

The translator's preface to "Crime and Punishment" provides background information on the author, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and his experiences with poverty, imprisonment, and illness. The novel follows the story of a young man named Raskolnikov who commits a murder and struggles with the psychological consequences. The passage also describes Raskolnikov's interactions with an old woman, his visit to a tavern, and his encounter with a retired clerk who appears to be mad.