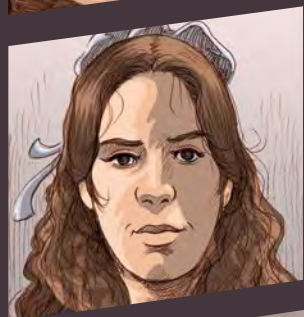


VICTOR HUGO'S

LES MISÉRABLES



A GRAPHIC NOVEL



BY SARACINO & MEZQUITA

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CAST OF CHARACTERS



JEAN VALJEAN

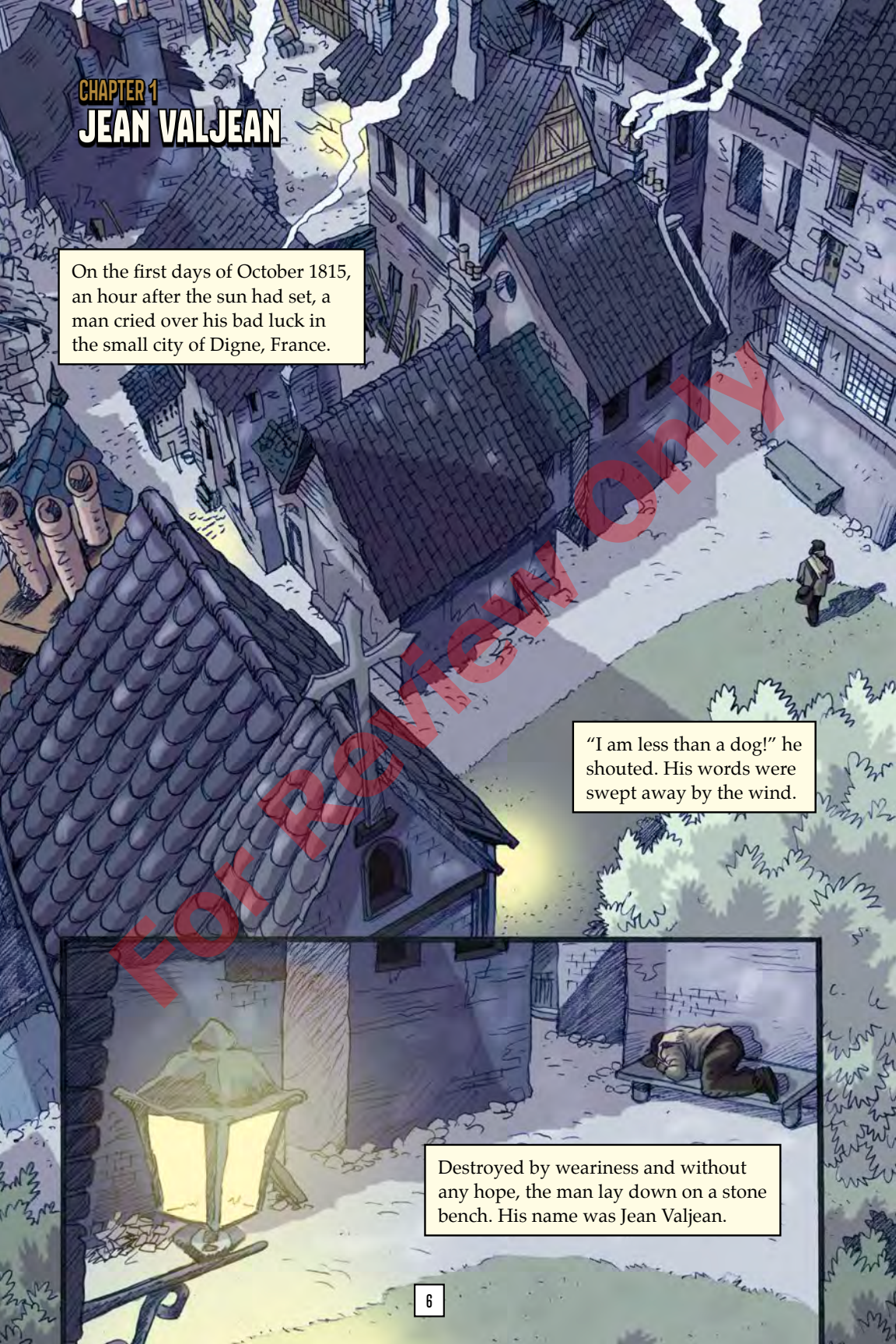


JAVERT

FANTINE

COSETTE

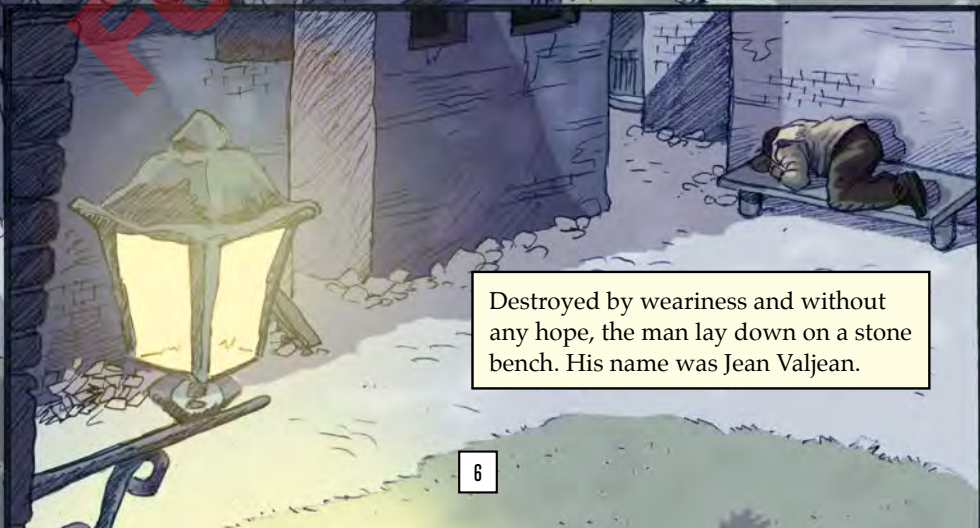
MARIUS



CHAPTER 1 JEAN VALJEAN

On the first days of October 1815, an hour after the sun had set, a man cried over his bad luck in the small city of Digne, France.

"I am less than a dog!" he shouted. His words were swept away by the wind.



Destroyed by weariness and without any hope, the man lay down on a stone bench. His name was Jean Valjean.





But you cannot stay here! You will be cold and hungry.

I have knocked on every door, and at each one I have been chased away.

Did you knock on that one?

No.

Well, give it a try.

And so the man knocked on the door.



My name is Jean Valjean. I am a convict. I have spent nineteen years in jail. I have been free for four days. Now I am headed to Pontarlier to present my passport at the police department there.

If I don't do so, I will once again be a fugitive from the law. I have knocked on the door of every inn in Digne. But each person has driven me away because I am a convict. I have walked nearly forty miles, and I am very tired and –



Say no more.



Madame Magloire, this gentleman is our guest. Set another place at the table.

And get clean sheets for the upstairs bedroom.



Understood, sir.



Jean Valjean had never eaten a dinner like the one he had that night. Madame Magloire served a tasty soup, some bacon, a bit of mutton, plus some figs, fresh cheese, and a large loaf of rye bread. As if it were a celebration, she also added a bottle of aged wine to the table.



The candlesticks, just as the cutlery, were silver. The expensive silverware glittered on the table.



However, that night Jean Valjean could not sleep. His bed was too good. Too soft.



And the memories of his years in prison overcame him with all their weight.



The church bells struck three o'clock.

Jean Valjean had served nineteen years of hard labor. All because he had stolen a loaf of bread to keep from starving.

And Valjean knew what he was going to do.



LES MISÉRABLES AND THE MOVIES

Les Misérables is a beloved work of literature that has been adapted many times, both to film and theater. Even in the early days of film, *Les Misérables* attracted the attention of artists. The story was brought to life for the first time in a 1909 silent film that focuses on the fugitive Jean Valjean and the policeman Inspector Javert.

Over the years, adaptations have been made throughout the world. There are, of course, French films based on Hugo's novel, but there are also Mexican, Brazilian, Indian, and Egyptian films, as well as Japanese anime adaptations. One notable English-language movie is a 1998 version. It stars Liam Neeson in the role of Valjean and Geoffrey Rush as Javert. The novel has also been adapted for the small screen with a number of miniseries and made-for-TV movies.

Despite all the film versions, the adaptation that has brought Victor Hugo's work the most renown is the successful *Les Misérables* musical. The first showing was held in 1985, at the Barbican Centre in London. The musical was immediately popular and has gone on to break records around the globe for being one of the longest-running musicals. In 2012 a film adaptation of the musical was made, starring Hugh Jackman as Valjean and Russell Crowe as Javert. The movie was also a worldwide success, receiving eight Academy Award nominations. The continued interest in *Les Misérables* demonstrates that Hugo's tale remains just as relevant today as it was in his time.

