

Georges Notebook

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## Character Sheet

Character Name	Role	Description	Other
<p>Leader of the Volunteers</p> <p>M. de Malmedie</p>	Leader	<p>40-45 years of age</p> <p>Wore a field officers epaulets</p> <p>Unremarkable in appearance and no striking features</p> <p>Coiffed, shaven, and decked out as if for a parade</p>	<p>In Chapter 3.</p> <p>Henri is the son and rival of Georges throughout the book.</p> <p>Owner of Williams Plains plantation</p>
Monsieur Pierre Munier	Father of Jacques and Georges	<p>Tall, spare, and slightly stooped</p> <p>Coppery skin and frizzy hair</p> <p>Mulatto</p>	
Jacques (older brother)	Son	<p>14 years of age</p> <p>Sturdy and robust and resembled that of an 18-year-old</p> <p>Armed with a double-barreled shot gun he normally used for hunting</p> <p>Skilled in marksmanship</p>	
Georges (younger brother)	Son	<p>12 years of age</p> <p>Small, delicate, skinny, fragile, slender limbs, long black hair, and a melancholy face of paleness</p> <p>Unimpressive for the strong family</p>	

		<p>Looked two years younger than he was</p> <p>Lacked the tall stature of his father and powerful body of his brother</p> <p>Is unarmed</p> <p>After 14 years he becomes a man with lots of strength.</p>	
Lord Murray	Governor of Ile de France after British invasion 14 years later		Georges and Murray formed a bond and friendship on their journey back to the island.
Antonio the Malay	Slave of Malmedie	<p>Small man with enormous feet and long arms</p> <p>Humorous, high energy, and wit among the other slaves</p>	
Nazim	Brother of Laiza	Black slave from Anjouan	Holds disdain for Antonio who takes advantage of the other slaves and sees through his act.
Laiza	Brother of Nazim	Medium height with impressively muscular limbs	Inspires respect in the people around him
Sara	Creole woman	<p>Black haired, black eyed and capricious</p> <p>Teeth like pearls delicate hands and feet</p> <p>Page 90</p>	Appears when trying to buy a fan from a Chinese man and Georges helps her
Henriette Smith	<p>Sara's maid? Mentor? Assistant?</p> <p>She is officially Sara Governess (Teacher)</p>	<p>Tall, thin around the age of 30</p> <p>Page 92</p>	

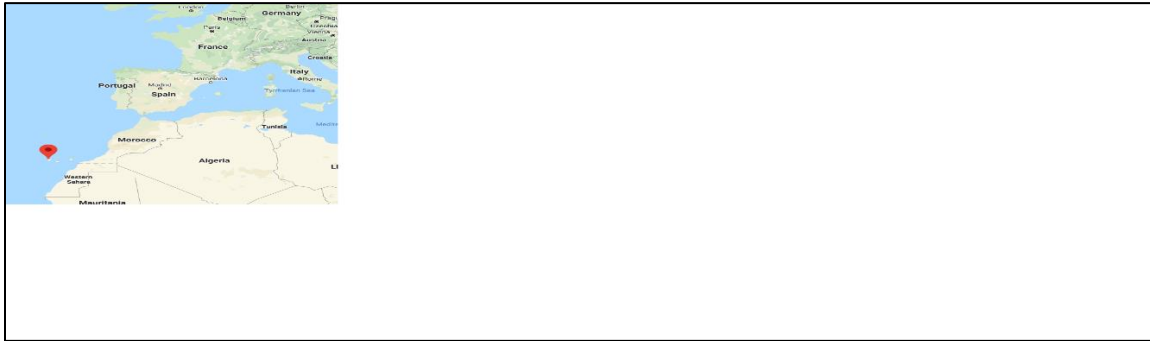
## Chapter 1 (L'île De France)

Starts off on a rainy day where the narrator looks out the window and longs to be somewhere else, not the wet and muddy Paris – An enchanted oasis.

Describes this oasis

“... the water flows clear and bright there, falling, and surging up in bright dust” – Page 1

Bids farewell to France



Coming from France on the right is Tenerife (an island of Spain)

Reaches the south end of Africa in the Cape of Storms

Arrives at the destination of the Ile de France

Describes the various towns and the people of this Island

“Land of fertile fields, bountiful harvests, and endless springs and summers bursting with flowers and fruit” – Page 5

England had tried to take over the island several times and failed. However, they took the sister island of Bourbon and on August 23, 1810 English attacked

### Locations

Port Louis (Port Napoleon) – Islands capital city

Region of Moka – Lying on the slopes facing away from the port, loveliest part of the island

### People

Creoles (mixed European)

Blacks (slaves)

Lascars – In between Creoles and Slaves

Chinese – Masters of trade

Malays – Small, cunning, copper-skinned, and vindictive, who will forget a kindness in the blink of an eye but bear a grudge forever

Malgaches – Slim, ruddy, and clever. Hunts elephants and tigers from early childhood

## Chapter 2 (Lions and Leopards)

### **Morning of August 20, 1810**

French ships led by Captain Duperre of the Bellone came into the Grand Port

They were involved with skirmishes with the English and sustained a lot of damage

#### French Ships

Led by Captain Duperre and Captain Hamelin

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Fleet

Victor – Front ship

- a. Attacked by English schooner (Nereid)

Minerva – 2<sup>nd</sup> ship

- a. Follows Bellone

Ceylon – 3<sup>rd</sup> ship

- a. Follows Bellone

Bellone – 4<sup>th</sup> ship

- a. Attack the British

Windham – Rear ship

- a. Went for reinforcements

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleet

Entreprenant – Front ship

Manche – 2<sup>nd</sup> ship

Astree – Rear ship

#### English Ships

Led by Commodore Lambert

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Fleet

Magician – Front ship

Nereid – 2<sup>nd</sup> ship

Sirius – 3<sup>rd</sup> ship

Iphigenia – Rear ship

### **12:00 PM August 21, 1810**

- ➔ It was a trap and the Victor was heavily attacked because it was in the front

- Windham is taken by English frigate Sirius on the 21<sup>st</sup> as the Windham attempted to drop anchor in the Black River (Riviere Noire)
- Frigate's commander Captain Pym made for Grand Port, flanked by the Manche and Astree
  - Could not overtake British frigate before it reached the harbor

### **Midday August 22, 1810**

- ➔ Sirius reaches Grand Port and joins the schooner – now known to be the Nereid under the command of Captain Willoughby
- ➔ Sirius “caught bottom” and spends left of day repairing the ship
- ➔ French arrived at night with a total of 1400 men and 142 guns

### **2:00 - 5:00 PM August 23, 1810**

- ➔ 2:00 PM English frigates Magician and Iphigenia arrived in the harbor putting the English forces at 1700 men and 200 cannons

“At first it seemed that the enemy might prevail, for the English quickly crippled both the Minerva and Ceylon” – Page 12

- ➔ Minerva and Ceylon repair their ships while the Bellone is fighting off four British ships and heavily firing back.
  - Nereid is first British ship to go down as the French hone their fury onto her
  - Captain Bouvet replaces Captain Duperre as he is badly injured

*1400 men and 142 guns vs. 1700 men and 200 cannons*

“Half the inhabitants of Ile de France gathered on the hillsides around Grand Port, transfixed by the spectacle unfolding below them” – Page 10

Combatants were English and French Ships and over 10,000 spectators watched on the mountainside

“It would be a battle between lions and leopards, a fight to the death” – Page 12

### **1:00 AM August 24, 1810**

English Nereid completely out of commission for the battle

French Victor collects French Prisoners from Nereid and leaves her to float, completely destroyed

Captain Bouvet wanted to destroy each ship one by one

Magician sinks and there is only Sirius and Iphigenia

### **Morning August 25, 1810**

Sirius is down

“Her masts had been completely obliterated, and her hull was in tatters. She could do nothing but sink” – Page 13

11:00 AM Sirius is exploded by a bomb just like the Magician

Iphigenia is chased by the Minerva and Bellone

Entrepenant, Manche, and Astree arrive from Port Louis and destroy the last remaining English ship

William Murray – Captain Willoughby's nephew is taken prisoner

## Chapter 3 (Three Children)

English attacked a second time only months later instead at Port Louis (Formerly Port Napoleon)

Leader of the Volunteers has a 12-year-old boy and a black servant by his side

Black Servant – luxuriously dressed with a sword and addressed Leader as “Father”

Another family stood near the Leader and was just as notable

Father is a Mulatto

Mulatto's are dark copper skinned mix of European that may attain a high level of wealth but are still discriminated against for their skin color.

Older Brother is Jacques

Younger Brother is Georges

When Jacques and his father step up to fight, the rest of the crew announces they will not fight with Mulatto's

When they are denied fighting they decide to lead the black men who do not have a leader

➔ The blacks are happy about seeing this and cheer for Jacques and his father, asking for orders.

Left Side -

Out to the Sea – Fanfaron armed with 18 cannons

Right Side – Dumas Battery protected by only six guns

Fought and abandoned Left and Sea to focus on the weak right side

➔ The right astonished the enemy with their rapidity and the amount of its volleys

○ English began to retreat

➔ The regulars and national guard battalion come to the Dumas Batteries aid

National Guard Battalion attacked from front, putting them in the line of fire of the Dumas cannons

➔ English sees this and takes advantage and the French are forced to retreat a little

➔ Reinforcements rescue the Battalion and Dumas Battery and they continue fighting

○ Reinforcements were the Black Corps led by Pierre Munier

➔ The French win the battle and celebrate **prematurely**

Pierre gives the flag to Georges while he comforts a soldier of his, who is slowly dying

Henri a stubborn child tries to take the flag from Georges but fails

Jacques pushes him to the ground and breaks his sword

Pierre reluctantly gives the flag to M. de Malmedie

Messenger on horse says that 10,000 English men are descending from the Williams Plains and Petite-Riviere  
5,000 more British troops at Grande-Riviere Bay

The French have no choice but to surrender and signed on December 3, 1810

Pierre sends his children back to France so they continue their education and so they were away from Malmedie and his anger and disdain for colored men



## Chapter 4 (Fourteen Years Later)

14 years later Europeans have taken over Ile de France

Some people fled while others stayed

Mount Decouverte

Grand Port

February 1824

36-gun frigate named *Leicester* anchors in Port Louis

Introduced to two gentleman on the deck of this ship

1 <sup>st</sup> man	Fair, regular-featured man with blond hair and blue eyes, taller than average
Lord William Murray	Looked younger than his 40 years Content to keep quiet unless someone had a different opinion of his own in which he would attack with lightning speed with his eyes blazing, arguing his point with his clarity and eloquence. Always conducted himself with rigid self-control. Boarded at Portsmouth
2 <sup>nd</sup> man	Pale, long dark hair, and large, deep brown eyes
Georges	25 but looked like 30 Gaze showed darting rays into the depth of his soul that struck everyone who met him Boarded at Cadiz

The two bonded over the 3-month journey discussing topics such as science, politics, art, and came to know each other well and considered themselves equals.

1<sup>st</sup> blonde man had an advantage because he led the crew out of a nasty storm when the captain and first mate were injured in a spar (fight). While the blonde man is quiet, this is on purpose and can be loud when it is necessary.

2<sup>nd</sup> dark haired man grew envious. However, the blonde man had been a captain of vessels before becoming a diplomat.

2<sup>nd</sup> younger man grew more respect and awe for his older friend and social standing did not become a problem on the rest of their journey.

Younger man thanks older man for being his friend and being nice to a complete stranger.

“I hope that for you, as for me, there can be no strangers in this world except brigands, thieves, and drunks; all men of worth are relatives of a sort, and we recognize one another wherever we may meet” – Page 36

Older man was a lieutenant on a frigate during the battle 14 years ago

Man is William Murray and was named Governor of Ile de France by King of England

People screamed “Vive Lord Murray” as he was the only English survivor of the Battle of Grand Port who was taken as a prisoner of war.

The people who had wept when the French had left the Ile de France are mostly all dead and the new generation forgot the destruction that happened

“Time, it seems, is all it takes to destroy a great man, or a great nation” – Page 39

## Chapter 5 (Prodigal Son)

Everyone is surprised by the way the Governor is treating the dark-haired man and assume he is an English nobleman.

The two men ride on horses

Dark haired young man stops to gaze at an attractive English lady in the center of a small bridge near gardens to the courtyard of a stately house.

Young lady is trying to buy an ivory-fan from an Asian man (Chinese)

Yellow River – One of two Rivers in China where many civilizations are located

Chinese man is nicknamed Miko-Miko

Dark haired speaks Chinese and gets the price of the fan for the young lady

Stranger seems to recognize someone on the bench whose eyes were fixed on the sea.

**It seems that Georges is the dark-haired stranger and the older man is Pierre, the father.**

Quite sad that the father thinks his own sons would not want to visit him because they found people to love that outweigh the love for their own father.

Georges and Pierre hug each other for the first time in 14 years.



## Chapter 6 (Transfiguration)

Travelling back to when they first sailed off from Ile de France 14 years ago to retell how Georges transformed from a boy to a man.

Aboard the Bellone sailing away from the Ile de France

Pierre could never stand up for himself against white men and stood lost in the crowd.

- ➔ Was rich and had money but was still at a lower social standing because he was a Mulatto
- ➔ Generous and magnanimous
- ➔ His generosity went unnoticed and passive as no one returned the favor to him
- ➔ M. de Malmedie and Henri always wished harm on him

Georges set out to conduct himself opposite to his father

- ➔ Hated the whites because of how they despised him and scorned Mulattos
- ➔ Would face absurd and unreasonable oppression head on

“... had declared war on an entire nation; young Georges, despite his father, would fight prejudice to the death with the same ferocity” – Page 61

Both enrolled in the College Napoleon, where they were placed in the lower grade level

- ➔ Georges and Jacques were resolved to rise to the top of their class.

“The more he achieved, the more he desired to achieve” – Page 51

- ➔ Intellectually he was at the top but he still lacked in physique

Jacques leaves their “prison” after two years to board a French military vessel

- ➔ This left Georges defenseless from people who wanted to hurt him in school.
  - “Shunned, beaten, and ill-treated all around” – Page 51

Georges realized that moral superiority meant nothing without physical strength

- ➔ He would never be respected without strength
  - **Replaced shyness, isolation, and inactivity for sport, exuberance, and rough housing**

“However weak an enemy might be, a man will hesitate to fight him if he knows the enemy’s determination is greater than his own” – Page 52

After earning his diploma from College Napoleon, he developed his own strict schedule to continue becoming superior to all other men.

Georges took on the challenge of gambling finally because he feared he would become addicted

He played for three days with 10,000 francs and lost badly the first two days but on the third day won a generous amount of money (230,000 francs).

- ➔ This amounts to Georges finally mastering everything, including his fear of gambling

He had met a woman who was intelligent and beautiful and talked of politics and had long conversations

→ He challenges his desires and lust and manages to overcome them with conversation for two hours

The only other fear in his mind was that he was at heart a coward

→ “He still could not be sure of how he might react if true danger were imminent? Would he stay, or would he run?” – Page 56

Georges goes the shooting range and sees a rather good shot, one of the galleries regulars shooting perfect bullseyes at the target.

He starts arguing with the marksman that he could not aim so perfectly at a real person, that killing another human is different than shooting a target. Also, that ones aim might waver given that you were shooting at another person instead.

Georges decides to challenge him to this point by using himself as a target.

The marksman sets himself up 25 feet away from Georges.

→ Marksman is proven wrong because he misses his shot at Georges  
○ This proves to Georges that he is not a coward and is very brave

***Georges leaves Paris and sets out for London, Greece, Turkey, Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt***

Was well received everywhere he went

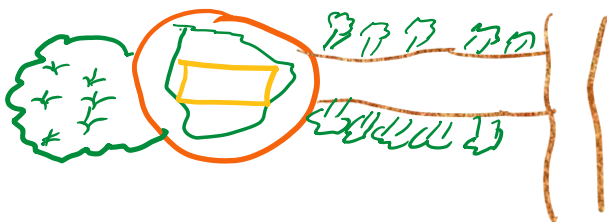
Earned two military distinctions in battle

He wanted to go back to Ile de France to challenge the “barbarism”

Will Lord Murray and Georges remain companions on the Ile de France?

Georges walks with his father and eventually views what has become of the Munier family estate

*Munier Estate*



“A man who was humble to the whites and never cruel to the blacks” – Page 63

Munier family has 300 slaves and only sleep in 90 huts

Munier family treats the slaves with respect and not merely as objects. However, they are still their property and cannot be totally free.

## Chapter 7 (The Berloque)

Berloque – an area where slaves are working on different tasks, slaves get to work for themselves

M. de Malmedie is said not be a terrible master of the plantation

➔ He is not filled with hatred or vengeance, simply his ego and pride flows through his veins

His slaves were not treated any worse but still shared the common unhappiness of slaves everywhere

“M. de Malmedie saw Negroes not as men, but as machines, made for labor. If one of these machines did not function, it must simply be wound up again.” – Page 65

➔ Malmedie would tell the overseer of the plantation to punish the slaves, so must feared the overseer more than the master.

The slaves in of Malmedie needed to be excited to be cheerful and it was forced unlike the slaves of the Munier family where it came naturally because Pierre treated them with respect and dignity.

➔ The man who excited the slaves was Antonio the Malay

Antonio joins the Berloque and sings to the other slaves

Young Negro treats Antonio with disdain and disgust

➔ Who is this young slave?

○ Nazim

Nazim looks down on his fellow slaves and sees himself as superior to them

“The affairs of stags and lions are of no concern to snakes” – Page 68

Antonio begins to criticize the slaves because they are still working in the Berloque instead of just relaxing and singing songs.

➔ Crowd cheers for Antonio, thanking him for he is the only one who truly can make them cheerful

Laiza can also sing songs but they make the slaves tremble with fear, not joy.

Nazim can also sing songs but they make the slaves cry, not cheer.

Antonio begins to ask for people to give him items in exchange for always being there for all the others and singing them songs and telling stories.

Antonio takes Cambeba's banana as part of his reward and this makes all the other slaves erupt in laughter

Nazim stands up for Cambeba since he needed the banana for his sick wife Narina

“I'll say it again now, and nearer! Cried Nazim. With one great stride, he shortened the distance between them to two paces. ‘You are a dog’, he repeated, his nostrils flaring and his gaze boring into the Malay's” – Page 72

Laiza appears and Antonio's demeanor changes and he drops the knife he had at Nazim's chest

It seems Antonio is a bully in the Malmedie plantation and Laiza is the person that most of the slaves look up to

“Papa is a title of honor and affection among Negroes, and the slaves of the Malmedie plantation, young and old, had unanimously agreed to bestow it upon Laiza” – Page 73

“Crime does not pay” – Page 73

- ➔ This is what Antonio said to Cambeba and it is ironic because Antonio ends up with no meat at the end of the chapter because he essentially bullied and stole the banana from Cambeba



## Chapter 8 (The Toilette of the Runaway Slave)

Nazim and Laiza seem to be planning an escape from the Malmedie plantation

They were captured in a battle and sold into slavery and ended up on the Ile de France

They have been there for two years and Nazim would rather attempt an escape and die than be a slave

Nazim is tired of waiting for a perfect chance to escape

Laiza on the other hand is content to wait for the perfect opportunity to escape

Laiza plans on staying and leading an insurrection against the whites

➔ Laiza also lusts for a white woman and is content in staying on the Ile de France

Laiza gives Nazim a shard of glass to cut his hair so people do not recognize him immediately and coconut oil so he can be slippery if people run after him.

Antonio was very still and overheard their conversation and runs to the capital to get his revenge on Nazim and Laiza

## Chapter 9 (The Rose of the Riviere Noire)

The Creole woman who Georges had bought the fan is the same woman that Laiza is lusting after

She is interested in Georges

“I was wondering who he is, and where he came from. I’ve never seen him before today” – Page 83

Her name appears to be Sara

Sara is not like most European ladies and likes to dance and show her charming nature, where most other ladies will hide this.

Sara seems to be marrying Henri (his cousin)

A letter from the now Governor Murray is given to the family inviting them to dinner and a ball

Sara feels free in nature because she can be herself without any authority telling her what to do

➔ Led to her nickname “The Rose of the Riviere Noire”

Sunday would be her spending the afternoon in the countryside and the evening at the ball

## Chapter 10 (The Bath)

Palanquin – a carriage meant for one person carried by 2 or 4 people

Horseback – riding on horseback

2 modes of transportation at the time

Henriette is the daughter of a professor

Her father died when she was 25

Henriette accepts the position of Governess of Sara that M. de Malmedie promised a big salary for.

She was in charge of Sara's care and education

“She boarded the very next ship to Ile de France... put her in charge of the care and education of his niece Sara, aged nine” – Page 91

Sara and Henri were destined to be married from early on in their childhood by Malmedie because Sara's uncles fortune would double in the coming years

Sara liked to be outside and riding horses

Contrast this to Henriette who was afraid of boats, cliffs, and riding horses

- ➔ She would always be worried about Sara
  - She would always be worried about everything, you could say she is paranoid

Sara planned on swimming in the Riviere Noire but hid this from Henriette so she did not object or get worried.

Sara is swimming but a shark is near her about 60 feet away

A negro man dives in the water towards the shark

Laiza was the man who jumped in the river

Laiza runs away

## Chapter 11 (The Price of Negroes)

Georges is the man who shot the shark

Henri and Malmedie congratulate Providence not Laiza and Georges

Malmedie's overseer says that an escaped slave was captured (Nazim from the previous chapter)

Malmedie says that the "usual punishment" should be given to the runaway slave

Laiza wants to take the 150 lashes instead for fear that Nazim might die if he takes them

Georges wants to buy Laiza and Nazim for 1000 piastres (dollars)

Georges frees both Laiza and Nazim after he purchases them

"As for the two of you, he said, from this moment on you may do what you please. You are free" – Page 105

## Chapter 12 (The Ball)

Monday night of the ball

4:00 PM

Colony's elite begin arriving to the party

"... The men dressed impeccably in the latest fashions and the ladies shimmering with diamonds and pearls, their soft and luscious delicacy – unique to Creole women – the only trait distinguishing them from their European counterparts." – Page 106

"... the blond loveliness of the English ladies contrasted strikingly with the dark hair and eyes of the tropical beauties" – Page 107

Everyone was charmed by the new governor as he shook peoples hands and showed them to their seats

Monsieur Georges Munier arrives and is greeted by Lord Murray

Sara wants to know more about Georges and picked her simplistic outfit for this reason (to not draw attention from others)

Sara is hella crushing on Georges

"his manly bearing" "noble brow" "she could not keep her eyes of him" – Page 109

People were impressed by Georges wide range of knowledge from battle to international commerce

Henri's hatred towards Georges increased because he had rescued Sara the other day

Malmedie the father of Henri did not hold so much contempt and anger as Henri does. Malmedie was just surprised by him and forgot about the past or at least did not hold on to it tightly like Henri

"Here was a dangerous opponent, ready, willing, and able to challenge him" – Page 111

➔ This is in contrast to him in the past where he could not physically stand up for himself

It made Henri furious that Georges made something of himself

➔ Also made him furious that he walked among Henri, thinking he is an equal

Henri and Sara talk about Georges being a Mulatto and how that presence annoys Henri and that Sara is annoyed that Henri is annoyed

"It is one of the noblest qualities possessed by women to feel compassion for the oppressed, as well as admiration for those who resist this oppression" – Page 114

Sara gets a bit jealous that Georges is dancing with another woman

“When I left Europe to return to Ile de France, I could only hope I would find a heart like yours – but I hardly believed such happiness could truly exist” – Page 116

➔ Georges speaks to Sara at the ball

Georges knows that Henri forbid Sara to dance with him because of his hatred towards Georges.

Georges plans to marry Sara within three months

## Chapter 13 (The Slave Ship)

Georges wants to expand the Munier estate but need more slaves and manpower for the expansion

Pierre goes to the newly arrived slave ship at 9:00 PM to Pointe-aux-Caves while Georges went out in the woods to hunt

Georges was not satisfied with wealth or social standing equal to that of whites

He wanted to conquer the prejudices that still existed in Ile de France

Georges believes fate has brought Sara and him together in these events in the past couple of days since his arrival to his hometown.

“Georges knew he must fight not only for pride, but for love as well” – Page 119

“There was only one problem: his coolness and self-possession had deserted him. Now he burned with a passion that threatened to overwhelm him” – Page 119

Sara realizes she is not in love with Henri and is actually in love with Georges

“She had known, then, that she did not love her cousin – that she loved another man instead” – Page 121

Georges knows he has to be patient even though he feels a passionate and burning feeling to see Sara once again

➔ Cannot fight his urges and rides to the capital near the Malmedie house and hopes Sara is near but is not that day

Georges uses Miko-Miko to get Sara attention and find out where her room is in the Malmedie residence

Slave captain turns out to be Jacques (the older brother of Georges)

“By a strange coincidence, Fate had reunited the family made up of a man who spent his entire life suffering from prejudice, a man who made his living by exploiting it, and a man who was ready to die fighting it” – Page 125

## Chapter 14 (The Slave Trader's Philosophy)

Story of Jacques life after he left Ile de France 14 years ago

Jacques ship would plunder other ships that were unprotected and had valuable merchandise on them

Other times the French ship would battle an English ship and many lives were lost

Privateers were spent in combat most of the time

Jacques served on the *Calypso* and obedience to the captain and second was paramount to survival

- ➔ Mutiny was attempted by two people and was met with great punishment of death
  - Captain Bertrand
  - Lieutenant Rebard

After two years of education at the College of Napoleon he decided to put theory into practice

1815 Captain Bertrand visits Napoleon on the island of Elba where Napoleon was banished to

Captain Bertrand prepares the *Calypso* because he is aware that Napoleon his preparing for his return

*Calypso* (Captain Bertrand) and *Leicester* (Captain William Murray) fought

Finding fortune raiding ships became bleak so they turned to the now booming slave trade to find profit.

Exchanges slaves for rum or alcohol

In 1820, Captain Bertrand dies from a snake bite

Jacques becomes commander under the new *Calypso et Compagnie*

- ➔ He loved his ship and “was neither greedy nor cruel” – Page 133

Jacques believed slave trading was normal and natural job

“He had witnessed blacks being bought and sold all his life; it was, he believed, the natural state of things – what they were made for.” – Page 135

Jacques would pretend his ship was something else like a tea trading ship just for fun. Or pretend he was his old Captain Bertrand.



## Chapter 15 (Pandoras Box)

Jacques is given a tour of the Munier estate while Georges waits for his appointment with Miko-