

Dodger Study Guide

Dodger by Terry Pratchett

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Plot Summary

The novel "Dodger" by Terry Pratchett is a traditional rags to riches story. The soft-hearted Dodger sets into motion for himself a whirlwind of upward mobility when he rescues a girl whom he sees trying to get away from two men one rainy night in London. The girl, who turns out to be a princess, falls in love with Dodger, as he does with her. Dodger uses his street smarts not only to keep Simplicity from having to go back to her abusive husband but also catches the eye of both the London police and other government officials with his unusual talents. For this reason, he is hired to work as a spy for the English government.

Dodger is a tosher, one who scavenges the sewers for lost money and valuables, in the city of London. He believes in the Lady of the Sewers, the deity of the sewer system, and looks forward to the day when she will see fit to grant him a tosheroon, a compact bundle of treasure in the sewers with enough value to set a tosher for life. Dodger doesn't realize he has begun a journey to a different life when he emerges from the sewers one stormy night to save a woman trying to escape a carriage from two men. Dodger rescues the woman and fights off her attackers.

He meets the characters, Charles Dickens and Henry Mayhew, who have witnessed the attack and arrange for the girl to stay at the Mayhew home until she can recover. Dodger learns a bit of Simplicity's story. It was her husband who arranged for her to be hurt so badly, and Dodger makes sure that Simplicity is set up living in a safe place instead of being sent back to her husband.

Charlie has asked Dodger to help him find the men responsible for Simplicity's beating. In the process, Dodger saves the staff of the Morning Chronicle from being robbed, and also helps the London police take Sweeney Todd, a barber who has murdered six men, into custody. For these acts, he is declared a hero and given a reward.

Dodger probably considers his best accomplishment to be his plan to save Simplicity from having to go back to her husband. Because her husband belongs to a royal family in another country, the government of England refuses to give Simplicity amnesty, believing that it will cause bad relations between the countries. Dodger comes up with a plan to fake Simplicity's death so that those who are looking to take her back to her abusive husband will no longer do so, and so that she can live a life of freedom in England, as she desires.

At the conclusion of the novel, Dodger hears the voice of his "granddad" telling him that Simplicity is the tosheroon for which he has been looking. There is more good news for Dodger as he learns that he will not be punished for any of his activities at the - or in connection with Simplicity's "death." Instead, Dodger is knighted by Queen Victoria and is given a job by the government as a spy.



Chapter One

Chapter One Summary

The novel "Dodger" by Terry Pratchett is a traditional rags to riches story. The soft-hearted Dodger sets into motion for himself a whirlwind of upward mobility when he rescues a girl whom he sees trying to get away from two men one rainy night in London. The girl, who turns out to be a princess, falls in love with Dodger, as he does with her. Dodger uses his street smarts not only to keep Simplicity from having to go back to her abusive husband but also catches the eye of both the London police and other government officials with his unusual talents. For this reason, he is hired to work as a spy for the English government.

On a dirty, rainy night in London, a girl throws herself from a carriage into a gutter. One of the carriage wheels makes a screaming sound as it rolls. Two men jump out of the carriage behind the girl. Dodger emerges from the sewer and shouts at the men to leave the girl alone. He takes on the two men in a battle that results in the men running from Dodger. When he gets to the girl's side she asks for his help. Two men walking home see the girl and stop in an attempt to help her, but Dodger attempts to accost them as well. He assumes they have come to take advantage of the girl. The one man, who has been referred to only as "Charlie" tells Dodger they plan to take the girl to a place where she will be taken care of. Charlie suggests Henry's house, as it is closest.

Seeing Dodger's intent to protect the girl, Charlie invites Dodger to come with them so that he can see the girl is well cared for. After Dodger comes to understand the honesty in Charlie's voice he tells the man his name and admits that he doesn't really know the girl. Dodger is a little offended when Charlie refers to him as a Galahad because Dodger doesn't know if this is a good reference or not.

At Henry's house, Dodger is given a glass of milk. The cook watches him like she expects him to try to steal something. Charlie comes to talk to Dodger. Dodger believes that Charlie is the type of person who feels bad that he has money and other people don't. He tells Dodger that the lady is safe but that her unborn child did not survive. Dodger is shocked to learn that the lady was pregnant. Charlie makes a proposition to Dodger that he investigate the crime for him without having to involve the police. He suggests to Dodger that he might ask around and find out what happened to the girl. He reminds Dodger that the girl was not used well and had been hit with fists.

Dodger asks to be allowed to see the girl whom he is to go out and ask questions about. Dodger believes that the girl is about sixteen, and has golden hair. Although he hesitates, Charlie agrees to allow Dodger to stay with the girl over night. The housekeeper warns Charlie that she is not responsible for anything that Dodger steals. Charlie allows Dodger to stay, but threatens him severely. Through the night, Dodger watches the beautiful girl sleep. He swears to himself to find the people who hurt the girl.



When Dodger wakes, the housekeeper is snoring and the girl is asking for water. He asks her name, which she will not give, then asks who hurt her, which she will also not do. She does allow Dodger to hold her hand, however. He studies the ring on her finger. She tells him that she had believed that her husband loved her, but that he had allowed her to be hurt. Her mother told her that if she could get to England that she would be safe. She begs Dodger not to allow them to send her back. Dodger tells her his name and she tells him that he is kind just before she falls back asleep.

Chapter One Analysis

The basis for the story is laid out in this first chapter with Dodger, the hero, rescuing the beautiful young lady as she is trying to escape from two men who have abused and beaten her. The lady will not give her name, but it is assumed that she is part of a rich family as she wears an expensive looking gold ring that bears a crest. She tells Dodger a little of her story. She believed that her husband loved her but has now been the one who arranged for her to be hurt. She has come to England because her late mother had told her at one time that anyone could be safe in England.

It is very important to notice in this first chapter the way in which Dodger is treated by most of the people whom he meets. Because he is not dressed neatly, and is suspected to be tosher, people in the upper classes immediately do not seem to trust him. Consider, for instance, Dodger's welcome when he is brought into the Mayhews' house. The cook watches him as if she expects him to steal something. The maid who sits with Simplicity also expects Dodger to rob them blind if he is allowed to stay the night. Charlie, however, picks up on the idea that Dodger seems to have a good heart and that he has become fiercely protective of Simplicity even though he doesn't know her.

Although Dodger does not have a great deal of book knowledge, he is blessed with street smarts. He knows how to survive on the streets and how to fight. He also has the ability to read people. He can sum up a person's intentions, and personality traits and characteristics just by spending a few minutes with them.

Another theme that will follow through the novel is the author's attention to sensory details, particularly smell. He describes the rainy night in London not just on that detail alone, but points out the stench of the city, the smell coming from the sewers and the inability of the rain to ever clean the city of London, but to just uncover another layer of dirt. He weaves this idea of the dirtiness of London into the dirtiness of the deed which is being done to Simplicity.

Author Pratchett gives the novel an interesting twist as he intertwines both historical and fictional characters in this novel. Although the story is fictional, there are certain characters included in the action who aren't fictional. The first of these are Charles "Charlie" Dickens and Henry Mayhew. Their inclusion in the novel is significant since both of these men were interested in the plight of the poor in London, just as they are in the novel.



The language of the novel can be a bit challenging, since it is written in what might be considered London slang. Two words in particular in this chapter that might cause the reader some question is the word "cove" and "peeler." In the London slang, the term "cove" refers to a man, while "peeler" is a slang term for the police.



Chapter Two

Chapter Two Summary

In Chapter Two, Mrs. Sharples wakes and checks out the room to make sure that Dodger has not stolen anything. She marches Dodger down to the kitchen where he asks her if he should not be allowed breakfast before he leaves. When the cook promises a bowl of porridge and piece of mutton, Dodger bursts into tears. After he eats, the cook pulls him into scullery, yelling that she plans to check to see how much he's stolen. Once there, she whispers to him that she is checking him so that the housekeeper can't claim he's stolen anything.

Once he escapes the cook, Dodger makes his way back into the sewer. He thinks to himself about what he might do if he were to find a tosheroon, a compact bundle of treasure in the sewer that would grant him enough money to move to a better life. Dodger doesn't know what sort of life would be better for him than that of a tosher. Dodger finds two sixpence and a half sovereign in the sewer before he hears groaning. When he investigates the noise, he finds the man who had introduced him to the occupation of toshing, whom he knew as granddad, tangled and deformed by debris from the sewers that apparently crashed into him during the previous night's storm. The dying man asks Dodger for brandy and although Dodger doesn't want to leave him, he goes and returns with two bottles.

When Dodger returns with the liquor, Granddad tells the boy that he has seen the Lady. Dodger again tries to help the man but Granddad insists that he be allowed to remain there. At his death, he gives his title "King of the Toshers" to Dodger. His claim that he can see the Lady make up his dying words. Dodger closes the man's eyes and places coins on them. He then runs to Solomon's attic room.

Chapter Two Analysis

In this chapter, Dodger gets his first look at where his life may end up if he continues his career as a tosher. He discovers the man whom he knew as "granddad," who taught Dodger everything that he knows about toshering, dying in the sewers. The man has become impaled by some trash in the sewers and is dying. The man was so good at his craft that he was called "The King of the Toshers." Even though he was the king of his profession, the man has apparently become a victim of it. Dodger is appalled by the man's insistence that he be allowed to remain in the sewers after he is dead. He gives the body as much respect as he can before he leaves. One thing that sticks with Dodger is his granddad's experience with the lady of the sewers. As he dies, he tells Dodger that he believes that he has seen the lady.

The author continues to focus on the smell of the town, particularly the smell of the sewers. He notes that not only are the sewers falling apart, but people are also using

them for fecal waste, a habit that Dodger considers deplorable. It is in this section, for instance that Dodger refers to the "richards" or lumps of fecal matter he has to be careful to keep from stepping in. In addition to the use of the term "richards," the reader may also be unfamiliar with the use of the word "toffs" to refer to the upper class of London civilians.



Chapter Three

Chapter Three Summary

In Chapter Three, Dodger runs in past Solomon when he unlocks the door. Solomon allows Dodger to lie down until he recovers from his grief, then makes Dodger soup and listens as Dodger tells the story of Granddad's death. Solomon comforts him wisely, telling him that Granddad died as he lived. As Dodger thinks about the way that Granddad died, he wonders if that is the kind of death that he wants for himself. He finds himself wondering what kind of life he should seek.

Solomon also tells Dodger he has heard of Charlie. Solomon tells him the man is sharp and is in good with the police. He wonders why Charlie has included Dodger in the search for the people who hurt the young woman. He tells Dodger that if he wants to be someone different from Granddad, he needs to start by looking different from him. In this life of thinking, Solomon sends Dodger to Jacob, who owns a shonky shop, to get new clothes.

As Jacob tries to fit Dodger with his clothes, Dodger remembers the day that he met Solomon. He was angry because someone had picked up a sovereign before him. In the street, he had seen two men beating another. He had felt sorry for the man being beaten and took a trowel to the two men until they ran away. He'd helped Solomon home and Solomon had fixed him some soup in appreciation. They arranged for Dodger to live with Solomon in exchange for Dodger running errands for Solomon. Jacob is pleased the end result of clothing Dodger even though Dodger does complain the suit is too tight in the crotch. Before he leaves, Jacob suggests to Dodger that he get a decent haircut.

When Dodger returns home, Solomon is studying the card game found in the possession of the lady whom Dodger saved. Dodger suggests that it is just a children's game but Solomon believes it is deceptively simple. Solomon suggests the game will teach children how to be politicians. Solomon surmises that the game teaches children to lie, plot and lead people in the wrong direction. Although Dodger argues it is just a game, Solomon becomes angry because Dodger doesn't understand the significance that games can have on a person's life.

Dodger walks to Gunner's Daughter. He tells the group there that Granddad is dead. The news upsets Mary who shares that Double Henry had just pulled another girl, one with blonde hair, out of the river. Dodger again briefly considers that he should give up toshing. Then, he asks if anyone knows about the girl whom he had rescued. He expects none of his friends to say anything, but Messy Bessie tells Dodger she had seen a carriage the day before the storm from which a girl had jumped and run away. She says she watched as two men chased the girl down. She describes the carriage as making the same squealing noise that Dodger had noticed from the carriage from which



the girl had fallen the night of the storm. She also remembers that the men in the carriage had not been speaking English.

Chapter Three Analysis

It is in this chapter that it is revealed that Simplicity is not the first person whom Dodger had saved from a beating. It was in this way that Dodger also met his friend and roommate, Solomon. Solomon helps Dodger by feeding him, providing him a place to live and encouraging him not to steal outright, just to scavenge from the sewers. Solomon is also wise, as is shown by his way of comforting Dodger after granddad's death. When Solomon learns of Charlie's interest in Dodger, he encourages Dodger to try to do something with his life other than just wander in the sewers. He instructs Dodger to take the first steps by getting himself a better set of clothes. Through the chapter, especially after his talk with Solomon, Dodger continues to wonder if there might be another job choice for him other than working in the sewers.

Notice in this chapter the mention that Double Henry has pulled another girl out of the river. This girl, like Simplicity, has blonde hair. This will be important later on in the novel.



Chapter Four

Chapter Four Summary

In Chapter Four, Dodger locates the Morning Chronicle office on Fleet Street. As Dodger is waiting for Charlie, a man with a mask over his face pushes into the office. Dodger recognizes the man. He grabs one of the desk spikes and pushes it to the man's neck. He whispers to the man that he needs to drop the knife and run. He walks the man outside into an alleyway where he gives the man some money and tells him to get some food and a place to sleep. Dodger also warns the man that the next time he plans to go and hold something up, he doesn't need to get drunk first. When he returns to the office, there is a cop who at first assumes Dodger was one of the men causing trouble. Charlie comes down at that moment and explains to the cop why Dodger is there.

Charlie takes Dodger to a coffeehouse to talk so no one will hear what they are talking about. Dodger tells Charlie what he has found out about the carriage. Charlie's next task for Dodger is to locate the carriage for him. As they are talking, Charlie also asks Dodger about his background. Dodger complies uneasily. He tells that he was raised in an orphanage. Because he was small and the bigger boys picked on him, he learned to dodge about. One day when he got bigger, he attacked the boys with a chair and was thrown out into the streets. Dodger had been apprenticed as a chimney sweep but left that job after he stole a ring. At that point, he was hired as a snakesman. He tells Charlie he learned about toshing when he was hiding in the sewer after stealing a goose. Charlie gives Dodger some money for his information.

Chapter Four Analysis

Notice here that Dodger's reputation continues to follow him as the printer at the newspaper office warns him not to steal anything as he waits for Charlie. Even after Dodger has confronted the man trying to rob the newspaper office and has defused the situation, there is still a man there who assumes that Dodger has been responsible for causing any trouble that might have taken place there. It is not until Charlie comes and explains why Dodger is visiting the office that Dodger is left alone by the police.

Also in this section, Dodger's background is finally revealed. He grew up in an orphanage where he learned the skill of dodging about because so many of the older, bigger boys picked on him. When he finally took up for himself, Dodger was thrown out of the orphanage. It was at this point, that Dodger's usefulness as an accessory to theft and crime helped him to create some sort of living for himself. Although Dodger mentions to Charlie that the older boys picked on him and made fun of him because of his name, Dodger does not tell Charlie what his given name was. Notice also that Charlie's habit of writing down what Dodger has to say makes Dodger nervous. At one

point, Dodger threatens to stop talking if Charlie insists on writing down what he is saying.



Chapter Five

Chapter Five Summary

In Chapter Five, Dodger decides the best way to get more information about the coach is to see if the young lady can answer any of his questions. He thinks also of Granddad's death, and the state in which Stumpy was in when he attempted to hold up the newspaper office. Dodger feels as if he is being pulled in a different direction from this sort of life.

The next morning, Dodger goes back to the Mayhew home. In his new clothes, he notices that the police officer patrolling that street salutes him as he passes. Dodger knocks on the back door, which is opened by the maid. Mrs. Quickly, who also comes to the door, explains to Dodger that he is the talk of the house because he stopped the robber at the Chronicle office. She tells him to come through the downstairs before he leaves as she plans to give him a package of food on the way out.

Upstairs, Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew are refereeing an argument between their children. Mr. Mayhew breaks away and asks Dodger if he could ask him some personal questions. He asks about Dodger's origins. He, like Charlie, starts to write things down but Dodger threatens to stop talking. He tells Dodger that he is working on a project to make the government see how bad the conditions are in the city. Mr. Mayhew hears Dodger's stomach growling and has some food brought to him. As Dodger eats, Mr. Mayhew tells him that the young lady has not been able to tell them what happened to her. Dodger believes that the girl is waiting to see if she can determine who her friends are. Mr. Mayhew also asks Dodger about his job and about Solomon. When Dodger finishes, Mr. Mayhew looks at Dodger as if he has found an unexpected jewel.

After they talk, Mr. Mayhew takes Dodger to see the young lady. Jane, Mr. Mayhew's wife, is helping the girl to eat some soup. Jane introduces the girl as "Simplicity" as they do not know the girl's real name. Dodger asks to be allowed to talk to Simplicity alone. Although Mrs. Mayhew isn't sure, she tells Dodger that she will allow it if Simplicity agrees. Simplicity asks to speak to Dodger alone. She asks Dodger if she can trust him as she is not sure if she can trust Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew. She believes they will think the right thing to do is to take her back to her husband, the ending that she wants the least. As he talks to her Dodger realizes that her speech patterns begin to sound more and more like those of a street girl.

Dodger hears Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew outside and surprises them by standing up quickly. He requests to be allowed to take Simplicity outside for a walk during their next visit. Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew, again, aren't sure the walk will be all right. Dodger tries to convince them that if she is allowed to walk around the town, she might see or hear something that would spark her memory about who hurt her. Dodger says that he will be coming by the following day. On his way out the door, Mrs. Quickly hands Dodger a package with some potatoes, carrots and a piece of pork. She also gives Dodger a kiss.



Chapter Five Analysis

In this chapter of the novel, Dodger has already begun to sum up Simplicity. He believes that she is not talking freely to the Mayhews because she is afraid they will send her back to her husband. After Dodger is allowed to speak privately with Simplicity, he realizes that this is the case. He suggests a walk outside with the girl to see if anything she sees or hears might spark a memory of what happened to her, but Dodger may be thinking that the girl will feel safer about talking freely if she is not afraid the Mayhews are eavesdropping on her conversations. It is also noted that as the two talk further, Dodger begins to notice the girl has the speech patterns of a simple country girl.

Class divisions continue to be a theme in this chapter. Although no one accuses Dodger of stealing anything or feels the need to warn him not to steal, he still goes to the back door of the Mayhew house to be let in. Even though the policeman in the street waved to him and spoke to him instead of being suspicious of Dodger since he was dressed in clean clothes, Dodger still does not feel as if he is of the same class as the Mayhews. However, as Dodger lies in bed thinking of Stumpy and granddad, he feels himself being pulled away from that sort of life to a different life, even though he doesn't yet know what might be in store for him.

The symbolism of the green door at the Mayhews' house is significant as Dodger believes it is the dividing line between the servants, who live and work in the downstairs of the house, and the family, who lives in the upper portion of the house. The connecting portal between these two worlds is the green door at the top of the steps. As Dodger physically can walk from the downstairs with the servants to the upstairs with the family, his life will soon be literally moving from the "downstairs" of being poor and an object of suspicion to the "upstairs" of being a recognized and renowned hero. Mrs. Quickly gives a hint of Dodger's future as she celebrates him with kisses and a package of food scraps for his bravery in saving the staff of the newspaper office.

Notice also that Mr. Mayhew takes the opportunity to talk to Dodger about his life on the streets. Just as Mayhew did in his real life as a Londoner, the Mayhew in the story has a deep interest in the deplorable conditions that exist for the poor in the city of London. He tells Dodger that he hopes to open the eyes of the English government to how bad the living conditions are in some parts of their most powerful city.



Chapter Six

Chapter Six Summary

As he walks home, Dodger considers the idea that he really doesn't know who he is any longer. He has noticed the worry in Mrs. Mayhew's countenance and has picked up on a general unhappiness in the atmosphere of the family. Dodger decides to go into the sewer to try to cheer himself up but goes home to change clothes first. As he winds his way back home, he notices the Punch and Judy show. Punch, whom he realizes is much like the people who have hurt Simplicity, angers Dodger. Although he knows he can't do anything about the cruelty that goes on every day in the world, he believes that he might be able to do something to help Simplicity. As he moves through the city, Dodger drops hints and questions, hoping these bits of conversation will lead him to some information about the people who hurt Simplicity.

Two children pull at his trouser leg and Dodger takes them to Marie Jo to fix them up with dinner. He realizes that he no longer looks like a tosher, but a gentlemen who can give away money. He gives his friend a sixpence to feed the children that day and the next. She tells him to be careful as there have been people coming around asking about him. She describes this man as being like a lawyer.

Dodger takes the pork given to him by the Mayhew's cook, home to Solomon who suggests he might make a casserole out of the meat. When Solomon settles into his work, Dodger tells the man he plans to go to work as well, in order to think. He gets a bit of luck when a wealthy lady drops her purse and some coins roll down through the sewer grate. As thinks back over his conversation with Marie Jo, he believes that if someone is after him, the best place to fight him would be in the sewers. As he continues to work his way through the sewer, Dodger finds a tie pin and a farthing. Onan, meanwhile, locates an expensive ring. Happiness returns to Dodger.

Meanwhile, Sharp Bob is being held in a room, talking to people whose faces are undistinguishable because of candlelight. He is being paid two sovereigns to do a job for the obscured men. He is first chided for not taking care of the girl the way that he had promised to do. Bob argues the girl was smart and quick with a punch that knocked out a ring fighter. Bob and his cohorts were supposed to take the girl to meet a boat but had missed it because the girl had attacked them. They had been taking her back to the disguised man when she ran away again and was rescued by Dodger. Bob hears the man whispering to someone and realizes they are not alone in the room. The man tells Sharp Bob that Dodger must not know that he is being spied on. Later in the carriage, Sharp Bob hears the men discussing the possibility of hiring the Outlander for the job. They agree this is a last resort.



Chapter Six Analysis

The division between the classes continues to be an issue in this chapter of the novel. Dodger begins to notice that the division between himself and the Mayhews might not be as great as he once thought it was. Although the family is definitely in an upper class from Dodger, he notices that their house isn't quite so grand as he had once thought. He notices that it is showing some signs of wear and tear. Although Dodger had a previous experience with the policeman treating him as a gentleman, the realization that his new clothes make him look like a gentleman really sets in when two begging children tug on his pant's leg, hoping for food.

It is also in this section of the novel that the Punch and Judy show is introduced into the novel. As Dodger watches the hook nosed puppet beat Judy and hears him yell in his shrill voice, he thinks of the man who had Simplicity hurt. He is baffled by the way the children laugh at the violence being played out in front of them. He knows that in real life, Punch is the man who abuses his wife and children, an occurrence that is not humorous in the least. In his mind, Dodger begins to correlate the puppet Punch with the man who hurt Simplicity.

It is also in this section of the novel that Sharp Bob, the man who was expected to take care of Simplicity, is introduced into the story line. Bob is being threatened by the men who hired him because he did not get the job done but instead allowed the girl to get away. This scene where Sharp Bob is being interviewed by the people who hired him is the only one in which the narration of the novel departs from its focus on Dodger. The Outlander, who is apparently a vicious murderer for hire, is also first mentioned in this chapter of the book. The mention is meant as a threat to Sharp Bob that if he can't get the job done that is requested of him, they will find someone who can.

The London slang in this chapter includes the term "peeler" to refer to the police, "geezer" to refer to one who was known by everyone, and was perhaps a little bit of a threat to everyone. A final term included in this portion of the novel is the term "jakes" which refers to the restroom.



Chapter Seven

Chapter Seven Summary

In Chapter Seven, Dodger is surprised to learn from Solomon that the Earth actually orbits the sun, not the other way around. Dodger also realizes he wants to learn about the world that exists outside the city of London and the sewer system. He wonders what Simplicity thinks about these things and if she would like a man who knew about them.

The next day, Dodger drops by Sweeney Todd's barbershop for a shave and haircut. Dodger notices the man seems odd and nervous. He also notices that there is an odd smell of decay in the barbershop. When the man begins whisking up the shaving cream in a manic way, Dodger asks the man if he is feeling all right. Todd begins to mumble to himself. He is talking about the dying men whom he was supposed to treat in the war but wasn't able to because he didn't have enough supplies to take care of all of them. Dodger takes the razor away from the mumbling man. At this point, Dodger realizes there are two policemen in the room with them. The police grab Todd. Charles Dickens arrives and deems that Dodger is a hero, again. He plans to write an article about what Dodger has done. Dodger learns from Dickens that Todd had used his razor to slit the throats of six men who have been decaying in the basement.

At the Chronicle office, Dodger tries to explain to Dickens that Todd was sick, not a murderer. Dickens, however, tells Dodger each person who sees something happen will have a different story to tell about it. He explains that the truth is a fog in which people will see what they want. Dodger tells Dickens he is clever for being able to change the world by what he writes on paper. Dickens explains to Dodger that what he writes may not influence Todd's outcome as he will be hung, or go to Bedlam, if he is unlucky. He indicates that the man probably does not have enough money to ensure a comfortable stay there.

Chapter Seven Analysis

In this section, Dodger's true character begins to come out. Instead of being angry with Sweeney Todd for trying to kill him, Dodger is understanding of the circumstances that made the man the way he is. He realizes that by people calling him a hero, it will make Todd appear as a villain. Dodger knows the man isn't a villain, but just a sad man made mentally ill by the stress put on him during the war. Todd is having flash backs for the war and killing people because he believes he is protecting himself.

Another important theme that will reappear in the rest of the novel is introduced in this chapter when Charlie talks to Dodger about the fog of truth. He describes the truth as a variable story that can differ from person to person. The same person, he says, can see something happen, but describe it in totally different ways. For this reason, the truth is

always hidden in a fog, with a different translation depending on the person who witnesses it.



Chapter Eight

Chapter Eight Summary

In Chapter Eight, Dodger goes to the front door of the Mayhew's home. Mrs. Sharples greets him with a look of hatred and slams the door. When he rings again, he tells her the story of his defeat of Todd. Mrs. Sharples runs back into the house and Mrs. Mayhew takes her place. She tells him Simplicity does want to take a walk with Dodger.

As they walk, Dodger pays attention to what is going on around him. He buys a nosegay of flowers from Soft Molly for Simplicity. She tells him that she has heard Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew talking and has learned that they do plan to send her back to her husband. He tells her that he will find someplace safe for her to go. As he walks with Simplicity, Dodger puts together a plan. Mrs. Sharples tells them they need to go back, but Dodger has realized there is someone following them.

They compile a plan and Dodger accosts and kicks the man whom he recognizes as Dirty Benjamin. When Benjamin says he has heard that Dodger killed Todd, Dodger does not confirm or deny but tells Benjamin if he tells him who told him to follow them, he will not hurt him. Benjamin, who is crying, tells Dodger it was Harry the Slap who told him to follow Dodger. He has been promised part of Harry's reward. Dodger kicks Benjamin, as Mrs. Sharples told him to, then tells both the ladies that someone who wants to hurt Simplicity is following her, and that he needs to take her someplace where she will be safe.

When they return to the Mayhew home, Dodger tells them what has happened and instructs them to help Simplicity pack. In the carriage on their way to Fleet Street, Simplicity asks Dodger why he rescued her on that night. He tells her that it was because he does not like to see people bashed up who can't fight back. They are unable to find Dickens at the Chronicle office, so Dodger has the carriage take them to Parliament Square.

Chapter Eight Analysis

When Dodger realizes someone is following them as they walk, he knows that he has to get Simplicity to a safer place. Although the Mayhews aren't completely sold on his plan, they go along with it because Simplicity trusts Dodger so strongly.

Also interesting in this chapter is the positive ways in which other characters' opinions of Dodger are changing. Mrs. Sharples is the main one whose opinions of Dodger have changed. When she first opens the door, Mrs. Sharples is still glaring at Dodger with a look of hatred. After Dodger realizes that they are being followed and warns Simplicity and Mrs. Sharples, Mrs. Sharples begins to warm to Dodger. She surprises him by requesting that Dodger kick the man in his privates after he catches him.



Chapter Nine

Chapter Nine Summary

At Parliament Square, Dodger tells the guards that he is the man who helped arrest Todd and that he is there to see Dickens. A man named Disraeli gets them set up in a meeting with Dickens. As Dodger sums up Disraeli, he decides the man is a dodger as well, a geezer of the mind. Dickens and Disraeli disclose what they know of Simplicity's background. Simplicity fills them in on the details that she is willing to give. Dodger is surprised to learn that Simplicity is a princess. She informs the men that she left her husband because he turned into a mean person as soon as they were married. Dickens tells her that the priest who performed the marriage as well as the two witnesses have died. She explains her father-in-law was angry that his son had married for love. She asks to be allowed to stay in England. The men tell her that if she goes back, it has been promised that she will not be hurt. Simplicity, however, believes that she will disappear if she goes back. The men are afraid that if Simplicity does not go back, there will be bad relations between the governments of the two countries.

Dodger becomes angry because he feels as if the two men are not treating Simplicity as a person, but instead a bargaining chip. Charlie suggests they put off the decision and give Simplicity a safe place to stay for a few days. He doesn't think it's proper for her to stay with Dodger and suggests instead she stay with Angela Burdett-Coutts. In the coach on the way to Angela's home, Charlie discusses the options of what might happen to keep Simplicity safe. She tells him in no uncertain terms that she wants to stay in England, where her mother was born.

When they arrive, Angela greets Simplicity and the men and invites them back to a dinner party the following day. Dodger asks that he be allowed to see the room where Simplicity will sleep to ensure no one will be able to enter it from the outside. She agrees though she wonders at Dodger's forwardness.

Chapter Nine Analysis

In this section of the novel, Dodger becomes angry with Dickens and Disraeli because he feels they are treating Simplicity as a bargaining chip instead of as a person. Dodger believes there is no reason that Simplicity should be put back into danger by being sent back to her husband. Although they claim that it has been promised that if she returns, she will not be hurt, the priest who performed the wedding ceremony as well as the two witnesses to the wedding have already been killed. Simplicity believes that the same fate will await her if she is forced to go back. She wants to stay in England, the country where her mother lived. Disraeli and Dickens, however, are concerned that if Simplicity is given amnesty in England, it will cause strained relations between the country from where Simplicity has come and England.



Some more of Simplicity's background is also revealed during this section of the novel. She apparently was a commoner who married into royalty for love, against the wishes, and perhaps even the knowledge of her husband's father. It can be assumed that the husband turned on Simplicity because of pressure put on him by his father. Dodger is surprised to learn that the lady whom he rescued is a princess. He wonders how he could have even rescued such a girl as he is a simple tosher.



Chapter Ten

Chapter Ten Summary

Dodger enters the city's sewer system by the first drain that he encounters. As he makes his way home, he hears the squealing carriage from which Serenity escaped a few nights before. He tries to follow it but is hampered by traffic and a beer truck that parks directly over the drain through which he needs to exit. As he continues home, frustrated but with an eye open for those who might be trying to avoid him, Dodger remembers the time he dressed up as a flower girl in order to teach a lesson to a man who had been sexually tormenting these little children who tried to make their living selling flowers.

As he lets his mind wander, Dodger is surprised when Charlie clamps his hand on his shoulder. They go to a coffeehouse where they are served beer. Charlie tells Dodger that he is now a rich man. He has in his pocket fifty sovereigns given by various people to the paper as a reward for Dodger's heroic deed. He tells Dodger he has been promised there will be more money coming. Dodger again protests being called a hero as he believes this will classify Todd as a villain but Charlie warns Dodger not to deprive the public of its hero. Also during their conversation, Dodger tells Charlie he heard the carriage again, but was unable to get to it.

Dodger runs home to Solomon where he pours the riches of his reward out on the old man's work desk. Solomon believes the best thing for Dodger to do would be to put the money in the bank, where it will draw interest. Solomon suggests they go to bed early, and go out the next morning to put the money in the bank. He also tells Dodger that he need a good haircut and shave as they will be dining with Angela on the following day. Before they close up, Dodger takes Onan out for the night. As he waits for the dog, someone sneaks up behind him and puts a knife to his throat.

The man tells Dodger that it was his routine that was his undoing. He also mentions his boss is Sharp Bob. He wants to know where he can find Simplicity. Instead of telling him, Dodger, who is fueled by anger, knocks the man in the head with his head causing something to break, then spinning and kicking the man. After he gives the man what he believes is his full due, then dragging him to a different street, Dodger goes to visit Mrs. Beecham to whom he gives some of his reward money.

Chapter Ten Analysis

This section seems to be a turning point in the novel for Dodger as he has suddenly become wealthy because of his role in the Sweeney Todd arrest. Dodger is still unsure if he wants to be considered a hero but Charlie convinces him that he will be doing the public a disservice if he denies them their hero.



Once Solomon has learned of Dodger's fortune, he takes to setting up the young man with a proper bank account and preparing him to meet Mrs. Angela in style. Throughout the novel, Solomon has served as a mentor for Dodger. He teaches the boy about life and tries to point him in a direction that will take him away from toshering to a more productive and honest lifestyle.

Notice also the brief mention of Dodger dressing up as a girl to help the flower girls who had been being molested by men. This ability of Dodger to act out different roles, as well as his success in this part will be important later on in the novel.

Finally, in this section, Dodger is accosted by one of Sharp Bob's men. Although it may seem that the man has gotten the best of Dodger, the young man "uses his head," as is foreshadowed in the blurb at the introduction of the chapter, to save himself. This is not the first time in this chapter that Dodger has allowed himself to be surprised by someone sneaking up behind him. Charlie has also sneaked up on Dodger. Note in this chapter that when Charlie visits the rookeries to give Dodger his reward money that he is as uncomfortable and out of place in Dodger's part of town as Dodger is in Charlie's.



Chapter Eleven

Chapter Eleven Summary

In Chapter Eleven, Solomon takes Dodger to the Coutts Bank to deposit his money. It is indicated that Solomon probably got a better rate than most on the account because the bank employees probably wanted to get him out of the building before Solomon threw them out of their own bank. After this, Dodger goes to the Punch office to have his picture drawn, then the two men head to a Turkish bath. Solomon requests massages for them during their bath as they talk. Dodger explains to Solomon what has happened with Simplicity up to that point. He also suggests that there is someone who wants the girl dead just to get her out of the way. Solomon suggests to Dodger that if she were thought dead, this would solve his problem. After their baths, Solomon takes Dodger to Savile Row and gets an excellent price on a suit for Dodger because it had been cut too small for the man who had originally requested it. On the way to the suit shop, Dodger again hears the carriage with the squeaky wheel but it again gets away from him. Throughout the afternoon, Dodger ponders on Solomon's suggestion that Simplicity could be dead, yet alive. He wonders how he could make this happen.

Chapter Eleven Analysis

Solomon gives Dodger an idea in this section of the novel that gives him food for thought. When he learns that Dodger believes there are people who want Simplicity dead, Solomon tells Dodger that the problem would be solved if it was just thought that Simplicity were dead. Dodger contemplates on this comment and wonders through the chapter how he can make this happen.

Solomon is a very colorful character in the novel. At some parts of the story, he seems to be interjected as a form of comic relief. One example of this use of Solomon's character can be seen in the scene where Solomon bargains for the best interest rate at the bank. The author indicates that Solomon was probably given a better rate than most because the bank employees were afraid he would throw them out of their own bank. Solomon is a Jew, so his habit of finagling for the best deal should not come as a surprise. Solomon is also wise and gives Dodger good advice whenever the young man comes to him with a problem. Also interesting about Solomon is that although he is a Jew, he has an atypical relationship with God. In one chapter of the novel, Solomon tells Dodger that he and God are not on good terms. He explains he is not sure if he believes in God. Solomon also tells Dodger that he believes many of the limitations placed on Jews, such as the requirement that they not eat pork, is no longer valid in the time period in which they live.

Chapter Twelve

Chapter Twelve Summary

In Chapter Twelve, Solomon tells Dodger about Angela's philanthropy on the way to their dinner party. When they arrive at the party, Solomon and Dodger are basically ignored until Charlie and Disraeli finish a private conversation. When Disraeli makes a sarcastic comment about Dodger appearing to be a gentleman and no longer a tosher, Dodger asks if Disraeli could transform into a tosher. Charlie encourages Disraeli to take the opportunity to show the public he is interested in the sewer system. A tour of the sewers is set up for the day after tomorrow.

When Angela introduces Simplicity Parish to Dodger, everyone else in the room disappears for him. Angela tells him that he is to sit next to Simplicity at dinner. Dodger is slightly distraught when he learns that Sir Robert Peel, the head of the Scotland Yard, is also in attendance at the party but Simplicity distracts him. Dodger briefly tells her that he has a plan that will allow her to freely be whomever she wants to be without having to worry about being a problem to anyone. She tells him that if it is an idea that will put the two of them together, she believes the plan will be a good one.

As dinner is announced, Dodger realizes that Peel, the man whom he hoped to avoid, is dressed exactly like him. Peel also approaches Dodger and tells him he would like to have a word with him later in the evening. Dodger enjoys the dinner but soon realizes that he needs to use the bathroom. Peel notices his discomfort and offers to show him where the bathroom is. Dodger is impressed by the facilities, but is unnerved by Peel, who points out that he is standing between Dodger and the door. After he finishes, Peel asks Dodger how he managed a murder in the sewers that afternoon. Peel tells Dodger there are two men who say Dodger was responsible but that he does not believe them. Peel suggests that Dodger was accused because he has been making enemies. He learns the man who was killed was Sharp Bob. Peel suggests that if the situation is not cleared up soon, there is a great possibility of there being a war concerning Simplicity. Peel suggests only to Dodger that whatever he is planning should not break any laws, but adds that there are times when the law is flexible. It is to Peel that Dodger tells his real name "Pip stick," as he was given in the orphanage. He adds that it was from this name that he learned how to fight, and how to dodge others.

Before Solomon and Dodger leave for the evening, Angela invites them to go see Julius Caesar with her and Simplicity on the following evening. As he is looking for Solomon, Dodger has a tap on his shoulder from a man who asks if he is the man who is associated with the sewers. The man is Joseph Bazalgette who says he would be honored to be allowed to go along for the planned trip. Bazalgette tells Dodger how the Romans built the sewer systems and describes a lady of sewers whom they acknowledged. Dodger is surprised to learn that the Roman warriors knew of the same lady that he serves.



Later that same night as Dodger is talking to Charlie, he tells Charlie that the Lady might show a tosher something of great worth. He believes this is what happened the night that he saved Simplicity as he could not have heard her screams over the other noises of the storm. Angela comes to Dodger and tells him that she knows what Peel has told Dodger. She too, will support Dodger. She hands him a slip of paper that tells of a place that she believes that he will find interesting. She indicates that it is here that Dodger can teach someone a lesson.

Chapter Twelve Analysis

The most significant scene in the novel takes place in the bathroom of Angela's house when Peel talks to Dodger about the things he has been hearing pertaining Simplicity and Dodger. He knows about the threats to kill both Dodger and Simplicity. He also knows that the murder of Sharp Bob earlier that afternoon was probably being pinned on Dodger because someone wants Dodger out of the way. Peel seems to know that Dodger is planning something to ensure Simplicity's safety. Peel tells Dodger that whatever he's planning needs to take place pretty quickly as he is afraid a war might break out over Simplicity. He warns Dodger not to break any laws with whatever he is planning to do but also lets him know that in some cases, the law is flexible.

Knowing that Peel is the head of the police makes Dodger uncomfortable at first. He is afraid that Peel might have some reason to arrest him. As Peel talks to Dodger, it appears that the man has a certain amount of respect for Dodger and the mission to which his has dedicated himself. Peel tells Dodger that it is sometimes a free agent, such as Dodger, who can take care of a complex situation when the politicians and policeman cannot do so.

At the beginning of the novel, the smell of the Thames River solidifies the plan that Dodger has in his mind to deal with Simplicity. The narrator does not give any clues as to what Dodger might have planned. It is mentioned that Dodger needs only to put together some details. He also plans to seek guidance from the Lady of the Sewers.

It is obvious by this point that Dodger has begun developing some very strong feelings for Simplicity. He has been entranced by her golden hair. When she smiles, it lights up Dodger's entire world. When she speaks to him, the rest of the world disappears to him. It is in this chapter that Simplicity is able to tell Dodger that she feels the same way about him. She is pleased that his plan calls for both of them to be together once she is safe.

Also in this chapter, Dodger tells Charlie about his belief that Simplicity is his tosheroom. A tosheroom is a compact bundle of treasure that it was believed those that had gained the favor of the Lady of the Sewers would be granted. In this case, Dodger believes that Simplicity is his tosheroom. He thinks that the Lady arranged for him to hear Simplicity's screams, even over the noise of the storm.



Chapter Thirteen

Chapter Thirteen Summary

In Chapter Thirteen, Dodger shows the paper Angela gave him to Solomon and learns that it is the address of an embassy. After pretending to go to bed, Dodger sneaks out of the attic window and pays the embassy a visit. He sneaks around the building and steals things. He thinks for a moment about setting the embassy on fire but changes his mind. He instead goes to the coach house where he finds the coach with the squeaky wheel. He scratches the words "Mr Punch" on the crest, then sets the coach house on fire.

The next morning, Dodger shows Solomon his haul. He asks him to make a special ring with a ruby. Next, Dodger enlists the help of Marie Jo to transform him into an old lady. As an old lady, Dodger goes to the morgue at Four Farthings where he pretends the dead girl with the golden hair is his niece. She promises to make arrangements then come back for the body. Dodger then goes to Mrs. Holland who gives him advice on how to deal with a corpse. She also mentions to him that the man named the Outlander is after him.

Chapter Thirteen Analysis

In this section of his novel, Dodger seems to be beginning to put his plan to save Simplicity into action. He disguises himself as an old lady to go and check out the body of the girl with the golden hair that Harry pulled from the Thames River in the Four Farthings morgue to see if it is enough like Simplicity to pass for her. He also goes to talk to a woman called Mrs. Holland for information on how to handle a corpse. He shares parts of his plan with Mrs. Holland, but this information is not recorded in this chapter, so there is still a mystery as to how Dodger plans to pull off his plan to save Simplicity. He does learn from Mrs. Holland that the Outlander, who is known for being a cold blooded assassin, is after him.



Chapter Fourteen

Chapter Fourteen Summary

Dodger starts out Chapter Fourteen by praying to the Lady of the Sewers. He promises her that if Simplicity can be saved, he will bury the girl whom he visited in the morgue in Lavender Hill. In the carriage on the way to Angela's home to pick up the ladies for the play, Dodger tells Solomon about his plans. Solomon pronounces it to be bold and daring as well as something that might work, but he warns that Dodger must get it approved by Angela first.

Dodger has a little bit of trouble following the play, but is reminded that it was the Romans who built the sewers. He also remembers that the Romans called the Lady of the Sewers by the name Cloacina. He decides to trust his luck to this lady by calling by her proper name and believes he has received a sign from her when he opens his eyes just as Brutus says: "There is a tide in the affairs of men, Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." Dodger takes this as a definitive sign that his plan has been blessed.

After the play is finished, they enjoy a repast. It is during this time that Dodger chooses to tell Angela and Simplicity about his plans for Simplicity. Angela tells Dodger that her first reaction is to forbid the plan but that she realizes it is a decision that must be made by Simplicity. She asks Solomon's opinion who believes that the plan will work because Dodger will be fighting on his own terrain. Simplicity, as well, says that she trusts Dodger. He tells her that she must give up her wedding ring to make the plan work.

The following morning, Dodger notices three plain clothed policemen around his home. He had already snuck out past the policemen, dressed as the elderly woman going to pick up her deceased niece. On their way back from the morgue, Dodger buys baked potatoes for all of the old ladies that he meets along his way. He also buys a flower girl's entire stock of lavender before he and his dead body disappear into the sewers. He positions the girl in a particular nook in the sewer and gets everything properly set.

When he arrives back home, Dodger learns that Peel wants to talk to him. Peel asks Dodger if he has ever heard of the Outlander. He suggests that the Outlander is looking for Simplicity. Peel also mentions the vandalism and fire at the embassy and asks Dodger if he had anything to do with the crimes. Although Dodger says that Solomon will testify he was at the dinner party, Peel mentions that a man like Solomon dropped off a packet at the police department that morning. He says the documents are incriminating to the embassy which is why the members of the embassy want them back. Dodger continues to enjoy his word play with Peel but also continues to deny that he has done anything of which Peel speaks.



Chapter Fourteen Analysis

Dodger introduces his plan to make Simplicity appear to have died to Solomon, Angela and Simplicity during this chapter of the novel. Solomon believes the plan is a long shot but thinks that it might work. Angela tells Dodger that she would like to be able to say "no" to the plan but since she sees that Simplicity puts so much trust in Dodger's plan, she feels as if she must agree to it. Before Dodger mentioned the plan to either Angela or Simplicity, he seeks a sign from the Lady of the Toshers that his plan will work. His first "sign" is a rat that runs across his foot in the sewers, but he does not seem to think this is definitive enough. There is a point in the play where he prays to the Lady and is rewarded with a line in the play that he believes definitively points to a successful plan.

Dodger spends much of the remainder of the chapter putting together pieces of his plan. He dresses as the old lady again and retrieves the body of the blonde from the morgue. He takes the body and gets it set in a certain niche in the sewer. At this point, it is still uncertain exactly how Dodger plans to pull off Simplicity's "death" but it can be assumed that the body of the dead girl will be used as a body double for Simplicity in some way.



Chapter Fifteen

Chapter Fifteen Summary

In Chapter Fifteen, Dodger meets with the group of men who are to take the tour of the sewers near the Lion public house. They have a surprise guest. Angela wants one of her footmen, whom she refers to as Roger, to go with them. When the footman gets out of the carriage, though, it is Simplicity dressed as a man. Dodger leads his tour until he notices Disraeli eyeing what he describes as a sand bar. Dodger lets Disraeli poke around in the sand until he locates a half a crown, and a gold and diamond ring. Dodger next lets Roger try his luck at a crack in the wall. Roger pulls out a ring that Dodger has planted there. Disraeli accidentally refers to Roger as Simplicity, and Charlie corrects him. Dodger wonders about Charlie's intentions.

At this point in the tour, Dodger tells them he will go ahead on the tour and point out some issues in the sewer to Bazalgette while the others are allowed to tosh all that they'd like. As it begins to get dark, the group hears the sound of a crowbar opening a drain cover. Dodger shrugs the noise off. He gives his whistle and is concerned when no other tosher whistles back. Believing there is someone else in the sewers, Dodger decides it is too dangerous to try to carry his plan through. He sends the men back with Roger and searches for the person who has entered his sewer.

A parade of running rats precedes the intruder. The man holds a stiletto knife, but Dodger jumps on him, pinning him to the sewer floor and pressing Todd's razor against his throat. A female behind Dodger warns him that she is holding a gun. She identifies herself as the Outlander. Dodger notices the shadows shift behind the woman and almost swallows his tongue when the Outlander asks what he is looking at. He tells her that he is praying to the Lady but in reality, he is watching Simplicity sneak up behind the woman with a block of wood. Simplicity knocks the Outlander over the head with the wood.

After they had tied up both the Outlander and her accomplice, Dodger sends Simplicity to the Cauldron, the place he has set up for her. After she is gone, Dodger pulls out the body of the blonde haired woman, which is now dressed exactly like Simplicity and is wearing her ring. Dodger takes the Outlander's pistol and shoots the corpse twice. He uses a bucket of pig's blood to complete the scene, then sits down a short distance from the body and cries.

Charlie is the first to arrive. Dodger explains that the Outlander shot Simplicity. He shows Charlie the body. A constable soon joins them and Dodger tells them the story of what happened. He then shows where the Outlander and her friend are tied up. Dodger is interviewed that evening by several different policemen and the incident is deemed an open and shut case. Charlie asks Dodger if Simplicity is alive and well, and what Dodger might have done if the Outlander had not shown up. After he finishes talking to Charlie, Dodger goes to get Simplicity and they disappear.



Chapter Fifteen Analysis

Even though Dodger's plan is interrupted, the Lady smiles on him as he is able to reorganize his plan to fake Simplicity's death. He had apparently intended to pretend that the Outlander had attacked and killed Simplicity in the sewer, but his plan is interrupted because the real Outlander does come with the intent of harming Dodger and Simplicity. Although Dodger had sent Simplicity out of the sewer with the other men when first began to suspect there was someone else there, she returns because she suspects that something is wrong. Her gut feeling proves right when she comes upon the Outlander holding a gun to Dodger. She is able to knock the lady out, allowing Dodger to tie her up and continue with his plan. Notice that although the men with Dodger, as well as the authorities, seem to accept Dodger's story, though at the same time they know Dodger has rigged something so that Simplicity is still alive. This is Dodger's use of Charlie's description of the truth as a fog. The men are seeing a dead girl whom they believe to be Simplicity. Why should they believe any differently?



Chapter Sixteen

Chapter Sixteen Summary

In Chapter Sixteen, Dodger and Simplicity go to the town of Axbridge where they spend some time together. Angela visits Solomon and tells him that if he should see Dodger that Peel is looking for him because he might have some use for him. Dodger does return to London a few days earlier than Simplicity. He takes a new pair of shoes to the sewer for the Lady, then meets a red haired lady named Serendipity on London Bridge. Angela's carriage pulls up behind them and the three pay a visit to Lavender Hill.

The next morning, Dodger is called to Buckingham Palace the following day. Dodger, Serendipity and Solomon make the trip together to watch Dodger be knighted. After the ceremony is finished, a white haired gentleman offers Dodger a job with the English government. He will be working as a spy.

Chapter Sixteen Analysis

In this chapter of the novel, Simplicity and Dodger spend a few weeks together in the city of Axbridge to get to know one another. It is in this chapter that Dodger learns why Simplicity had the deck of children's playing cards with her when he found her. She had kept the cards because they were her mother's, the only thing that she had that was truly hers through her ordeal with her husband.

Somehow, the two get word to Angela, who gets word to Solomon that they plan to return to London as a couple. When Dodger "meets" Serendipity, for the first time on London Bridge, Angela arrives soon after to pick them up in her carriage. Serendipity is a fitting name for the girl to choose for herself as the term refers to a series of events that happen by chance in a happy or beneficial way. It cannot be denied that Serendipity's presence in Dodger's life was serendipitous.

Dodger gets one more happy surprise when he is invited to Buckingham Palace to be knighted by Queen Victoria. While there, he is offered a job as a spy for the English government. Since he believed the only thing keeping him from marrying Serendipity was his lack of an honest job, Dodger has now overcome that hurdle by chance, getting a job he loves and for which he is well suited.



Characters

Jack Dodger aka Pip Stick

Jack Dodger is the main character and hero of the novel. It is learned that his given name was Pip Stick, a name that caused him to be picked on and bullied at the orphanage where he grew up. For this reason, he learned to dodge and move quickly to avoid the blows of the other children. His ability to dodge about earned him the name Dodger. It is later when Dodger is knighted by Queen Victoria that Serendipity suggests that he adopt the first name of Jack.

Dodger is a tosher who is working the sewers of London when he hears a girl scream as she jumps from a carriage during a downpour. The girl whispers to him, asking his help to keep from getting sent back to her country and Dodger devotes himself to keeping the girl in London. He arranges to fake the girl's death, whom he learns is a princess whose husband has allowed her to be beaten, so that she can live peacefully in London.

While Dodger is trying to identify the people who hurt Simplicity and also find a way to keep the girl from having to go back to her husband, Dodger is drawn into some interesting situations that earn him both the respect of the public as well as the police. First, Dodger keeps the offices of the Morning Chronicle from being robbed. Next, he takes the razor from the infamous Sweeney Todd, allowing the police to arrest this murderous barber, and then he steals and has delivered to the police department several incriminating documents from the embassy of the country for which Simplicity is a princess. Finally, while he is trying to fake Simplicity's death, Dodger comes face to face with the infamous Outland whom he and Simplicity subdue and secure so the police can take custody of her.

While Dodger is not particularly book smart and can read only a little, he has a great deal of street smarts. He also has a talent that allows him to be able to read people and sum up their character and personalities quickly. Dodger also has a soft spot in his heart for people who are hurting or in trouble. It is this soft spot that bring him to fight for Simplicity's safety even before he knew the girl. It is this same sensitivity that causes Dodger to be so upset by Grandad's death in the sewer. Dodger also exercises his sensitivity when he saves Solomon from the group of men who were ganging up on him. It is this same sensitivity for others that causes Dodger to give his reward money away to the elderly, the poor and the widows. He even recounts a time when he dressed in girl's clothing to take care of a man who was sexually abusing some of the younger flower girls in his area. Even before he met Simplicity, Dodger had been a fighter for human justice, especially for those who could not fight for themselves.



Mister Benjamin Disraeli

Benjamin Disraeli enters the story when Dodger and Simplicity visit Parliament. He is the up and coming politician who allows Dodger and Simplicity into Parliament when the others won't. He sarcastically points out to the others that it is very unlikely that Dodger would bring a razor into Parliament. The man reminds Dodger of a younger Solomon and feels that he needs to keep his eye on him. Dodger is a bit troubled when the man, whom he recognizes as another sort of dodger, winks at him. It is with Disraeli and Charlie that Simplicity and Dodger meet to talk about keeping Simplicity from having to go back to her husband. It is also Disraeli who suggests that if Disraeli is allowed to stay in London, it will cause political stress between the two countries. Simplicity confides with Dodger that she does not like Disraeli.

Later, at Angela's party, Dodger challenges Disraeli by asking him if he thinks he can become a tosher after Disraeli comments to Dodger that he was surprised toshers could be transformed into gentry. Charlie convinces Disraeli that his political career would be benefited if he were to show an interest in the sewer system. During their tour of the sewer, Disraeli is the first man whom Dodger invites to look for treasure in the sewers. He has arranged for the man to find half a crown and a gold and diamond ring. Disraeli, however, discourages Bazalgette from his ideas of reworking the sewers, telling him that the city does not have adequate money to do the work. Disraeli is one of the ones who witnesses Simplicity's dead body in the sewer. At one point, he lets it slip that he was aware that the footman was actually Simplicity. Like several of the other characters in the novel, Disraeli was a real person who lived in London.

Solomon Cohen

Solomon Cohen is Dodger's roommate. The two became acquainted when Dodger rescued the older man from a group of men who were beating him up. Dodger helps Solomon home and Solomon fixed him dinner. The two worked out an arrangement for Solomon to cook for Dodger and Dodger to run errands for Solomon. Solomon knows that Dodger is a tosher and often gets the boy good deals on the treasures he brings home from the sewer. Solomon is also a Jew and encourages Dodger not to steal outright.

Solomon is a very wise man and also appears to be well traveled although it is never mentioned what he did for a living in his younger years. Now, he repairs jewelry, music boxes and other tiny mechanical pieces. He is also a good cook and teaches Dodger about food safety. It is also Solomon who helps Dodger look the part when he goes to Angela's dinner party and then to the theater with her the following day. As a Jew, Solomon bargains for a good price on Dodger's new suit as well as a better interest rate on his reward money at the bank than any of the bank's other customers had gotten.

Even though he is a Jew, Solomon has a very unique view of God. He has told Dodger plainly that he has his doubts whether or not God exists. He also does not believe that all of the statutes that God gave the Jews, such as the command to not eat pork, are



necessarily relevant anymore. Even with his doubts, Solomon still strives to be a man of high moral standing and encourages Dodger to live his life in the same way.

Sir Robert Peel

Sir Robert Peel is the head of the Scotland Yard both in the novel and also for a time in real life London. Peel and Dodger wind up wearing identical suits of clothing to Angela's dinner because the tailor cut Peel's clothes in the incorrect size and then gave Dodger a good deal on the suit that was too small. During Angela's dinner, Peel accompanies Dodger to the bathroom where he questions him about some odd deaths that he thinks Dodger might have had something to do with. He also warns Dodger that he has been making enemies with some powerful people because of his desire to protect Simplicity. In the privacy of the bathroom, Peel basically tells Dodger that the police will overlook some infractions that might occur in taking care of Simplicity, but that he must not break the law.

Later, Peel also questions Dodger about the documents which he believes were brought to the police office by Solomon and stolen from the embassy by Dodger. Dodger does not admit that he was responsible for the acts, but Peel seems to hint that he knows it was Dodger's doing. Peel is also one of the people who questions Dodger after the death of Simplicity. It is also noted in the novel that Peel helps Charlie to mold the fog of the truth into one that would best benefit Dodger.

Simplicity/Serendipity

Simplicity is described as a lady, though she is probably just a teenager like Dodger, who has come to England in order to escape an abusive marriage. Her husband has ordered men to bring Simplicity back to him. It is from these men that Simplicity is trying to escape when Dodger rescues her. It is learned that Simplicity is a princess in her country. She is apparently a commoner whom her husband married for love. Once the wedding was finished and it was realized what had happened, her husband turned into a mean and hateful man. When Dodger rescues her, she has been beaten badly enough to cause her to lose the baby with whom she was pregnant. She had come to England hoping to seek refuge in the country that her mother had told her would give safe harbor to anyone. Simplicity seems to take an instant liking to Dodger, and agrees to go through with his plan to fake her death. When the events don't go as Dodger had planned, Simplicity follows her gut instinct that something is wrong and returns to rescue Dodger from the Outlander, who is holding him at gunpoint. When Simplicity returns to London after her "death" she decides to use the name "Serendipity" for herself. This name is fitting because the term refers to a series of chance events that end happily.



Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens is one of the men who sees Dodger rescue Simplicity and stops to try to help the girl. Dickens suggests the girl be taken to Henry Mayhew's house where she can be cared for until she heals from her wounds. Although Dickens is close friends with Sir Robert Peel, the head of the police, he tells Dodger that he wants him to help discover who hurt Simplicity and why she was hurt. Charlie gives Dodger reward money when he gets information for him about Simplicity's attackers. Perhaps Charlie's most important role in the novel occurs when he teaches Dodger about the similarity of the truth to fog. Dodger uses this idea to fake Simplicity's death and keep her safe from her husband while at the same time avoiding a war between England and the country from which Simplicity has come.

Charlie's character is modeled after a real life character who lived in London and was also a writer. It is interesting that Charles Dickens should be included in this novel as it is very Dickensque in its theme and style. Just as Charlie in the novel goes about observing and writing down what he observes, it can be imagined that the real life Charles Dickens might have done the same.

Joseph Bazalgette

Joseph Bazalgette enters the storyline when he asks Dodger about his knowledge of the sewer systems at Angela's dinner party. He tells Dodger that he would be honored to join him on a tour of the sewers. He is well versed in the history of the sewer systems and describes to Dodger how the Romans were the ones responsible for building them. He also tells Dodger that the Romans worshiped the lady of the sewers, whom they called Cloacina. On the day of the tour, Bazalgette is dressed with instruments and a large notebook, obviously excited about his trip into the sewer. As Bazalgette tours the sewers, he notices the crumbling brick and says that they should be replaced with ceramic tiles. Bazalgette is one of the characters in the novel that is crafted after a real figure in London's history.

Grandad

Grandad is the man known as the King of the Toshers who passed all of his knowledge of toshing on to Dodger. Although Dodger had thought of him as old, Grandad was actually only thirty-three when died. He is also not Dodger's biological grandfather. He is fatally injured when he is struck by debris after a bad storm in London. Dodger comes across the dying man and tries to help him. At his death, Grandad claims to see the Lady of the Toshers. He also passes along to Dodger the title of King of the Toshers. Grandad is significant in the story because it is after his death that Dodger begins considering what type of life that he wants for himself. He decides that he does not want to end up as Grandad did, but is unsure what steps to take to get to a different life.



Lady of the Toshers aka Cloacina

The Lady of the Toshers is a mythological queen of the sewers whom the toshers believe reigns in the underworld of the London sewer system. When Dodger is making his plan to ensure Simplicity's safety, he prays to the Lady of the Toshers, hoping that she will give him good fortune in his plans. Dodger later learns that the Romans also paid homage to this same goddess and gave her the name Cloacina. He credits Cloacina for allowing him to hear Simplicity's screams over the noise of the storm, then later for allowing his plan to fake her death to go off without a hitch. In return for the good fortune that he believes Cloacina has brought to him, Dodger leaves a pair of the best shoes money can buy in the sewer as an offering to the Lady.

Henry Mayhew

Henry Mayhew is with Charles Dickens on the night that Dodger rescues Simplicity from her male attackers. Just as he was in the novel, Henry Mayhew was a real life friend of Charles Dickens who was very interested in the plight of the poor in London. After he helps Charlie bring Simplicity to his house to recover, Mayhew has little other activity in the novel. The only section in which he appears a great deal is the first time that Dodger visits Simplicity after her rescue. During this visit, Mayhew pulls Dodger aside to ask him about his background, what he does for a living and his living conditions. It is a result of this interview that much information is learned about how Dodger came to be a tosher and why he has developed the ability to dodge about and avoid others so well.

Robert Sharp aka Sharp Bob

Robert Sharp, who is also known as Sharp Bob, is one of the men who was supposed to see to it that Simplicity was sent back to the country in which her husband lives. Sharp Bob is able to tell the Outlander that Dodger has been asking around about him. The man who accosts Dodger outside his home tells Dodger that he has been employed by Sharp Bob. Dodger gathers that it was Sharp Bob, who works in the legal business, was the man who had tried to get information out of Marie Jo. Peel later tells Dodger that Sharp Bob has been found dead, killed in a professional manner.

Angela Burdett-Coutts

Angela Burdett-Coutts is the woman with whom Simplicity stays after she tells Dodger that she is afraid the Mayhews plan to allow her to be returned to her husband. She is described as someone who has the look of a person who wins arguments. Angela throws a dinner party for Simplicity and invites Dodger and Solomon. She also invites Dodger and Solomon to attend the theater with herself and Simplicity. Although Angela wants to tell Dodger that he is not to go through with his plan to save Simplicity, she realizes that it is Simplicity that has to make that decision.



Onan

Onan is Solomon's dog. The animal has a talent for being able to sniff out jewelry and coming rain. However, the dog also has a bad smell. This smell is mentioned nearly every time the dog is mentioned in the novel. It is apparently overpowering to the point that people on the street notice it when Dodger is walking the dog. Onan also has been trained to growl on cue, a talent that Dodger takes advantage of when questioning people on the street. Solomon had begun taking care of Onan when the dog was only a puppy because the dog had attacked a man who was threatening Solomon.

Marie Jo

Marie Jo is the woman to whom Dodger takes the two children who beg him for food. He knows that she can provide nourishing soup for the kids because she had done so for him on several occasions. It is rumored that she had once been a famous actress. She is the one to whom Dodger goes when she needs help being transformed into an old lady when he goes to claim the body of the blonde haired girl that Double Henry pulled out of the river. Marie Jo is also the one whom Sharp Bob asks questions about Dodger.

Mister Punch

Mister Punch is the male puppet in the Punch and Judy puppet show. Dodger associates this puppet, who beats Judy and the policeman, with the man who beat Simplicity so badly. He vows to seek Mister Punch out, back him up against a wall and teach him how to mind his manners. When Dodger breaks into the coach house and finds the coach from which Simplicity threw herself the night he rescued her, he scratches the words "Mr Punch" in the crest.

Mr. Sweeney Todd

Mr. Sweeney Todd is the man to whom Dodger goes to try to get a haircut. While Dodger is in the barber chair, Todd attempts to kill Dodger with his razor, believing that he is back in the war zones. Dodger takes the razor from Todd and helps the police to apprehend him. Todd had the bodies of six other men whom he had killed with the razor in the basement of his shop.

Mrs. Quickly

Mrs. Quickly is the cook for the Mayhew family. She takes an immediate fancy to Dodger and protects him from Mrs. Sharples' theft accusations by searching him before he leaves the house. Mrs. Quickly also develops a habit of feeding Dodger and sending



scraps home with him whenever he visits. She asks only that he not forget her when he has earned his fortune.

Mrs. Sharples

Mrs. Sharples is the Mayhews' housekeeper. She takes an instant dislike to Dodger and tries to convince the Mayhews that if they allow him to hang around their house, he will steal them blind. Mrs. Sharples gains some respect for Dodger when she accompanies Dodger and Simplicity on their first walk and sees how Dodger deals with the man who is following them.

The Outlander

The Outlander is rumored to be a dangerous assassin who is asking around about both Simplicity and Dodger. When Dodger finally meets the Outlander face to face in the sewer, however, it turns out that the Outlander is a woman. The Outlander is taken into custody when Dodger arranges for Simplicity's death to be faked.

Jane Mayhew

Jane Mayhew is the wife of Henry Mayhew. She agrees to allow Simplicity to stay in their house while she recovers from her injuries. Although Mrs. Mayhew is kind to Simplicity, the girl feels as if the couple believes that she should be sent back to her husband.

Double Henry

It is from Double Henry that Dodger learns about the dead girl that he pulled out of the river. This girl has golden hair, like Simplicity, so Dodger uses the body as a double for Simplicity. Double Henry knows about the girl because he was the one who pulled her out of the river.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria

After the "death" of Simplicity, Dodger is summoned to Buckingham Palace by Queen Victoria. The Queen recognizes Dodger's bravery by knighting him Sir Jack Dodger. During his time there, Victoria asks Dodger about Onan, and gets a laugh out of the dog's name.



White-Haired Man

It is this white-haired man who approaches Dodger about his ability to get into the Embassy without being detected when Dodger is being questioned by Peel about Simplicity's "death." After Dodger is knighted at Buckingham Palace, this man again approaches Dodger and asks if he will consider being a spy for the English government.

Mrs. Holland

Mrs. Holland is the lady who helps Dodger with his plan to save Simplicity by teaching him how to best handle a corpse. She also warns Dodger that she has heard that the Outlander is looking for him.

Stumpy Higgins

Stumpy Higgins is the man who tries to hold up the Morning Chronicle office. He is scared, as well as drunk, as he tries to commit the crime and Dodger is able to subdue the man with a desk spike.

Hans

Hans is the name Dodger gives to the man who attacks him in the sewer at the command of the Outlander. Although Hans carries a dagger, Dodger sees him first and has him pinned to the sewer floor before he gets a chance to use his weapon.

Ginny-Come-Lately

Ginny-Come-Lately is a girl with whom Dodger had been very close at one point. When he prepares to break into the embassy, Dodger goes to visit Ginny because she had agreed to keep his package of theft related tools for him.

Mister Tenniel

Mister Tenniel, is the artist that works for the Punch magazine. He is the one who draws Dodger's picture to go along with the article about Dodger's heroism in helping the police capture Sweeney Todd.

Father Jacob

Father Jacob is the priest who performed Simplicity and her husband's wedding ceremony. Charlie tells Simplicity that Father Jacob had lost his footing one day while inspecting the roof of his church and had fallen to his death.



Mrs. Beecham

Mrs. Beecham is the old woman to whom Dodger gives some money after he receives his reward for helping to catch Sweeney Todd. The woman promises to pray for Dodger in exchange for the money, a promise that warms Dodger's heart.

Izzy

Izzy is a worker at Davies & Son who measures Dodger for his new suit. Izzy seems to be full of nervous energy as he works. It is Izzy who works the deal with Solomon to sell Dodger the suit fitted incorrectly for another man to Dodger.

Manky Smith

Manky Smith is the person who tells Peel about a dead body that he has found in the sewers. Dodger, however, discredits Manky's information because he knows the man to be a boozier who walks around with wet pants all of the time.

Dirty Benjamin

Dirty Benjamin is the man who has been paid to follow Dodger and Simplicity on the day that they take their first walk outside the Mayhews' house together.

Harry the Slap

Harry the Slap is the man whom Dirty Benjamin tells Dodger has paid him to follow Dodger and Simplicity.

Heinrich and Gerta

Heinrich and Gerta were two farm workers who were the witnesses at the wedding of Simplicity and her husband. Simplicity learns that these two have both been found dead.



Objects/Places

River Thames

The River Thames is the river into which the sewers of London empty. It is also into this river that many young women jump in order to kill themselves.

Fancy Two-Horse Carriage

It is from this carriage that Simplicity jumps in an attempt to get away from the people trying to take her back to her husband. Dodger later locates this coach at an embassy, scratches the words "Mr. Punch" over the coach's crest, then sets fire to the coach house.

Big, Ornate Gold Ring

Simplicity wears this ornate ring as a symbol of her marriage. Dodger later uses the ring to convince others that the body of a girl who drowned in the Thames belonged to Simplicity.

Morning Chronicle

The Morning Chronicle is the newspaper for which Charles "Charlie" Dickens works.

Slim Crowbar

A slim crowbar is the tool that Dodger carries with him to open drain covers.

A Very Small Notebook

Charlie makes Dodger nervous with his habit of scribbling in this very small notebook.

Happy Families Card Game

The one thing that Simplicity has with her when Dodger rescues her is a card game called Happy Families. Dodger later learns that Simplicity had the game because her mother had given it to her. Simplicity had counted it as the one thing that was hers when nothing else was.



Old Faithful

Old Faithful is a spot in the sewers where Dodger always finds treasure.

Fleet Street

It is on Fleet Street that the Morning Chronicle offices are located. It is on this same street that Sweeney Todd had his barbershop.

Paper Spike

It is a paper spike that Dodger picks up off one of the desks at the Morning Chronicle office that he uses to subdue the man attempting to rob the office.

Bread Knife

Dodger realizes that Stumpy Higgins is trying to hold up the Morning Chronicle office using a bread knife.

Jacob's Shonky Shop

It is from Jacob's shonky shop that Dodger gets his first decent suit.

Sugar Lumps

While Dodger talks to Charlie at a coffeehouse, he stuffs his pockets full of sugar lumps.

Calcutta

Mayhew is doing research about the poorer parts of London and suggests that conditions are better in Calcutta, a poor and overcrowded city in India, than in some parts of London.

Bedlam

Bedlam is the place where it is forecasted Sweeney Todd will be sent for his crimes even though Dodger believes that unless the man has enough money to buy himself a comfortable stay, it might be better for him if he were hanged.



The Fog

Charlie compares the truth to the fog, through which each person sees different circumstances and events differently.

Parliament Square

Parliament Square is where Dodger takes Simplicity to plead for her to be sent someplace safe from those trying to send her back to her husband.

Rookeries

The rookeries are the poorer parts of London where even policemen are nervous. Dodger and Solomon live in the rookeries.

Two Note Tosher Whistle

This two note tosher whistle is a sign that the toshers use to tell each other in what parts of the sewer they are working.

Coutts Bank

Coutts Bank is the bank into which Solomon has Dodger deposit his reward money earned from helping to capture Sweeney Todd.

Savile Row

Savile Row is the part of London to which Solomon takes Dodger to buy the suit which he will wear to Angela's dinner party.

Davies & Son

Davies & Son is the specific store where Dodger buys his suit, which is a replica of the one bought by Sir Robert Peel.

Number One Stratton Street, Mayfair

Number One Stratton Street, Mayfair is the address of the house in which Simplicity stays with Miss Angela Burdett-Coutts.



The Embassy

Dodger breaks into an embassy one night where he steals valuable jewels and papers, then vandalizes and sets on fire the coach from which Simplicity jumped in an attempt to get away from her tormentors.

Little Package of Tools

It is his little package of theft related tools that Dodger goes to get from Ginny-Come-Lately the night he breaks into the embassy.

Coat of Arms on the Coach

Dodger scratches the words "Mr. Punch" on the coat of arms of the coach with the squeaky wheel before he sets the coach house on fire.

Gold Ring with a Ruby

Dodger requests that Solomon make him a gold ring with a ruby in it for Simplicity. He arranges for her to find this ring while they are with the group in the sewers.

Morgue at Four Farthings

The morgue at Four Farthings is the place where Dodger finds the body that he uses as a double for Simplicity.

Lavender Hill

Lavender Hill is the place where Dodger vows to get a burial place for the unknown girl whom he uses as Simplicity's body double.

Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar is the play to which Angela takes Simplicity, Dodger and Solomon on the night before Simplicity's "death."

The Best Pair of Shoes Money Can Buy

Dodger promises the Lady of the Sewer that he will buy her the best pair of shoes money can buy if she will help him save Simplicity.



Rest in Peace

Rest in Peace is the name that Dodger gives to the sewer tunnel in which he hides the body of the unidentified woman who is to be Simplicity's body double.

Lion Public House

It is at the Lion public house where Dodger meets Bazalgette, Disraeli, Charlie and Roger for their sewer exploration.

The Cauldron

The Cauldron is the place in the sewers where Dodger hides Simplicity away until the investigation of her "death" is finished.

Sweeney Todd's Razor

Dodger keeps this weapon after he takes it away from the murderous barber. He takes it with him when he goes into the sewers for his confrontation with the Outlander.

York

York is the city to which Dodger tells people he is considering traveling to get his mind off Simplicity's "death."

Axbridge

It is to the town of Axbridge that Dodger and Simplicity actually go to spend some time with one another before returning to London where Simplicity will transform into Serendipity.

London Bridge

It is on London Bridge that Dodger and Serendipity happen to meet.

Buckingham Palace

Dodger is invited to Buckingham Palace where he is knighted by Queen Victoria, then invited to work for the English government as a spy.



Themes

Simplicity as Dodger's Toshiroon

A tosheroon is described as a compact bundle of treasure that all toshers hoped to find. A tosheroon would have enough monetary value to set a tosher for life. Dodger had often wondered what direction his life might take if the Lady of the Sewers ever saw fit to send him a tosheroon, but he never really spent much time considering the form in which this reward might come.

By the end of the novel, Dodger has decided that instead of a reward of money or jewels, the Lady has set him up with Simplicity as a tosheroon. He describes to Charlie that it must have been with the Lady's help that he was able to hear Simplicity's screams over the noise of the storm. He also credits the Lady with blessing his plans to fake Simplicity's death, thereby freeing her from her abusive husband and allowing her to start a new life with him.

When Dodger meets Simplicity, he begins wondering what sort of life that he might pursue if he were not a tosher. He begins paying attention to Solomon's urgings to get him to clean up and wear nicer clothes. It is during Dodger's attempts to clean himself up that he helps the police bring an end to Sweeny Todd's killing spree, thus earning himself a monetary reward as well as respect from both the police and the average citizens of London. By the end of the novel, he has impressed the police as well as the royalty of England so much that he is offered a job as a spy in the Queen's service.

Remembering that a tosheroon was a valuable bundle that would set a tosher up for life. Although Simplicity may not have any monetary value as an errant princess, she brings value to Dodger's life by inspiring him to be a better person and seek a better life for himself. Considering this, it is not surprising that after Dodger and Simplicity have subdued the Outlander in the sewer, Dodger hears the voice of Grandad saying to him that Simplicity is his tosheroon, given to him by the Lady.

Politics

Political issues play a very important role in this novel. The main political issue is the trouble that the leaders of England could get into if they give Simplicity amnesty in their country and do not allow her to return to her husband. Sir Robert Peel has already suggested to Dodger that he is afraid there will be a war if Simplicity is not returned. Because Dodger is not politically minded, he cannot understand why the people of his country seem determined to send Simplicity back to the people who hurt her so badly. Instead of fighting the powers that be, Dodger seeks a solution that will benefit all parties, though he is thinking only of Simplicity when he puts his plan into action.

Dodger's plan to fake Simplicity's death benefits her husband and father-in-law because they want Simplicity dead. They first hired professionals to bring her back to them so



she could be dealt with in their own country, but when this failed, they hired an assassin to kill her. Since Dodger believes there is no one who really cares for Simplicity except him, it is best if she appear to be dead. Faking Simplicity's death also helps the country of England as its leaders will no longer have to decide if keeping the girl safe is worth risking a war. Dodger and Simplicity will also be benefited by the faked death as they will be allowed to start a new life together in peace.

Truth

It is when Dodger is struggling with his classification as a hero after he helps the police apprehend Sweeney Todd that Charlie teaches Dodger about the similarities between the truth and the fog. He explains that the truth is like the fog because it can be viewed and interpreted in a multitude of different ways. In writing Dodger's story, he plans to shape the truth into what he wants it to be, telling the story of what Dodger did, as well as the idea that Todd was haunted by the ghosts of the war that made him do the things he did.

It is Charlie's talk of the fog and the different ways there are to interpret the truth, that helps Dodger to formulate his plan to save Simplicity. After Simplicity's faked death, Dodger uses the idea of the fog not only to hint to Charlie that Simplicity is still alive, but also to indicate to him that what happened is not exactly the truth. Later, when Dodger thanks Charlie for teaching him about the fog, Charlie remarks to him that the truth, even though it is intangible, is a very powerful tool.



Style

Point of View

"Dodger" is told in the third person point of view - from the viewpoint of Dodger. The narrator has omniscient knowledge of Dodger's thoughts, emotions as well as his actions. The emphasis of the story also follows Dodger as he moves through his plan to rescue Simplicity from her abusive husband. There is only one point that the story line moves away from its emphasis on Dodger. This is at the point where Sharp Bob, who had been hired to send Simplicity back to England, meets with the man who has hired him to do the job. In this scene of the novel, the narrator follows the emotions and thoughts of Sharp Bob as he deals with his bosses.

There is more emphasis on exposition in the story than dialogue with probably a little more than half of the writing containing descriptions of Dodger, the people whom he meets and Dodger's analysis of their actions and intentions. There is a good deal of dialogue as well as Dodger interacts with Solomon, Charlie, Simplicity and the other characters in the novel.

The major portion of the book covers the time span of only a few days in which Dodger first rescues Simplicity until the time that he arranges for her death to be faked. There is a span of a few weeks that is covered in one chapter of the book where Simplicity and Dodger spend time in the city of Axbridge getting to know one another. In the final chapter, Dodger and Simplicity, who now goes by the name of Serendipity, reappear in London as a couple.

Setting

The physical setting of this story is the city of London, England in the early portion of Queen Victoria's reign, probably in the mid 1800's. The majority of the story takes place in the span of just a few days, between the time that Dodger hears Simplicity screaming in the storm as she jumps from a carriage into a London street until the time that he arranges for her death to be faked in the London sewers.

While there are a variety of settings in the novel, the major setting is the London sewer system. Dodger is in the sewers when he hears Simplicity's screams and comes to her rescue. It is also in the sewers that Dodger is able to do his best thinking. It makes sense that Dodger would choose the sewers, which is his territory, as the setting for his rescue of Simplicity. It is also in the sewers that Dodger witnesses Grandad's death, and realizes that is not the sort of life that he wants for himself.

Other settings in the novel include Henry Mayhew's house, Solomon's attic room, Angela's house, the embassy and the palace of Queen Victoria. The offices of the Morning Chronicle where Dodger subdues a burglar, Sweeney Todd's barbershop, and Parliament are also important settings in the story.



Language and Meaning

The language of this novel features a variety of words that could be considered a form of London slang. Rich men are called "toffs," average men are "coves," and the schemers who always seem to have something up their sleeve are referred to as "geezers." A "nobby" person or thing was one that was high class, while the "peelers" were police officers. The "jakes" is where one would go to use the bathroom while "richards" was a term Dodger used often to refer to solid human excrement.

Notice also that the author uses his words to create a rich description of the city of London as well as the things and people that Dodger encounters. Pratchett seems interested particularly in describing the smell and dirtiness of the city. The first long introductory paragraph, for instance, describes the filth of London that even the rain cannot wash away. The Thames River is described as "gasping like a dying fish" while the sewers are "bringing back up to the world of men all those things that they thought they'd left behind them."

Structure

"Dodger" is divided into 16 relatively long chapters. Chapters are an average of 20 pages each. Each chapter is given not only a number title, but also has a short description of what will be happening in that chapter. Generally these short descriptions tend to include a play on words, such as the one for Chapter Ten in which it is indicated that Dodger uses his head, or an otherwise lighthearted approach to what is to come. Pratchett also tends to write in long sentences. Instead of making the novel difficult to read and unwieldy, as some books with long sentences are, the book is quite easy and enjoyable to read.

The plot of the novel is fairly simple as it involves the salvation of Simplicity. Dodger's climb to a better way of living comes as a result of odd and unexpected situations that Dodger is put into because of his active role in helping Simplicity. What keeps the reader intrigued by the novel is the fact that Dodger's plan to save Simplicity is not uncovered until the plan is actually put into action. There are hints as to what Dodger has in mind which the more astute reader might pick up on but for the most part, Dodger's plan is a secret until the end.



Quotes

"But those in the know always said about the London rain that, try as it might, it would never, ever clean that noisome city, because all it did was show you another layer of dirt. And on this dirty night there were appropriately dirty deeds that not even the rain could wash away." Chapter One, pp. 1-2

"Dodger had never read a book, but if he had ever done so, he would have read the cook just like it — and it was amazing how much you could glean from a look, or a snort, or even a fart if it was dropped into the conversation at just the right place." Chapter Two, p. 20

"If you don't want to end up like poor old Grandad, then you'd better end up like somebody else, and a good start mmm would be to look like someone else, especially mmm if you are to do this work for that Mister Charlie." Chapter Three, p. 36

"Young man, the games we play are lessons we learn. The assumptions we make, things we ignore, and things we change make us what we become." Chapter Three, p. 46

"But right now, the only monsters in Fleet Street, he had been told, were the printing presses whose thumping made the pavement shake, and that demanded to be fed every day with a diet of politics, 'orrible murders, and death." Chapter Four, p. 57

"And everywhere along the street, men were pushing trolleys and piles of paper, or running fast holding tight to smaller bits of paper in a terrible urgency to explain to the world what had happened, why it had happened, what should have happened, and sometimes why it hadn't happened at all, when in fact it did happen after all — and, of course, to tell everyone about all the people who had been 'orribly murdered." Chapter Four, p. 58

"Dodger followed the maid up a flight of stone stairs to a door, to the magic green baize door between the people who clean the floors and those people who walk on the floors — the upstairs and the downstairs of the world." Chapter Five, pp. 76-77

"He felt that the only cure for something like this would be to go down into the sewers, because if you had to be down in the dumps, you might as well have a feel around and see if you could find sixpence." Chapter Six, p. 94

"Somebody had done that to her, and as he wiped his nose with a rag, he vowed that one day he would indeed take her Mister Punch and back him up to a wall somewhere and most surely make him mind his manners." Chapter Six, p. 98

"In that sense, all men are writers, journalists scribbling within their skulls the narrative of what they see and hear, notwithstanding that a man sitting opposite them might very well brew an entirely different view as to the nature of the occurrence. That is the



salvation and the demon of journalism, the knowledge that there is almost always a different perspective from which to see the conundrum." Chapter Seven, p. 131

"My answer to you would be that the truth is a fog, in which one man sees the heavenly host and the other one sees a flying elephant." Chapter Seven, p. 132

"But you see, sir, there is more evidence of the marriage. That, sir, is myself. But I will not go back there because I know full well that I could simply vanish. And that is if I even survived the journey — a journey by boat, gentlemen." Chapter Eight, p. 158

"Dodger was staring at Simplicity with his mouth open. A princess!? You had to be a knight or something even to rescue one, didn't you?" Chapter Eight, p. 159

"Do be careful about protesting; you know who and what you are and I suppose so do I, although I suspect I am kinder to you than you are to yourself. But right now the good people of London have contributed this money to someone they consider to be a hero. Who are we to deprive them of their hero, especially since it might be that a hero can get things done?" Chapter Ten, p. 177

"Well then, Dodger, you have answered your own little conundrum. Let them hear that Simplicity is mmm dead. No one hunts a dead man." Chapter Eleven, pp. 200-201

"Money makes people rich; it is a fallacy to think it makes them better, or even that it makes them worse. People are what they do, and what they leave behind." Chapter Eleven, pp. 202-203

"This is good for a man because responsibilities are the anvil on which a man is forged." Chapter Eleven, p. 203

"But, dear Dodger, would I be right in believing that the success of this plan will end up with you and me together somewhere safe?" Chapter Twelve, p. 226

"But I have found that kindness lasts a lot longer than love, because my mother always said that kindness was love in disguise." Chapter Twelve, p. 227

"The man of the moment. Mister Dodger, I have made a study of the multiple classes of people in London, and it does seem to me that you are climbing the ladder faster, if I may say so, than a chimpanzee." Chapter Twelve, p. 228

"You are the freest free agent that I can possibly imagine and frankly, Mister Dodger — and I will deny this if ever you repeat it publicly and you may be sure that my word will be taken against yours — one of the reasons I'm talking to you now is to tell you that whatever you may be planning, you must not break the law. Since I have just now stepped out of this room and any voice you may be hearing cannot possibly be mine, I must however point out to you that there are times when the law may be somewhat ... flexible." Chapter Twelve, p. 242



"Mmm, Dodger, I do not know for certain what you think you were doing last night, but I think I can perceive, because as you know Solomon does himself have a certain wisdom of his own, that you thought you had a score to settle with somebody. Though you know that I do not mmm tolerate thievery of any kind, I've had a word with God and he agrees with me that in the circumstances you might have wanted to set fire to the place." Chapter Thirteen, p. 260

"And mmm all I will ask from you, my friend, is that I am allowed to take this document concerning the tsar, and quite possibly make some use of it one day, when the occasion ever presents itself, especially if my young friend Karl is still alive.... Mmm, and incidentally, in another one of these packages is a scurrilous piece of information about a member of our own royal family." Chapter Thirteen, p. 262

"Oh, he'd always halfheartedly asked her for help almost automatically, but he'd never really prayed from the guts upward, and standing here with the sounds of London overhead and apparently a real assassin looking for him, he needed a prayer." Chapter Fourteen, p. 278

"Well, Dodger, I have faith in you, Miss Burdett-Coutts may have some faith in you, but Miss Simplicity has a faith in you which I venture to suggest is greater than that of Abraham's." Chapter Fourteen, p. 287

"But he thought, So there are clocks ticking. A government's clock. The Outlander's clock. And mine. It will be best for Simplicity if mine chimes first." Chapter Fourteen, pp. 295-296

"Oh dear, oh dear, why is it that everybody assumes that the Outlander is a man?" Chapter Fifteen, p. 311

"In the echoes of that little speech, for just one bleary moment, Dodger thought he heard the voice of Grandad with its cheerful toothless sound, saying, 'Told yuz! You is the best tosher I known. You got your tosheroon now. That young lady there — she's your tosheroon, lad!'" Chapter Fifteen, p. 313

"The killer was now under lock and key, despite the fact that the wretched woman now denied shooting anybody, an assertion belied by her confederate who, it must be said, was talking his heart out in the hope of salvation." Chapter Fifteen, p. 321

"Dodger, I think there is a game called Find the Lady, but I am not asking to play it. I simply wish to know that there is a lady to be found, in good health, as it might be, by a young man who can see through the fog." Chapter Fifteen, p. 322

"Indeed, he hoped in his soul that Simplicity would embrace the decent Dodger and put him on something approaching the straight and narrow, provided it was not all that straight and not all that narrow. Ultimately, it was all about the fog." Chapter Sixteen, p. 328



Topics for Discussion

While Dodger's story is fictional, many of the characters included were actual historical figures. Choose a character to research and describe how their life impacted London. How is the character portrayed in the novel? Is the portrayal consistent with this person's role in history?

Discuss the parallel drawn in the novel between the truth and the fog. In what ways does Charlie teach Dodger to use a slightly mutilated form of the truth to save Simplicity?

Consider Dodger's distaste for being called a hero. Why does this title sit so badly with him?

Discuss the significance of clothing in the novel.

How did Dodger intend for his rescue of Simplicity to go? What circumstance changed his plans?

What is Solomon's role in the novel? Discuss also his view of religion and God.

How do Dodger's street smarts benefit him? Give at least three examples where he uses his unique form of intelligence to benefit himself and others.