Les Misérables is a novel by French author Victor Hugo, published in 1862. The story follows the lives of several characters living in early 19th century France, including ex-convict Jean Valjean, the impoverished Fantine, and the idealistic student Marius Pontmercy, among others. The novel explores themes of justice, love, sacrifice, and redemption.

The plot of Les Misérables centers around the character of Jean Valjean, who was imprisoned for 19 years for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his sister's starving child. After being released from prison, Valjean is determined to turn his life around and become an honest man. However, he is relentlessly pursued by Inspector Javert, who is convinced that Valjean is still a criminal.

Valjean eventually becomes the mayor of a small town and is respected by its inhabitants. However, when he learns that one of his workers, Fantine, has been forced into prostitution to support her daughter, Cosette, he takes it upon himself to care for the child. He flees with Cosette and raises her as his own daughter, all the while being pursued by Javert.

Meanwhile, Marius, a student who has fallen in love with Cosette, becomes involved in the Paris Uprising of 1832. As the fighting rages, Valjean risks his life to rescue Marius, but Javert still pursues him. In the end, Valjean sacrifices himself to save Marius and is finally able to find redemption.

One of the main themes of Les Misérables is the struggle for justice. Hugo portrays a society in which poverty and injustice are rampant, and characters like Valjean and Fantine are forced to make difficult choices in order to survive. Hugo also explores the concept of divine justice, as Valjean's acts of kindness and selflessness are ultimately rewarded.

Another major theme is the power of love and sacrifice. Valjean's love for Cosette drives him to risk everything to protect her, while Marius's love for Cosette and his belief in the ideals of the revolution lead him to fight for a better society. The novel also explores the theme of redemption, as Valjean's journey from a hardened criminal to a selfless and compassionate man shows that it is never too late to change.

Overall, Les Misérables is a powerful and moving novel that explores important themes and raises important questions about justice, love, and redemption. Its characters are complex and deeply human, and their struggles and triumphs continue to resonate with readers today.

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