

Summary: Crime and Punishment

Translator's Preface

Fyodor Dostoevsky was a Russian author known for his novel "Crime and Punishment." He had a difficult upbringing and was arrested in 1849 for his involvement in conversations against censorship. His death sentence was commuted to hard labor, and he spent several years in Siberia. Dostoevsky suffered from epilepsy and experienced intense suffering during his imprisonment, which influenced his writing. He faced financial struggles throughout his life but was beloved by readers in Russia. He died in 1880 and was mourned by many. Dostoevsky's insight and wisdom in his writing resonated with readers and made him a highly regarded author.

Part I

Chapter 1

On a hot evening in July, a young man leaves his garret and walks towards a bridge, avoiding his landlady. He is in debt to her and afraid of meeting her. The young man is in an irritable and isolated state, and fears interacting with anyone. He is absorbed in himself and has given up on practical matters. He is going to attempt something, but is unsure and frightened. The heat and unpleasant surroundings exacerbate his already strained nerves. He enters a tavern and drinks beer, feeling a temporary relief from his worries. However, he senses that his newfound cheerfulness is not normal. The tavern is mostly empty, with a few drunk men and a suspicious-looking man.

Chapter 2

Raskolnikov, who usually avoids crowds, suddenly feels a desire to be around people. He goes to a tavern and notices a retired clerk who seems interested in talking to him. The clerk, Marmeladov, tells Raskolnikov about his struggles with poverty and his wife's mistreatment. Marmeladov reveals that he recently stole money from his wife and spent it on alcohol. Raskolnikov leaves the tavern and goes to Marmeladov's home, where he witnesses the chaotic and impoverished living conditions. He leaves some money for Marmeladov's family and reflects on the nature of humanity.

Chapter 3

The protagonist wakes up feeling sick and irritable in his small, run-down room. He is avoiding contact with others and neglecting his basic needs. His landlady is upset with him for not paying rent and threatens to involve the police. He receives a letter from his mother, informing him that his sister is engaged to a wealthy man and they are planning to move to Petersburg. The protagonist becomes angry and bitter, and goes for a walk, muttering to himself.

Chapter 4

The protagonist, Raskolnikov, receives a letter from his mother informing him of his sister's engagement to a man named Mr. Luzhin. Raskolnikov is angered by the news and believes that his sister is sacrificing herself for the sake of their family. He encounters a drunk girl on the street and tries to help her, but is interrupted by a man who seems interested in her. Raskolnikov eventually decides to go visit his friend Razumihin, whom he hasn't seen in months.

Chapter 5

Raskolnikov contemplates going to Razumihin for help, but questions the usefulness of it. He has a strange thought about going to Razumihin's the next day after something happens. He then has a vivid dream about witnessing the brutal beating of a horse. He wakes up feeling relieved and free from a burden. He crosses the Hay Market and overhears a conversation about an opportunity to carry out his plan to kill an old woman. He realizes that this is the perfect opportunity and feels that his fate is sealed.

Chapter 6

Raskolnikov discovers that Lizaveta was invited to the huckster's house because they were looking for a dealer to buy their household goods. Raskolnikov becomes superstitious and believes that there are strange coincidences surrounding his encounters with the huckster and Lizaveta. He overhears a conversation about the pawnbroker Alyona Ivanovna and learns more about her and Lizaveta. Raskolnikov becomes fixated on the idea of committing a crime and justifying it by using the stolen money for the benefit of others. He plans to steal an axe from the kitchen and carry out his plan. However, when he arrives at the house, he realizes that

Nastasya, the landlady, is in the kitchen and he cannot access the axe. He becomes frustrated but then notices a wagon of hay that blocks him from view as he enters the gate. He successfully enters the building and begins ascending the stairs to the old woman's apartment. He rings the bell but there is no answer. He hears someone inside and realizes that the old woman is suspicious and listening at the door. He rings the bell again and waits patiently.

Chapter 7

In this passage, Raskolnikov enters the apartment of the old woman he plans to rob and murder. He tries to convince her to let him in, but she is suspicious. Eventually, he forces his way in and kills her with an axe. He then searches for valuables and finds a purse. As he is leaving, he hears someone approaching and hides in an empty flat. He narrowly avoids being caught by the person who enters the apartment. Raskolnikov then makes his way home, feeling exhausted and disoriented. He manages to return the axe to its hiding place and collapses on his sofa.

Part II

Chapter 1

The protagonist, Raskolnikov, wakes up after a long period of unconsciousness and realizes that it is already late into the night. He hears fearful cries from the street and realizes that it is past two o'clock. He suddenly remembers everything that happened the previous night and becomes filled with fear and despair. He notices some drops of blood on

his trousers and tries to hide them. He also remembers that he still has the stolen items in his pockets and quickly hides them as well. He is then summoned to the police office and goes there, feeling a mix of fear and relief. At the police office, he witnesses a scandal involving a woman and an officer. He then has a sudden realization that he can no longer appeal to anyone for help and feels a deep sense of loneliness. He signs a declaration stating that he cannot pay his debts and leaves the office. He faints and when he regains consciousness, he is questioned by the police officers. He is then allowed to leave and realizes that a search will be conducted at his home. He rushes home, feeling terrified.

Chapter 2

In this passage, Raskolnikov is in a state of panic and paranoia after committing a crime. He searches his room for any evidence that may have been left behind and finds several items, which he hides in his pockets. He then goes out to dispose of the evidence, but struggles to find a suitable place. Eventually, he throws the items into a hidden hollow under a stone. He returns home and falls into a deep sleep, only to be woken up by the sound of his landlady being beaten. However, it is revealed that this was all in his imagination and he is suffering from hallucinations.

Chapter 3

The protagonist is recovering from an illness and experiencing delirium. He remembers people coming and going from his room, threatening and mocking him. He is confused about the passage of time and struggles to remember certain things. Eventually, he regains consciousness and is visited by a friend who brings him new clothes. The friend also mentions that the protagonist's mother sent him money. The chapter ends with the entrance of a tall, stout man.

Chapter 4

Zossimov is described as a tall, fat man with a clean-shaven face and fashionable attire. He is slow and nonchalant in manner, but his self-importance is apparent. He is considered clever at his work, but his acquaintances find him tedious. Razumihin informs Zossimov that Raskolnikov has come to himself and Zossimov examines him. Raskolnikov is still depressed and has a headache. Zossimov advises against giving him certain foods and medicine. Razumihin plans to take Raskolnikov for a walk the next day. They discuss a house-painter who is accused of murder and the discovery of earrings in his possession. Zossimov questions the evidence and Razumihin defends the painter's innocence. They debate the details of the case and Zossimov questions the validity of the evidence. Raskolnikov suddenly becomes agitated and asks about the earrings being found behind the door. The conversation continues, with Razumihin defending the painter's innocence and Zossimov questioning the evidence. The chapter ends with the entrance of a stranger.

Chapter 5

A gentleman arrives at Raskolnikov's apartment and is surprised by the poor conditions. He introduces himself as Pyotr Petrovitch Luzhin and mentions that he is engaged to Raskolnikov's sister. Raskolnikov shows little interest and insults Luzhin. Luzhin leaves in anger. Raskolnikov becomes agitated and asks to be left alone.

Chapter 6

After leaving his apartment, the protagonist, Raskolnikov, becomes calm and focused. He dresses in new clothes, takes money from his table, and leaves his building. He encounters a street musician and gives money to

a young girl. He then walks to a crowded area and contemplates his plan to end everything. He goes to a restaurant, reads the newspaper, and runs into an acquaintance, Zametov. They have a strange conversation about crimes and Raskolnikov's mental state. Raskolnikov continues walking and witnesses a woman attempting to drown herself. She is saved, and Raskolnikov continues on his way. He encounters his friend Razumihin, who invites him to a party, but Raskolnikov declines. He walks to his former apartment building and enters the empty flat. He then goes to the police station, but is thrown out by the porter. Raskolnikov contemplates his next move and sees a crowd gathered in the distance. He walks towards it, ready to face whatever comes next.

Chapter 7

In this passage, an accident occurs where a man is run over by a carriage. Raskolnikov, the protagonist, pushes through the crowd to see what happened and realizes that the injured man is Marmeladov, a government clerk. Raskolnikov offers to pay for a doctor and insists that Marmeladov be taken to his lodging. The police agree and Raskolnikov slips them some money. They take Marmeladov to his home, where his wife and children are waiting. Katerina Ivanovna, Marmeladov's wife, is distraught and worried about how they will afford to bury him. Raskolnikov gives her money and promises to come back the next day. He then goes to see his friend Razumihin, who is hosting a gathering. Raskolnikov tells Razumihin that he won their bet and that he is feeling better. However, he suddenly feels weak and sad and rushes home. When he arrives, he is surprised to find his mother and sister waiting for him. Overwhelmed, he faints and Razumihin helps him onto the sofa. The family is grateful to Razumihin for his help.

Part III

Chapter 1

Raskolnikov's mother and sister visit him in his apartment, where he is in a state of emotional distress. Raskolnikov asks his mother and sister to leave and stay with his friend Razumihin. He also tells them to refuse a marriage proposal from a man named Luzhin. Raskolnikov's mother and sister are concerned for his well-being and leave with Razumihin. Later, Zossimov, a doctor, visits Raskolnikov's apartment and reassures his family that he is recovering. Razumihin and Zossimov have a conversation outside, where Razumihin reveals his infatuation with Avdotya Romanovna, Raskolnikov's sister. He asks Zossimov to spend time with her and keep her company. Zossimov is amused by Razumihin's behavior and agrees to help.

Chapter 2

Razumihin wakes up troubled and serious, realizing that he had a novel experience the previous day. He feels ashamed of his drunken behavior and criticizes himself for his jealousy towards Avdotya Romanovna's fiancé. He is concerned about Raskolnikov's mental state and the upcoming meeting with Pyotr Petrovitch. Pulcheria Alexandrovna shares a letter from Pyotr Petrovitch, expressing her worries about Raskolnikov's reaction. They decide to go to Raskolnikov's and seek Razumihin's advice on how to handle the situation.

Chapter 3

Raskolnikov is visited by Zossimov and his family, who are relieved to see that he is feeling better. However, Raskolnikov still appears pale and somber, and there is a sense of tension in the room. Zossimov advises Raskolnikov to avoid certain triggers that may worsen his condition, and Raskolnikov agrees to return to the university. The conversation then turns to Raskolnikov's sister, Dounia, who is planning to marry a man named Luzhin. Raskolnikov expresses his disapproval and warns Dounia that he will no longer consider her his sister if she goes through with the marriage. Dounia defends her decision, and Raskolnikov reluctantly accepts it. The family then discusses a letter from Luzhin, which Raskolnikov criticizes for its uneducated style. He also points out a slanderous remark about him in the letter. Despite this, Raskolnikov agrees to attend a meeting with Luzhin later that evening.

Chapter 4

In this passage, Raskolnikov is surprised when a young girl named Sofya Semyonovna Marmeladov enters the room. He had seen her the day before in different circumstances and did not recognize her at first. She is timid and dressed modestly. Raskolnikov feels sorry for her and invites her to sit down. Razumihin, Raskolnikov's friend, gives up his seat for her. Sofya Semyonovna explains that she has come on behalf of Katerina Ivanovna to invite Raskolnikov to a service and funeral lunch. Raskolnikov agrees to attend. After Sofya Semyonovna leaves, Raskolnikov and Razumihin discuss going to see Porfiry Petrovitch, a detective involved in a murder case. Raskolnikov is worried that Porfiry knows he was at the old woman's flat and asked about the blood. They enter Porfiry's flat laughing, but Razumihin warns Raskolnikov to be careful.

Chapter 5

Raskolnikov enters a room with Razumihin and encounters Porfiry Petrovitch. Raskolnikov tries to control his laughter while Razumihin appears embarrassed and angry. Porfiry questions Raskolnikov about a recent article he wrote, discussing the idea that extraordinary people have the right to commit crimes. Raskolnikov defends his argument and asserts that great men often suffer for their actions. Porfiry asks Raskolnikov about a specific incident on the day of the murder, but Raskolnikov denies seeing anything. They leave the room, feeling gloomy and tense.

Chapter 6

Razumihin and Raskolnikov are discussing the recent events and suspicions surrounding Raskolnikov. Razumihin is perplexed by Raskolnikov's arguments and is in disbelief. Raskolnikov believes that the police have no real evidence against him and are trying to intimidate him. He also reflects on his actions and feelings of guilt. Later, Raskolnikov has a disturbing dream and is then confronted by a stranger named Svidrigaïlov.

Part IV

Chapter 1

Raskolnikov is visited by Svidrigaïlov, who claims to want to make his acquaintance and seek his assistance in winning over Raskolnikov's

sister, Avdotya Romanovna. Raskolnikov is suspicious of Svidrigaïlov's intentions and refuses to help him. Svidrigaïlov talks about his past actions and his belief in ghosts. He also offers Raskolnikov money and reveals that Avdotya Romanovna is set to receive an inheritance. Raskolnikov is angered by Svidrigaïlov's audacity and refuses his offer. Svidrigaïlov leaves, but hints at a possible future encounter.

Chapter 2

Two young men hurry to Bakaleyev's to arrive before Luzhin. They discuss Svidrigaïlov, a landowner who had insulted the sister of one of the men. Svidrigaïlov recently came to town and they fear he may harm the sister. They also mention Marfa Petrovna, Svidrigaïlov's wife, who recently died. The men then meet Luzhin, who had insulted the brother earlier. They argue and Luzhin eventually leaves.

Chapter 3

In this passage, it is revealed that Pyotr Petrovitch, who had been overbearing and controlling towards Dounia and her mother, did not expect them to escape his control. He had a high opinion of himself and his intelligence, and saw his decision to marry Dounia as heroic. However, he is now feeling undeservedly injured and unrecognised. Dounia and her mother are relieved to be free from him, and Razumihin proposes a business venture to support them. Raskolnikov, however, is distant and decides to separate himself from his family. Razumihin tries to convince him to stay, but something passes between them that causes Razumihin to pale and Raskolnikov to leave abruptly.

Chapter 4

Raskolnikov goes to Sonia's house and they have a conversation about her difficult situation. Raskolnikov suggests that they go together and abandon their families. Sonia reads a passage from the Bible about the resurrection of Lazarus. Raskolnikov reveals that he knows who killed Lizaveta and promises to tell Sonia tomorrow. After he leaves, Sonia is left feeling feverish and delirious. Meanwhile, Svidrigaïlov listens to their conversation from the empty room next door.

Chapter 5

Raskolnikov goes to the department of the investigation of criminal causes to meet with Porfiry Petrovitch. He is surprised at being kept waiting and begins to doubt whether Porfiry knows anything about his crime. When he finally meets with Porfiry, they engage in a tense conversation where Raskolnikov accuses Porfiry of lying and trying to manipulate him. The conversation ends abruptly when they hear a noise outside the door.

Chapter 6

In this passage, Raskolnikov is visited by a man who confesses to having wronged him and reveals that he was present during Raskolnikov's conversation with Porfiry. The man explains that he informed Porfiry about Raskolnikov's visit to the police station and witnessed Porfiry's reaction. Raskolnikov realizes that Porfiry has no concrete evidence against him and feels more confident. He leaves with a malicious smile, ready to fight for his innocence.

Part V

Chapter 1

Pyotr Petrovitch is forced to accept the reality of his failed relationship with Dounia and her mother. He is angry and frustrated, and his day is filled with unpleasantness, including issues with his legal case and the redecoration of his flat. He contemplates his mistakes and regrets not giving money to Dounia and her mother. He also considers the possibility of starting a new relationship and tries to convince himself that he can find someone better. Pyotr Petrovitch is irritated by his friend Andrey Semyonovitch Lebeziatnikov and suspects that he is being deceived. He also plans to attend a funeral dinner and is interested in meeting Raskolnikov, who will be there. Lebeziatnikov, who is interested in progressive ideas, discusses his beliefs with Pyotr Petrovitch, who finds them foolish. Pyotr Petrovitch then has a conversation with Sonia, offering her money and suggesting that a subscription be raised for her family. He warns her not to give the money to Katerina Ivanovna, as she will spend it on unnecessary things. Lebeziatnikov praises Pyotr Petrovitch for his actions, but Pyotr Petrovitch is preoccupied and not fully engaged in the conversation.

Chapter 2

Katerina Ivanovna hosts a dinner party to honor her deceased husband, but it is chaotic and filled with tension. She spends a large portion of the money given for her husband's funeral on the dinner, possibly to prove her superiority to the other lodgers. Katerina Ivanovna is proud and determined, but also mentally unstable. The guests include a mix of people, some of whom are disrespectful and disruptive. Katerina Ivanovna tries to maintain her dignity and impress her guests, but the

dinner quickly spirals out of control.

Chapter 3

In this passage, Katerina Ivanovna accuses Pyotr Petrovitch of mistreating her and demands protection. Pyotr Petrovitch denies the accusations and instead focuses on his own affairs. He then accuses Sonia of stealing money from him, but she denies it. Lebeziatnikov supports Sonia's innocence and accuses Pyotr Petrovitch of planting the money on her. Raskolnikov steps forward and explains that Pyotr Petrovitch had a motive to frame Sonia in order to separate him from his family. The crowd turns against Pyotr Petrovitch, who eventually leaves. Katerina Ivanovna is thrown out of her lodging and runs into the street in search of justice. Raskolnikov decides to go to Sonia's lodgings.

Chapter 4

Raskolnikov, burdened by guilt and anguish, finds relief in defending Sonia against Luzhin. However, as he prepares to tell Sonia about killing Lizaveta, he becomes overwhelmed with fear and impotence. He hesitates at her door, questioning whether he should confess. When he finally enters, Sonia expresses her gratitude for his support. Raskolnikov confesses his crime to her, but she struggles to understand his motives. He contemplates his actions and realizes that he wanted to prove his superiority and gain power. Sonia urges him to confess and repent, but he resists, believing he can escape punishment. He informs Sonia that the police are after him and assures her that he will find a way to protect his family. They sit together, both feeling the weight of their love for each other. Raskolnikov tells Sonia not to visit him in prison, and she gives him a cross to wear. Just as they are about to discuss further, Lebeziatnikov knocks on the door.

Chapter 5

Lebeziatnikov informs Raskolnikov that Katerina Ivanovna has gone mad and is mistreating her children. Sonia rushes out to help, followed by Raskolnikov and Lebeziatnikov. They find Katerina Ivanovna in the street, singing and dancing with the children. She is eventually taken back to Sonia's room, where she dies. Svidrigaïlov offers to take care of the children and provide for them financially. He reveals that he has been living next door and has been observing Raskolnikov. Raskolnikov is shocked and disturbed by this revelation.

Part VI

Chapter 1

Raskolnikov is experiencing a strange period of fog and solitude, during which he believes his mind is clouded and he has made mistakes. He is plagued by uneasiness and panic, but also moments of apathy. He is particularly worried about Svidrigaïlov and feels the need to come to an understanding with him. Raskolnikov learns from Razumihin that his mother is ill and that Dounia received a disturbing letter. Razumihin also informs him that the murderer of the old woman has been found.

Raskolnikov realizes that Porfiry suspects him and decides to confront him.

Chapter 2

Porfiry Petrovitch, a police investigator, visits Raskolnikov and tries to convince him to confess to the murders he committed. Porfiry believes that Raskolnikov is the murderer and offers him a chance to lessen his sentence by confessing. Raskolnikov initially refuses, but eventually considers the possibility. Porfiry warns Raskolnikov not to try to escape or harm himself, and asks him to leave a note if he decides to do so. After Porfiry leaves, Raskolnikov contemplates his options.

Chapter 3

The protagonist, Raskolnikov, hurries to meet Svidrigaïlov, a man who has some hidden power over him. Raskolnikov is unsure of what he hopes to gain from Svidrigaïlov, but feels compelled to see him. On his way, he wonders if Svidrigaïlov has been to see Porfiry, a police investigator. Raskolnikov is unsure, but believes that Svidrigaïlov has not been to see Porfiry yet. He contemplates whether it is worth it to try to prevent Svidrigaïlov from going to see Porfiry and whether it is worth investigating him further. Raskolnikov is tired and anxious about his immediate future, but is more concerned about the possibility of Svidrigaïlov using his secret against his sister, Dounia. Raskolnikov arrives at a tavern and finds Svidrigaïlov there. They engage in conversation, with Svidrigaïlov revealing that he is a gambler and has a passion for women. Raskolnikov confronts Svidrigaïlov about his intentions towards Dounia and warns him that he will kill him if he tries to harm her. Svidrigaïlov admits that he is afraid of death and dislikes talking about it. They discuss their different perspectives on vice and aesthetics. Raskolnikov becomes uncomfortable and wants to leave, but Svidrigaïlov asks him to stay and tells him a story about a woman who tried to save him, revealing that the woman is Raskolnikov's sister, Avdotya Romanovna.

Chapter 4

In this passage, Svidrigaïlov reveals to Raskolnikov the details of his marriage to Marfa Petrovna, including their agreement to allow him to have affairs with other women. He also confesses his attraction to Raskolnikov's sister, Avdotya Romanovna, and his plans to marry another young girl. Raskolnikov becomes suspicious of Svidrigaïlov's intentions and decides to follow him.

Chapter 5

In this passage, Raskolnikov confronts Svidrigaïlov about his intentions towards his sister and accuses him of pursuing her. Raskolnikov threatens to call the police, but Svidrigaïlov dismisses his concerns and tries to befriend him. Raskolnikov remains suspicious and decides to follow Svidrigaïlov to his lodgings. Meanwhile, Dounia, Raskolnikov's sister, meets with Svidrigaïlov and he confesses to her that Raskolnikov is a murderer. Dounia is in disbelief and pulls out a revolver, threatening to shoot Svidrigaïlov. However, she ultimately decides not to and flees from the room. Svidrigaïlov is left in despair and contemplates his actions before leaving the room.

Chapter 6

Svidrigaïlov spends the evening going to various low places and treating people to drinks. He ends up in a pleasure garden where a fight breaks out among some clerks. He leaves and walks home in the rain. He then goes to see Sonia, giving her money and making arrangements for her and her family. Later, he has a disturbing dream and wakes up feeling unsettled. He leaves his hotel and encounters a man named Achilles. Svidrigaïlov tells Achilles he is going to America and then shoots himself in the head.

Chapter 7

Raskolnikov, in a state of exhaustion and distress, visits his mother and confesses his love for her. He then meets with his sister, Dounia, who is horrified to learn that he has committed a crime. Raskolnikov defends his actions, believing that he has done a service to society. He decides to turn himself in and contemplates the consequences of his actions. Despite his inner turmoil, he pushes away Dounia and walks away, feeling a mix of anger and self-hatred.

Chapter 8

In this passage, Raskolnikov confesses to the murder of the pawnbroker and her sister and is sentenced to eight years of penal servitude. He reflects on his crime and his feelings of shame and isolation in prison. Meanwhile, Sonia, who has been visiting him, falls ill but assures him she is getting better. Raskolnikov dreams of a plague that destroys humanity except for a chosen few. He is released from prison and reunites with Sonia, and they both feel a sense of renewal and hope for the future. The passage ends by hinting at the possibility of a new story, one that explores Raskolnikov's transformation and redemption.