

Evelina Study Guide

Evelina by Fanny Burney

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Plot Summary

"Evelina" by Frances Burney is a three volume epistolary novel about a young lady of noble birth who has not been acknowledged by her aristocratic father. Raised by Rev. Villars until the seclusion of the country until age seventeen, Evelina finally emerges into London society, only to commit several social blunders due to her lack of experience with society. Eventually, Evelina's virtue gains her the love of a distinguished nobleman and the acceptance of her father. "Evelina" is a fascinating satire on 18th century society, focusing largely on views of women and social classes.

When Rev. Villars learns that Mme. Duval wants to become acquainted with Evelina, his ward, he allows Evelina to visit Howard Grove, fearing Mme. Duval's influence could lead Evelina to a shameful, untimely death like her mother. At Howard Grove, Evelina becomes very close to Miss Maria Mirvan, Lady Howard's granddaughter. So, she asks permission to accompany the Mirvans to London to meet Captain Mirvan who is returning to England after a seven-year absence. Rev. Villars agrees reluctantly. In London, Evelina accompanies the Mirvans on many outings, but while her beauty and the mystery surrounding her social status attracts many people's attention, her lack of knowledge about social conventions leads her to make a series of embarrassing faux pas which expose her to impertinence and unkind ridicule. Still, she gains the attention of Lord Orville, a distinguished nobleman, and the impertinent Sir Clement Willoughby. When Mme. Duval arrives in London, she seems very kind to Evelina and introduces her to her cousins, the Branghtons, whose poor behavior convince Evelina that Lord Orville is unattainable. Evelina and Mme. Duval return to Howard Grove with the Mirvans. At the suggestion of the Branghtons, Mme. Duval wants to sue Sir John Belmont, Evelina's father. She wants him to recognize his heir. Since Rev. Villars disapproves of such measures, Lady Howard writes to Sir John to plead with him to acknowledge his daughter, but he responds unfavorably.

To prevent Mme. Duval from rushing to Paris with Evelina to pursue the lawsuit, Rev. Villars compromises and allows Evelina to spend a month in London with her grandmother. On her second trip to London, Evelina is forced to spend more time with the Branghtons and their ill-bred friends, yet she is moved by one of their boarders, a Scottish poet named Mr. Macartney. After she discourages him from disgrace when she misinterprets his acquisition of pistols as a suicide attempt, Mr. Macartney tells Evelina that he was considering highway robbery to alleviate his financial burdens. His mother has recently died, and he has learned that the father of his beloved is also his father. Evelina gives him her purse to help him. While part of the Branghtons' party, Evelina has several mortifying encounters with Lord Orville, so she is stunned when he expresses interest in renewing their acquaintance. In response to Evelina's letter apologizing for the Branghtons' behavior, Lord Orville writes her an insulting, presumptuous letter just before she returns home to Berry Hill where she falls ill due to her unhappiness at Lord Orville's duplicitous nature.

Hoping to aid Evelina's recovery, Rev. Villars insists that she accompany Mrs. Selwyn, their widowed neighbor, to Clifton Heights where Evelina attracts the unwelcome



attention of Lord Merton. She soon learns that he is engaged to Lady Louisa, Lord Orville's sister. Evelina tries to avoid Lord Orville because of his letter. She finds his manners unchanged, and she is torn between her attraction to him and her belief in his past duplicity. When Mr. Macartney visits Evelina to repay his debt, Lord Orville becomes jealous. She assures him that their relationship is of the business variety. Lord Orville arranges a meeting between Evelina and Mr. Macartney. Due to Rev. Villars' fear of Lord Orville's character, Evelina tries to distance herself from her friend, but she is delighted when he admits that he loves her and proposes. Lord Orville denies writing the insulting letter. A short time later, Sir Clement admits that he forged the letter in hopes of separating Evelina and Lord Orville. Learning that Sir John Belmont is in Bristol, Mrs. Selwyn visits him to discuss Evelina. Mrs. Selwyn, and Mrs. Clinton, Rev. Villars' long-time housekeeper, are able to learn that Evelina's nurse passed her own daughter off as Sir John's daughter in order to secure a better future for her child. Upon seeing Evelina, Sir John is guilt-stricken and repentant, immediately acknowledging her as his daughter because of her resemblance to his late wife. Evelina is able to ease his conscience with her gentle pardons and sweet demeanor. Evelina learns that Mr. Macartney is also Sir John's child. Now that the truth of Miss Belmont's parentage is known, Mr. Macartney weds her in a joint ceremony with Lord Orville and Evelina who have never been happier.



Volume 1, Letters 1-10 (pages 89-119)

Summary

Volume 1, Letters 1-10 (pages 89-119)

After opening with a verse dedicated “To Charles Burney,” her father, Frances Burney appeals “To The Authors of the Monthly and Critical Reviews” to protect her work and judge it fairly. “The Preface” serves as a defense of “Evelina,” claiming that she seeks to mimic nature without causing moral injury, despite choosing to write in the commonly immoral genre of novels. “Evelina- In a Series of Letters” begins with Lady Howard writing Reverend Villars that she has received a letter from Madame Duval who plans to visit England in order to renew her acquaintance with Evelina Anville, her granddaughter and Villars' ward. Mr. Villars objects to sending Evelina to Mme. Duval because he fears she is not a proper guardian. Also, he worries that Mme. Duval's influence could lead Evelina to an untimely, shameful death like her mother.

On March 8, Lady Howard asks permission for Evelina to visit her at Howard Grove, assuring Rev. Villars that there is no chance of meeting with Sir John Belmont, Evelina's father who never claimed her. On March 12, Rev. Villars consents, warning Lady Howard not to expect too much since Evelina was raised in the country and knows little of the world. When Evelina goes to Howard Grove, Rev. Villars begs Lady Howard to restore his ward to him in the same innocence in which she left as she is his reason for living. Lady Howard praises Evelina as an angel. She is very satisfied with the growing affection between her guest and her granddaughter, Maria Mirvan. She promises that Evelina will meet with the same attention as her own children. Eight days later, Lady Howard requests permission for Evelina to accompany her daughter (Mrs. Mirvan) and Maria to London to meet Captain Mirvan. Captain Mirvan is her son-in-law who is returning to England after a seven year absence. She promises that the Mirvans plan to live in a retired manner and that Mrs. Mirvan will attend to Evelina as if she were her own daughter. Evelina also requests permission to accompany the Mirvans to London, assuring her guardian that the trip will only last a few weeks. However, she is content to stay at Howard Grove if he disapproves of the trip. Agreeing reluctantly that Evelina may go to London, Rev. Villars advises her to guard herself against danger, distress, and vice.

Arriving at Queen-Ann Street in London on Saturday, April 2, Evelina is excited to visit Drury Lane. The play she sees with the Mirvans fills her with raptures. She also enjoys a walk through the Mall of St. James' Park on Sunday. On Monday, she goes shopping with the Mirvans in preparation for a ball they are to attend. She is nervous about the assembly since she has only danced at school, but she hopes to improve by spending time in town.



Analysis

"Evelina" opens with "To Charles Burney," a poem addressed to the author's father in which she refers to him as "the author of my being" (page 89), praising his good example in her life and explaining that she requests only concealment in this tribute to him, by which she foreshadows her intention to publish anonymously. In "To the Authors of the Monthly and Critical Reviews," Burney seeks the protection of these literary critics as there are none better to whom to apply for patronage than the inspectors of all literary performance, yet she will not stoop to adulation and flattery nor will she dishonor their justice by requesting a favorable review. Instead, she requests leniency by reminding them that they were all young writers once.

The Preface admits that the novelist is the most disdained of writers, so the author presents her novel to the public with a mixture of timidity and confidence. In her attempt to draw characters from nature, rather than life, and to mark the manners of the time, she uses a seventeen-year-old female with a virtuous mind who is inexperienced with the world. The novel follows "the natural progression of the life of a young woman of obscure birth, but conspicuous beauty, for the first six months after her Entrance into the world," adding that her heroine is "the offspring of Nature, and of Nature in her simplest attire" (page 96). Since novels will always be written, Burney strives to add to those that can be read without injury, yet she shuns imitation in books since such an attempt would only emphasize the inferiority of the copy. Though she admires and is influenced by the works of Rousseau, Johnson, Richardson, Fielding, and Smollett, renowned authors to whose works she alludes, she does not seek to follow the same path which they've left barren. Burney makes no claim on her readers except to hope they will not condemn her, ending with the claim that she is "hopeless of fame, yet not regardless of censure" (page 97). Throughout these addresses by the author, the important thing to note is her modesty which leads to the decision to publish anonymously.

When Mme. Duval expresses interest in meeting Evelina, Rev. Villars' hesitation comes from the fact that she has never acknowledged Evelina since she broke off her relationship with her daughter Caroline, who was Evelina's mother. That was eighteen years earlier. Additionally, he believes that Mme. Duval, by severing this relationship, contributed to Caroline's demise, so he hopes to save Evelina from the same fate by protecting her from her grandmother. He promised Caroline that he would care for her daughter, and he is too fond of Evelina to allow her to leave him to join Mme. Duval, especially as he fears what such a connection could mean for her future happiness. Yet, he ungraciously agrees to allow Evelina to visit Lady Howard on an extended holiday after receiving assurances that her father, Sir John Belmont, is out of the country.

Evelina's role as an abandoned orphan unwanted by her only surviving parent plays a large part in her character development, while Rev. Villars' tender care contributes to establishing his character. Rev. Villars' warning that Evelina is not experienced with the world foreshadows the social faux pas she makes as a result of this inexperience. About a week after Evelina arrives in Howard Grove, both she and Lady Howard request Rev. Villars' permission for Evelina to accompany Mrs. and Miss Mirvan to collect Captain



Mirvan in London, foreshadowing Evelina's adventures in the city. This is soon fulfilled when Evelina arrives at Queen-Ann Street where she is nervous about the assembly that she is scheduled to attend, foreshadowing her lack of social grace in public.

Discussion Question 1

What is an epistolary novel? In your opinion, why did Frances Burney choose this method to write this novel?

Discussion Question 2

Considering the time period during which Burney penned this novel, what is another reason besides modesty that led her to write anonymously?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Reverend Villars hesitant to allow Evelina to meet her grandmother?

Vocabulary

Adulation, frivolous, impenetrable, depravity, imputes, unamiable, confers, manifested, dissipation, perturbation.



Volume 1, Letters 11-15 (pages 120-152)

Summary

Volume 1, Letters 11-15 (pages 120-152)

Continuing her epistolary journal on April 5, Evelina writes that she enjoyed the private ball, though she was amazed at the number of couples in attendance. She is offended by the men's impertinent stares. After declining to dance with a foppish young man, she stands up with a handsome young man around 26 years old, and her terror increases when Maria informs her that he is a nobleman named Lord Orville. Sitting alone while Maria dances, Evelina is stunned when Lord Orville seeks her out and offers to get her lemonade. Since she is content with the folly she has already shown by declining one man and dancing with another, she refuses to dance again, but Lord Orville converses with her, turning the conversation to country amusements in an attempt to make her talk. The fop interrupts to ask what accident prevented him from the honor of her hand, accusing her of ill-manners since her earlier behavior was a violation of the rules of an assembly. Luckily, Lord Orville defends her and finds Mrs. Mirvan who assures Evelina that the fop, whose name is Mr. Lovel, will likely carry his resentment no further. Evelina dances once more with Lord Orville who hands her into the coach and claims she has done him an honor.

The next morning, Lord Orville sends his servant to inquire after Evelina's health, but Evelina decides that she dislikes the city. She enjoys the opera on Wednesday. During Thursday's visit to charming Ranelagh, Evelina encounters Lord Orville who bows, but hurt by his ill opinion, she decides that she is finished with assemblies. When Captain Mirvan reaches London on Friday, Evelina reports that he is vulgar and disagreeable. She attends another opera on Saturday night. She plans to attend a ball on Monday with the intent of returning to Howard Grove on Wednesday. On Tuesday morning, matters deteriorate further at her second assembly, a ball, when she attempts to decline dancing with Sir Clement Willoughby by claiming to have a partner who is soon assumed to be Lord Orville after she glances at him. Though Evelina is horribly embarrassed, Lord Orville assures her that he does not mind her using his name. Lord Orville and Sir Clement both called this morning, and though Evelina is indifferent to Sir Clement's opinion, she is distraught at the idea that Lord Orville should think she is an idiot. She is eager to leave London "for I am too inexperienced and ignorant to conduct myself with propriety in this town" (page 144). Evelina is unhappy when her journey back to Howard Grove is postponed by an unfortunate incident.

While leaving the Fantocini, Mrs. Mirvan prevails on her husband to aid an older French woman who is separated from her party. Captain Mirvan is quite rude because he hates the French. When Mrs. Mirvan mentions Howard Grove, the French woman asks about Lady Howard and reveals herself to be Mme. Duval, a fact that causes Evelina to sink into Mrs. Mirvan's arms at the realization that this is her grandmother. Mrs. Mirvan denies Mme. Duval's request for Evelina to stay at her lodgings, and she accompanies



Evelina to visit Mme. Duval the next morning. Mme. Duval receives Evelina with as much tenderness as she is capable of feeling, but the Mirvans delay their return to Howard Grove for fear Mme. Duval will follow.

Analysis

Evelina recounts the experience of attending her first assembly in town, fulfilling foreshadowing as she describes the faux pas she committed by declining to dance with Mr. Lovel only to agree to dance with Lord Orville. Luckily, Lord Orville defends her against Mr. Lovel's insults. Evelina laments that she "could not help being thus particular, because, to me, everything is so new" (page 127).

After the assembly, Mrs. Mirvan acquaints Evelina with a strange conversation she overheard between Lord Orville, Mr. Lovel, and an unknown man who defended Evelina. Evelina is offended by the conversation in which her beauty was discussed as well as her lack of manners. Evelina's first week in London is filled with social engagements and interactions, all of which make her uncomfortable. Even worse, her beauty and ambiguous social status attracts unwelcome attention and unkind speculation. When her social inexperience causes her to commit errors concerning the social conventions of London society, she is exposed to ridicule and impertinence. Still, she quickly earns the attentions of Lord Orville and Sir Clement. At the ball on Monday night, Evelina sees Lord Orville who does not seem to notice her party. When a 30-year-old man asks her to dance, Evelina claims she is already engaged, but the man harasses her and insults her imaginary partner until she agrees to dance with him. As Evelina makes the mistake of glancing at Lord Orville, her partner, Sir Clement Willoughby, warns her against exposing herself to impertinence by dancing in public with a stranger. Lord Orville approaches with Mrs. Mirvan, causing Evelina to be mortified as her partner reluctantly resigns her hand as he speaks of his usurpation, but when she tries to explain, Lord Orville kindly tells her "be not distressed, I beseech you; I shall ever think my name honoured by your making use of it" (page 142).

Although Evelina is eager to leave London, her departure is delayed when she accidentally encounters Mme. Duval, foreshadowing her developing relationship with her estranged grandmother. Rev. Villars is alarmed and grieved at Mme. Duval's arrival as he has long dreaded this meeting for fear that she will claim Evelina. He comforts Evelina by saying that he will devote himself to her service as long as he lives, but he is eager for her to leave the city and return to the safety of Howard Grove. He is gratified by Lord Orville's good nature, but he hopes Sir Clement will leave Evelina alone. Rev. Villars concludes with the warning for Evelina to guard herself against vice which may result from her innocence.

Discussion Question 1

How did Evelina react to the fop's invitation to dance? How surprised was the fop by her reaction? Why?



Discussion Question 2

Describe Lord Orville's behavior toward Evelina at their first meeting? In your opinion, is his gallantry for show, or is it genuine? Explain.

Discussion Question 3

Compare and contrast Mrs. Mirvan and Mme. Duval.

Vocabulary

Gallantry, minuets, milliner, perplexity, prevailed, delectable, foppishness, affronting, coxcomb, obligingly, rebuke.



Volume 1, Letters 16-20 (pages 152-185)

Summary

Volume 1, Letters 16-20 (pages 152-185)

When Mme. Duval visits Queen-Ann Street for tea on April 13, she is accompanied by a French gentleman named M. Du Bois. Evelina is disconcerted by the arrival of Sir Clement who wins Captain Mirvan's friendship by his obvious disdain of their two French visitors. As such, Sir Clement is invited to join the Mirvans' party to Ranelagh, but Evelina is even more surprised when Lord Orville joins their party upon their arrival. She enjoys the company of Lord Orville, Mrs. Mirvan, and Maria; but, she finds the rest of the party disagreeable.

On the way home, their coach breaks down. While escorting Evelina to the warmth of an inn, Sir Clement tries to apologize for his impertinence at the ridotto. Evelina is relieved when the Mirvans join them. Captain Mirvan is heartily amused by Mme. Duval's mud-covered appearance, and after she spits in his face, he shakes her, causing her to cry. Evelina checks on Mme. Duval's health the next day and is forced to meet some of her relatives, the Branghtons, who consist of the father, son, and two daughters. The Branghtons are ill-mannered and irritating as they question Evelina about her upbringing and her visit to London, leaving her indisposed to accept the invitation to the opera and even less eager to meet any more relatives if they resemble the Branghtons. On Saturday, Evelina joins the Mirvans to visit Drury Lane. Mme. Duval does not join them because she is sick; however, Sir Clement and Lord Orville go along with them. Evelina is distressed when Mr. Lovel also joins them and mocks her manners, leaving her more eager than ever to leave London.

Analysis

Sir Clement and Captain Mirvan bond over their dislike of their French visitors, Mme. Duval and M. Du Bois, foreshadowing the pranks they play on the unsuspecting foreigners. The animosity increases during the disagreement between Captain Mirvan and Mme. Duval at an inn during their next outing. Evelina is surprised by the addition to their party of Lord Orville and Sir Clement. The presence of these two gentlemen is indicative of their interest in Evelina. When Evelina meets the Branghtons, she is disappointed. Their vulgarity and improper behavior disgust her. The episode leaves her disinclined to meet any more relatives.

On Friday, April 15, Lord Orville calls on Evelina to express concern at her coach's accident, but Evelina is so surprised by his sorrow that she is leaving London soon that she pulls away and summons Mrs. Mirvan. Later, Mrs. Mirvan invites Mme. Duval to dinner so Evelina will not be forced to spend time alone with her grandmother. Mr. Lovel continues to plague Evelina for her past behavior when they meet again, and his



impertinence increases her eagerness to leave London. She wishes there were a book of laws and social customs that could be presented to young people before being introduced to public company, but she looks forward to visiting the opera that night because Lord Orville is supposed to join her party. This section of the novel contains allusions to Handel and to Congreve's "Love for Love," a play that Evelina finds indelicate, demonstrating her virtuous, innocent nature.

Discussion Question 1

What is ironic about the Branghtons' mockery of Evelina?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Evelina uncomfortable around Mr. Lovel?

Discussion Question 3

Compare and contrast Evelina with her cousins, the Branghtons.

Vocabulary

Disconcerted, provoking, assiduity, tantalizing, vexation, altercation, misconstrue, incommoded, vindicate, benefactor.



Volume 1, Letters 21-23 (pages 185-221)

Summary

Volume 1, Letters 21-23 (pages 185-221)

While dressing for the opera, Evelina is surprised when both Miss Branghtons call on her to invite her to the opera, and she is embarrassed by their poor manners. They are affronted when Evelina refuses the invitation. Soon thereafter, Mme. Duval arrives to force Evelina to join the Branghtons' party to the opera, a trip that is very disagreeable due to the company kept. As the opera ends, Sir Clement finds Evelina and offers to escort her to the Mirvans. Unable to find Mrs. Mirvan, he insists on taking her home. Evelina refuses, but after Lord Orville informs her that the Mirvans have already left and offers to escort her, Evelina has little choice but to agree to Sir Clement's offer. During the long trip home, Sir Clement is happy to talk to Evelina without the Mirvans present. She is distraught at his forwardness. Evelina begins to suspect that he instructed the coachman to drive the wrong way. As he drops her off on Queen-Ann Street, Sir Clement kisses her hand, protests his honor, and assures her of his respect. Though Evelina is happy to be home, she is distressed to see Lord Orville's coach. He has stopped by to see that she got home safely.

Since Mme. Duval objects to Evelina leaving London, she is invited to accompany the Mirvans to Howard Grove. While Evelina is not pleased with this arrangement, she is even more concerned when Captain Mirvan invites his new friend, Sir Clement, to join them also.

Analysis

Evelina is visited by the Branghtons, and when she declines their invitation to the opera, Mme. Duval visits to insist that she join them. Sir Clement comments on Evelina's relationship with Mme. Duval, suggesting she should never see her again since he does not know that they are actually related. Since Mrs. Mirvan is unable to calm Mme. Duval, Evelina accompanies her grandmother back to her lodgings where the Branghtons await with vulgar comments about coach fare and the price of tickets at the opera. Evelina is vexed that she is forced into such a disagreeable party especially as she sees the party she left.

Evelina is distressed and embarrassed by the boorish, social-climbing antics of her cousins, and their actions convince her that Lord Orville is completely out of reach. The embarrassment of being found with the Branghtons does not compare to Evelina's discomfort when Lord Orville finds her alone with Sir Clement. On the trip home, Sir Clement discomfits Evelina by professing his affection as their coach gets lost, causing Evelina to suspect that the detour is intentional. Finally arriving at Queen-Ann Street, Evelina is stunned to find Lord Orville waiting to be sure that she returned safely.



Evelina is unable to sleep that night for fear that Lord Orville will think she contrived to spend so much time alone with Sir Clement, yet she also wonders if he suspected Sir Clement's design since he was so anxious for her return.

On Monday, April 18, Evelina is half pleased and half pained when Mrs. Mirvan informs her that Lord Orville chided Mr. Lovel for his impertinence. Meanwhile, Mme. Duval is furious that Evelina is leaving London. Since Mrs. Mirvan objects to leaving Evelina behind, Mme. Duval plans to join them next Wednesday when they return to Howard Grove. The next day, Evelina feels somewhat melancholy at the thought of leaving London after visiting the Pantheons with the Mirvans. They run into Lord Orville and his large party, and Evelina is offended by the bold stares of one lord who pleads in vain with Captain Mirvan to permit the ladies to join his party to visit Ranelagh. She is surprised when Lord Orville calls to pay his respects before they leave town and to ask when they will return. When Sir Clement calls to express sorrow at Evelina's departure, Captain Mirvan invites his new friend to join them. Evelina cannot believe the rudeness of Captain Mirvan inviting Sir Clement in front of Lord Orville, especially as he must have noticed Sir Clement's attentions to her which make her very uneasy.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Evelina distressed when she arrives home and finds Lord Orville's coach awaiting her?

Discussion Question 2

For what reason(s) might Captain Mirvan be intent on inviting Sir Clement to join their party knowing that his invitation makes Evelina very uneasy?

Discussion Question 3

How does Evelina feel about Sir Clement's attentions?

Vocabulary

Chagrined, insolent, expostulation, exulting, conspicuous, diverted, contrive, superfluous, indulgence.



Volume 1, Letters 24-31 (pages 222-242)

Summary

Volume 1, Letters 24-31 (pages 222-242)

On April 22, Rev. Villars is happy that Evelina has returned to Howard Grove. Sir Clement's behavior convinces Rev. Villars that he is an artful, designing man, but Lord Orville seems to be of "a better order of beings" (page 223).

Evelina is terrified on April 27 when Mme. Duval, believing it a shame that her granddaughter is not the fine lady as she was born to be, proposes the scheme of suing Sir John Belmont to prove Evelina's birthright and claim her inheritance, a scheme instigated by the Branghtons. Evelina does not know whether she wishes to be claimed or not, so she promises to be guided by Rev. Villars' unerring wisdom. To avoid subjecting Evelina to the world's impertinence and ridicule, Rev. Villars begs for the milder measure of applying to Sir John, rather than through the law. He asks Lady Howard to write Sir John on Evelina's behalf as this is the best chance of receiving a favorable response. Yet, he is certain that the Branghtons proposed the scheme in hopes of securing Mme. Duval's fortune for themselves once Evelina is provided for. Rev. Villars informs Evelina that it is impractical to oppose the scheme, but he assures her that she can return to him if her family will not receive her.

On May 5, Lady Howard writes to Sir John about Rev. Villars' ward, Sir John's child, claiming that Evelina is an accomplished, amiable young woman who merits his attention and regard. Her friends would be grateful and it would show his honor if Sir John agrees to openly receive the daughter of the late Lady Belmont. She assures him that Evelina will amply repay his favor as she wishes for her father to properly own her. Once Lady Howard writes to Sir John, Evelina is terrified that it will not end to her satisfaction; she will either be torn from the only father she knows or rejected by the man who created her.

Analysis

Rev. Villars is relieved when Evelina returns to Howard Grove, expressing his fear of Sir Clement while praising Lord Orville's behavior. The addition of Mme. Duval and Captain Mirvan causes Howard Grove to be less pleasant to Evelina as the two argue incessantly, but she is grateful for Lady Howard's kind reception. Evelina is frightened by Mme. Duval's plan to force Sir John Belmont to acknowledge her by suing him, and this plan foreshadows the applications made to Sir John on his daughter's behalf. Lady Howard approves of the scheme and also writes Rev. Villars for permission, pointing out that Sir John may not live much longer. They may regret their lack of action once it is too late. Though Rev. Villars cannot oppose Mme. Duval, he is displeased with the idea of giving Caroline's innocent offspring to the man who so basely betrayed her mother.



While he has considered many schemes to secure Evelina's birthright, he subsequently rejected them all and planned to adopt her as his heiress and see her well married. The ill manners of the Branghtons are reinforced by Rev. Villars' belief that Mme. Duval's scheme results from the influence of their greed. This foreshadows their attempts to acquire Mme. Duval's fortune through the means of marrying Evelina to young Mr. Branghton. Lady Howard's complimentary letter about Evelina to her father foreshadows his response, while Evelina's trepidation foreshadows that this response will not be favorable.

Discussion Question 1

What does Rev. Villars mean when he says that Lord Orville seems to be of "a better order of things"? What is the basis for his statement?

Discussion Question 2

How does Evelina feel about Mme. Duval's scheme?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Lady Howard write Sir John Belmont?

Vocabulary

Vehemence, alluring, approbation, remonstrance, perceived, validity, divested, abominate, untainted.



Volume 2, Letters 1-7 (pages 245-278)

Summary

Volume 2, Letters 1-7 (pages 245-278)

On May 10, events at Howard Grove are enlivened by the arrival of Sir Clement who meets Evelina with many compliments and professions of respect. Captain Mirvan is excited to have someone who will help him torment Mme. Duval. Evelina feels sorry for Mme. Duval when Captain Mirvan and Sir Clement play their prank on her. They convince her that M. Du Bois has been arrested and may be executed. So, when a letter arrives detailing the arrest, Mme. Duval rushes off to her friend's aid, insisting that her granddaughter accompany her. Turning back toward Howard Grove after learning that M. Du Bois has escaped, Mme. Duval's carriage is stopped by two masked men. While Sir Clement assures Evelina of her safety and expresses his passion, Captain Mirvan takes Mme. Duval to a ditch, ties her up and destroys her wig. She takes to her bed, lamenting how cruelly she was used. Mrs. Mirvan attempts to intervene with Captain Mirvan in vain, and when Evelina also appeals to the captain unsuccessfully, Sir Clement takes up her cause, deciding to leave Howard Grove since he cannot dissuade Captain Mirvan from his schemes.

On May 11, Sir John Belmont wishes the best for the young lady in Rev. Villars' care, yet he insists that any other application he makes for her advantage will be more successful. Depressed by her father's rejection, Evelina is even more disheartened when Rev. Villars agrees to let her visit Mme. Duval in London for a month, a compromise struck to prevent her scheme of returning to Paris to sue Sir John.

Analysis

As the second volume of this novel begins, Sir Clement's attraction to Evelina is apparent as he professes admiration and respect. His behavior, however, repulses her. Her distaste for the man is increased by the pranks he plays on Mme. Duval with Captain Mirvan. They torment the French woman with falsified news of M. Du Bois's arrest, causing her to rush to his aid. They proceed to torment her more. When neither Mrs. Mirvan nor Evelina are able to dissuade Captain Mirvan from pursuing his schemes, Sir Clement leaves Howard Grove to appease Evelina by robbing Captain Mirvan of his co-conspirator. He threatens to stay until Evelina expresses her gratitude, but she flees when he starts talking of his affection for her. She notes that it is odd that he never mentioned Lord Orville, but she turns her attention back to the expected letter from Paris.

As previously foreshadowed, Sir John Belmont responds unfavorably to Lady Howard's letter, claiming that they will have more success from a different source. Evelina is depressed by her father's rejection, even more so when Mme. Duval suggests taking



her to Paris to demand justice. Luckily, Lady Howard insists on applying to Rev. Villars first. Rev. Villars wishes Mme. Duval would return to Paris and allow Evelina to come home. But, when she visits him, furious at his refusal to allow Evelina to go to Paris, she insists that her granddaughter return to London and live with her until Sir John's return, even threatening to leave her fortune to strangers if she is denied. Rev. Villars unwillingly compromises that Evelina may spend a month in London with Mme. Duval.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Sir Clement inclined to go along with Captain Mirvan's prank?

Discussion Question 2

What does Mme. Duval's threat about leaving her fortune to strangers indicate about her feelings toward her granddaughter? What seems to be Mme. Duval's only interest in Evelina?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Rev. Villars allow Evelina to accompany Mme. Duval to London?

Vocabulary

Enlivened, recollected, languished, inhabited, vigour, diversion, contriving, commission, harangue, mutiny.



Volume 2, Letters 8-14 (pages 278-313)

Summary

Volume 2, Letters 8-14 (pages 278-313)

On June 6, Evelina is sad to leave her friends at Howard Grove, and she is fearful for Captain Mirvan when Mme. Duval learns from Mr. Branghton that M. Du Bois never left London. At Snow Hill, the Branghtons continue to be impertinent and disagreeable as they introduce Evelina to Miss Polly's suitor, a haberdasher named Mr. Brown. Evelina feels an increased distaste for the sisters as she notes the lack of affection between them. Mr. Branghton finally escorts Mme. Duval and Evelina to their lodgings in nearby Holborn. When Mme. Duval appeals to a justice regarding bringing a case against Captain Mirvan for his prank, she is discouraged. Mr. Branghton convinces her that pressing the issue will likely be expensive and yield no results.

On June 8, Evelina and Mme. Duval are invited to dine with the Branghtons. Though dinner is ill-cooked, ill-managed and ill-served, it would be more bearable if the Branghtons weren't so pretentious and certain of their success in pleasing. Evelina notices a young man in deep mourning. He is one of the Branghtons' boarders, and she learns that he is a poor Scottish poet named Mr. Macartney who has obviously suffered some misfortunes. They take tea in Mr. Smith's dressing room, and Evelina finds him gallant and irksome.

Mr. Smith calls at Holborn to invite Evelina to the next Hampstead assembly. Though she declines, he gains Mme. Duval's favor. Evelina is sent to Snow Hill to invite the Branghtons to dinner on her grandmother's behalf. While there she notices Mr. Macartney is carrying pistols. She is fearful that he intends to commit suicide. She confiscates his weapons and advises him to look to his salvation. While the Branghtons dine at Holborn, Evelina is disgusted with how much they despise poor Mr. Macartney, especially as the sisters insist he is interested in Evelina. Mr. Smith joins their party, and the group decides to visit the theatre in Haymarket where Evelina enjoys a wonderful performance.

On June 15, Mme. Duval sends Evelina to Snow Hill again to arrange a party. They vote on their destination, and Evelina is appalled when the Branghtons react rudely to her insistence that Mr. Macartney be permitted an opinion. Her disgust for the Branghtons only increases her pity for the poverty-stricken boarder. Mme. Duval and the Branghtons finally agree on visiting White-Conduit House, and they insist that Evelina join them, a prospect she finds very disagreeable.

Analysis

This second visit to London contrasts greatly with Evelina's previous visit with the Branghtons in terms of the pleasantness of the company she keeps and the difference



in addresses. She now stays in an unfashionable section of the city compared to when she stayed on Queen-Ann Street with the Branghtons. Evelina writes Miss Mirvan that London is not the same without her, plus her prior intimacy with Lord Orville now seems like a perfect yet unattainable dream.

Unhappy about Evelina spending a month in London with Mme. Duval, Rev. Villars warns her to be circumspect and advises her to limit her interactions with Mme. Duval's acquaintances, as they are unlikely to be creditable people. This foreshadows the indignities that Evelina suffers because of her acquaintance with the Branghtons. Evelina is also disgusted with the behavior of Mr. Smith. His gallant behavior foreshadows the freedoms that he takes with Evelina. The more time that Evelina spends with the Branghtons, the more she is disgusted with their disagreeable behavior. Evelina is appalled by the interactions between her cousins.

Their treatment of Mr. Macartney, whom Evelina instantly pities, only increases her distaste. When Evelina confiscates Mr. Macartney's pistols, she does so out of the mistaken assumption that he plans to commit suicide. He responds with odd behavior which foreshadows the discovery of his true purpose for obtaining the weapons. Evelina's unhappiness during this second trip to London is never more apparent than when she tells Rev. Villars that she laments writing so much about the Branghtons, but she has not had the opportunity to mix with any other society. This also foreshadows an imminent change in the company she keeps. However, in keeping with the tone of this trip, the change is not necessarily for the better.

Discussion Question 1

For what reason(s) might Evelina jump to the conclusion that Mr. Macartney is about to commit suicide?

Discussion Question 2

How do the Branghtons treat Mr. Macartney?

Discussion Question 3

Compare and contrast Evelina's first and second trips to London.

Vocabulary

Tedious, elapsed, condemn, threshold, intimation, transacted, inconceivably, recital, hazardous.



Volume 2, Letters 15-19 (pages 313-350)

Summary

Volume 2, Letters 15-19 (pages 313-350)

On June 17, Evelina irritably reports that Mr. Smith pressed the trip to Vauxhall in which she was included since she cannot "escape anything which these people desire I should not" (page 314). When Mr. Smith attempts to attach himself to her, she walks with her cousins, though they are annoying. The ladies are accosted by a large, riotous party of men who will not allow them to pass. As Evelina struggles, Sir Clement appears and insists she be turned over to him, but he leads her to another dark alley to be alone to profess his passion. He objects when she calls him insolent. While Sir Clement and Mr. Smith battle for Evelina's attentions, Miss Branghton and Miss Polly rejoin the group, blaming their cousin for the party not searching for them. Though Mme. Duval refuses Sir Clement's offer to escort them home, he insists because he had already reserved the carriage. He accompanies them back to Holborn. Evelina laments being seen with such a vulgar party, yet she is relieved that Sir Clement will not visit her at Holborn since Mme. Duval is too angry to admit him.

When the young Branghtons, Mr. Smith, and M. Du Bois call at Holborn the next day, they eagerly question Evelina's acquaintance with Sir Clement. They praise him to Mme. Duval's disgust. He enters the room and offers to deliver any messages to Howard Grove. Mme. Duval accuses him of playing a prank on her with Captain Mirvan, but he feigns innocence, growing angry when the other visitors laugh at Mme. Duval's accusations and insults. Before departing, he quietly asks Evelina how she came to be so oddly situated, leaving her hopeful that he will not be so eager to repeat his visit to such a disagreeable group. After three peaceful evenings, Mme. Duval grows restless and plans a party to Marybone-gardens with the Branghtons. As they evaluate the rain clouds, Evelina is left alone with Mr. Macartney who confesses that she could help him, but he will not allow it. Evelina drops her purse at his feet and flees.

On June 29, Mr. Smith visits Holborn with tickets to the Hampstead assembly. Despite Evelina's protests, Mme. Duval insists that they will both attend. When Mr. Smith declares his intention to dance with Evelina, she shocks everyone by claiming that she will not dance. Miss Branghton sulks at her favored one's obvious attentions to her cousin, but Evelina is offended by his conceited airs. At the ball, Evelina refuses to dance, despite Mr. Smith pleading and complaining until he finally leaves her alone. She is relieved when the disagreeable evening finally ends.

Analysis

During Evelina's trip to Vauxhall, earlier foreshadowing is fulfilled when Mr. Smith attempts to attach himself to Evelina, but as uncomfortable as that situation is, it



worsens when Evelina walks off with her cousins to be assaulted by a group of men and rescued by none other than Sir Clement. Thus, Evelina's social circle expands uncomfortably as Sir Clement's behavior indicates that his treatment of Evelina will become even more familiar and impertinent now that he finds her with a new, less socially acceptable party. Rushing to her party, Evelina is filled with repugnance as she introduces them to Sir Clement who relates the service he has done. Sir Clement questions Evelina even more impertinently than usual, causing her to suspect the change is related to her change of companions.

Evelina's hope that Sir Clement will not be able to call on her at Holborn since Mme. Duval will not admit him is soon shown to be a vain desire since he calls the very next day. His behavior toward Mme. Duval contrasts greatly with how he treated her at Howard Grove, demonstrating the hypocrisy of his character. Later, Evelina assists Mr. Macartney by dropping her purse at his feet when he mentions his financial difficulties. This foreshadows the friendship that develops between them.

Rev. Villars praises Evelina's bravery and generosity in regard to Mr. Macartney, yet he fears the man's sad situation results from his own misconduct. Indignant at Sir Clement's conduct, he is eager for Evelina to return to Berry Hill. In response to her guardian, Evelina confesses that she would gladly give up her acquaintance with Sir Clement if he would allow it. In Letter 19, Mr. Smith's impertinences resume as he insists on Evelina accompanying him to an assembly. Luckily, she is saved from being forced to dance by Mme. Duval's presence. Still, Miss Branghton's jealousy is obvious, foreshadowing the Branghtons' attempts to marry Evelina according to their wishes.

Discussion Question 1

Is it plausible that Sir Clement had a hand in arranging the incident with the men in the alley?

Discussion Question 2

Explain Sir Clement's hypocrisy toward Mme. Duval.

Discussion Question 3

Why is Miss Branghton jealous of Evelina?

Vocabulary

Officious, expedition, impertinent, assiduity, conspicuous, compulsion, reproachfully, persecutors, perturbation.



Volume 2, Letters 20-23 (pages 350-379)

Summary

Volume 2, Letters 20-23 (pages 350-379)

Evelina receives a letter from Mr. Macartney in which he credits her with rescuing him from certain destruction. He explains that he fell in love with the daughter of an English gentleman in Paris, but her father objected so they dueled and he injured the man. On her deathbed, Mr. Macartney's mother informs him that the father of his beloved is also his father! His beloved sister is to be sent to her aunt in England, and Mr. Macartney waits for her here. Unfortunately, there have been delays in her journey which led to his poverty. As such, he had resolved to resort to highway robbery. He purchased two pistols accordingly, and this is the fate from which Evelina saved him.

Evelina's adventures on June 30 prevent her from sleeping. While watching fireworks at Marybone Gardens with her usual party, she is frightened by the noise and takes off running. A young officer grabs her hand and refuses to release her so she appeals to two nearby ladies for protection. As they escort her back to her party, she is appalled to realize that they are prostitutes, yet her embarrassment grows when Lord Orville finds her in their company. The next day, Evelina receives Lord Orville awkwardly. In response to his questions, she assures him that she had never met those "ladies" before the previous evening. Lord Orville delicately cautions her against keeping such company, making amends for her mortification by kissing her hand.

After the nobleman departs, Mme. Duval informs Evelina that Mr. Branghton has proposed his son as a match, and though Evelina declares her aversion to such a marriage, her grandmother insists she will have her cousin if she cannot do better. Increasing her distress, Evelina receives a letter from M. Du Bois claiming an attachment to her which he only dares express because he cannot endure the thought of her marrying young Mr. Branghton. Evelina is concerned because she thinks well of the Frenchman, but she believes it will be easy to discourage him so she decides against telling Mme. Duval who will certainly be displeased.

Seeing Lord Orville's coach while visiting Kensington Gardens with her normal party, Evelina tries to hide behind her cousins, causing them to loudly question her acquaintance with such a high-ranking noble. Mme. Duval orders Lord Orville's coach, sending his footman to obtain his consent which is readily granted when Evelina's name is used. The next morning, young Mr. Branghton calls with Lord Orville's compliments. The Branghtons broke the glass in the carriage after leaving Holborn, so he went to apologize, using Evelina's name to gain admittance and giving her duty to Lord Orville. Certain that he has done her an irreparable injury, Evelina is furious and refuses to listen anymore. Distraught that Lord Orville's good opinion seems lost, she writes an apology for her party's impertinence.



Analysis

The letter that Evelina receives from Mr. Macartney explaining his past foreshadows his identity in relation to Evelina as well as the identity of his beloved. He admits that he had purchased the pistols with the plan of resorting to robbery as a means of providing for himself. He claims that she has taught him to bear calamity as a man since he cannot avoid it, and he promises to repay her at his first opportunity. Evelina is mortified when she unexpectedly encounters Lord Orville while in the company of prostitutes, and she is convinced that his opinion of her is sunk. Still, before he leaves, he asks for Evelina's address so that he may visit her, and Evelina, mortified to confess that she is staying in Holborn, is certain that Lord Orville must view her unfavorably after such an adventure. Lord Orville's kindness and obvious concern for Evelina foreshadows the revelation that he loves her.

When M. Du Bois confesses that he is attached to Evelina, she worries about Mme. Duval's reaction, foreshadowing her grandmother's jealousy. On July 3, Evelina laments that one morning of happiness must be counterbalanced with so much uneasiness.

Mme. Duval insists that they join the Branghtons' party to Kensington Gardens. On the trip, young Mr. Branghton is particularly troublesome, while M. Du Bois is melancholy that Evelina studiously avoids him. The continuous impertinence and freedoms of Mme. Duval and the Branghtons concerning Lord Orville and his coach cause Evelina to look foolish and ill-bred in front of the nobleman, but his gentle responses indicate his affection for her. The letter of apology that Evelina writes at the end of Letter 23 foreshadows Lord Orville's response.

Discussion Question 1

What will Lord Orville's response be as foreshadowed by his previous actions toward Evelina?

Discussion Question 2

Describe Evelina's adventures at Marybone Gardens.

Discussion Question 3

How do Evelina's cousins embarrass her at Kensington Gardens?

Vocabulary

Disposition, benevolence, divulge, pecuniary, clandestine, infamy, insolently, impunity, assertions, attributed..



Volume 2, Letters 24-30 (pages 379-400)

Summary

Volume 2, Letters 24-30 (pages 379-400)

On July 4, Evelina informs Rev. Villars that Mrs. Clinton may retrieve her as she has no further opposition to leaving the city. Mme. Duval sent her and M. Du Bois to invite the Branghtons to spend the evening at Holborn. Irritated by the gallantry of Mr. Smith and the impertinence of her cousin, Evelina turns her attention to M. Du Bois who misinterprets her action. Back at Holborn, she learns that both Sir Clement and Lord Orville called and left cards, but when she storms off, M. Du Bois follows and throws himself at her feet as Mme. Duval enters. Mme. Duval is furious because she hoped to be the object of his affections, and she claims she will have nothing more to do with Evelina unless she agrees to marry her cousin immediately. She refuses.

On July 7, Rev. Villars assures Evelina that Mrs. Clinton will retrieve her as soon as possible. Evelina writes to Miss Mirvan from Berry Hill on July 14 to apologize for being unable to stop at Howard Grove on her way home, and she admits that her return to Berry Hill has not yet restored her tranquility. Since Miss Mirvan accuses Evelina of mystery and reserve, Evelina disbelievingly admits that Lord Orville treated her with indignity. Before she left London, he responded to her apologetic letter with a letter claiming he is full of love and gratitude because he is sensible of the honor of her good opinion. She is shocked at the notion that he loves her when she first reads it, but a second perusal shows her the impertinence of the liberties he takes, distressing her that she has been so deceived in his character. She "cannot but lament to find myself in a world so deceitful, where we must suspect what we see, distrust what we hear, and doubt even what we feel" (page 389)!

On July 29, Evelina insists that Miss Mirvan is inaccurate in her belief that Evelina's heart is engaged with Lord Orville, protesting that she is only disappointed in learning the error of her high opinion of him. Mrs. Selwyn, a widowed neighbor, has invited Evelina to accompany her to Bristol, but Evelina refuses. Noting Evelina's melancholy, Rev. Villars fears he has lost his child because she regrets leaving the city and Lord Orville, but Evelina claims that she hates Lord Orville and shows his impertinent letter to her guardian. Rev. Villars suspects that Lord Orville must have been intoxicated when he wrote such a letter, but he recognizes that Evelina's indignation is the natural result of her virtue and disappointment in her friend's character. Since Evelina's health decreases, Rev. Villars insists that she join Mrs. Selwyn to Bristol, sending Mrs. Clinton to tend to his ward also.



Analysis

Evelina's beauty continues to cause problems for her as she is plagued by the attentions of M. Du Bois and Mr. Smith. When M. Du Bois is caught by Mme. Duval at Evelina's feet, foreshadowing is fulfilled as Mme. Duval flies into a jealous rage, insisting that Evelina will marry her cousin at once else she will have nothing more to do with her granddaughter. This shows Mme. Duval's character is as Rev. Villars feared. As such, Rev. Villars agrees to send Mrs. Clinton to retrieve Evelina immediately, foreshadowing Evelina's return to Berry Hill which is quickly fulfilled as the next letter is written to Miss Mirvan from Evelina who has arrived at Berry Hill.

In her letters to Maria, Evelina confides that Lord Orville responded to her letter, fulfilling earlier foreshadowing; however, the freedoms taken in his letter have changed Evelina's opinion of Lord Orville. When she shares the letter with Rev. Villars, her guardian is convinced that Lord Orville must have been drunk when he wrote it. The fact that this letter is so blatantly out of character for the nobleman foreshadows the discovery that the letter is a forgery. Mrs. Selwyn's invitation for Evelina to accompany her to Bristol foreshadows Evelina's trip in the third and final volume as the second volume concludes.

Discussion Question 1

Why is the letter out of character for Lord Orville? The letter is more in line with the personality of which other character? What does this observation foreshadow?

Discussion Question 2

How do Mme. Duval's actions toward Evelina in this section validate Rev. Villars' earlier thoughts about the grandmother's true character?

Discussion Question 3

Why doesn't Evelina's return home restore her peace of mind?

Vocabulary

Misinterpreted, volubility, nativity, gratification, ventured, tranquility, surpassed, impute, susceptibility, solicitude.



Volume 3, Letters 1-5 (pages 403-442)

Summary

Volume 3, Letters 1-5 (pages 403-442)

On September 12, after two peaceful weeks in Bristol, Evelina and Mrs. Selwyn encounter an impertinent, gallant nobleman, Lord Merton, whom Evelina recognizes from town. They learn he is known for his licentious character. Also, he is engaged to Lady Louisa Larpent, the sister of Lord Orville, both of whom will soon arrive in Bristol. Evelina dreads meeting Lord Orville, noting "if I find that the eyes of Lord Orville agree with his pen,- I shall think, that of all mankind, the only virtuous individual resides at Berry Hill" (page 409). Several days later, Evelina's tranquility is restored by Lord Orville's amiability and the belief that he is still himself. When he arrives at Clifton Hill, Lord Orville treats Evelina with as much respect as ever before, unlike the rest of the party at Clifton Hill.

On September 19, Evelina and Mrs. Selwyn visit Clifton Hill again where their conversation is disagreeably interrupted by the arrival of Mr. Lovel and Lord Merton. Lord Orville also visits and is obviously displeased by his sister's lack of amiability when he introduces her to Evelina. Disgusted with the party's conversation, he engages Evelina in a pleasant, respectful conversation. Though Evelina enjoys spending time with him, she is not pleased when Mrs. Selwyn agrees to stay at Clifton Hill because she now feels how deeply birth and fortune are required to gain respect. The disagreeableness of staying at Clifton Hill is alleviated by Lord Orville's presence, but Mrs. Selwyn cautions Evelina to be kind to Mr. Lovel whom she overheard making uncomplimentary remarks about her.

Among the Clifton Hill party, only Mrs. Beaumont and Lord Orville treat Evelina with any civility, Flattered by Lord Orville's attention, Evelina has "reason to hope, that the depreciating opinion he formerly entertained of me is succeeded by one infinitely more partial" (page 431).

While walking in the garden before breakfast on September 24, Evelina is surprised to encounter Mr. Macartney who claims that her aid has made his affairs less desperate. When Lord Orville comes to collect her for breakfast and overhears her agreeing to meet Mr. Macartney the next morning, his countenance changes. Evelina assures Lord Orville that she met Mr. Macartney by accident, promising to fully explain later. Her promise is delayed by the arrival of more company. Regretting her appointment, she writes Mr. Macartney that she cannot meet him the next morning but hopes to see him before he leaves Bristol. Unfortunately, Mr. Macartney cannot be located. Evelina repents her promise to Lord Orville as this means betraying Mr. Macartney's confidence, yet she also worries how Lord Orville sees the mystery of the affair. When Evelina walks in the garden the next morning, she finds Lord Orville who apologizes for his presence and turns to leave, but she calls him back to explain it is not her place to inform him of



Mr. Macartney's affairs, disappointing him that she withdraws her offer to confide in him. She assures him it is a business arrangement, and she wishes she had a friend to advise her since her lack of social understanding caused her to agree to the meeting. Lord Orville wishes to be such a friend, kissing her hand to seal their friendship. Evelina is happy to prevent Lord Orville's ill opinion without betraying Mr. Macartney, but she regrets disappointing the Scot by not meeting him.

Analysis

As the third volume of "Evelina" begins, foreshadowing from the end of the previous volume is fulfilled as Evelina writes to Rev. Villars from Bristol. Encountering the unpleasant Lord Merton, Evelina learns that Lord Merton is engaged to Lord Orville's sister. As such, Lord Orville will soon be joining their party in Bristol. This foreshadows Evelina's continued acquaintance with Lord Orville while the anxiety she feels at the thought of their imminent meeting indicates her romantic feelings for him.

She visits Mrs. Beaumont at Clifton Hill with Mrs. Selwyn, and they encounter Lord Merton and Lady Louisa who stuns Evelina with her snobbish airs. While walking in the garden with Mrs. Beaumont and Mrs. Selwyn, they run into Lord Orville who responds with gravity to Evelina's grave address, and he seems surprised when she refuses his offer to drive her and Mrs. Selwyn home. Still, he insists, and once he leaves them, Mrs. Selwyn praises his manners, causing Evelina to question whether she may give up her resentment without imprudence and impropriety. Lord Orville's attentiveness toward Evelina foreshadows the revelation that he loves her and his proposal of marriage.

Mr. Lovel also visits Clifton Hill, and he continues to plague Evelina as before. Mr. Macartney arrives also, foreshadowing the discovery of his identity and details of his past, but Lord Orville's concern about Evelina meeting Mr. Macartney alone indicates his jealousy while foreshadowing the fact that he loves Evelina. Evelina is able to convince him that her relationship with Mr. Macartney is not romantic, and Lord Orville is very eager to be taken into Evelina's confidence, again foreshadowing his confession of love.

Discussion Question 1

What is meant by Evelina giving up her resentment toward Lord Orville "without imprudence and impropriety"? Why would this be so important to Evelina?

Discussion Question 2

Is Evelina aware of Lord Orville's jealousy concerning her meeting with Mr. Macartney? How do you know?



Discussion Question 3

How does Lord Orville restore himself to Evelina's good graces?

Vocabulary

Incommoded, immured, dominions, licentious, reform, gallantry, intemperance, fatigue, enquire.



Volume 3, Letters 6-11 (pages 443-475)

Summary

Volume 3, Letters 6-11 (pages 443-475)

Rev. Villars fears that Evelina is in peril because her heart is dedicated to Lord Orville. He fears Lord Orville is not sensible of her worth, so he determines that she needs to be sent home immediately.

On September 28, Evelina is disgusted by the wagers placed between Lord Merton and Mr. Coverley, and when their impertinence causes her to wish for a brother to protect her from being exposed to such treatment, Lord Orville requests the honor of filling such a role.

When Lord Orville presents tickets to an assembly on September 30, he surprises the whole party by dancing with Evelina. However, when he dances with a pretty girl, Evelina is stunned to hear the girl referred to as Miss Belmont, the sole daughter and heir of Sir John Belmont.

Learning that Sir John is in Bristol, Mrs. Selwyn suggests that Evelina should visit him as he cannot deny her strong resemblance to Caroline. Though Lord Orville is concerned at his "sister's" secret, he agrees to assist Evelina in procuring a meeting with Mr. Macartney because he is certain she would not act without propriety. He arranges a visit at Clifton Hill the next day. During this visit, Evelina learns that Miss Belmont is Mr. Macartney's beloved sister, meaning he is Evelina's brother!

Evelina is heartbroken at Rev. Villars' concern regarding Lord Orville, but Mrs. Selwyn refuses to let her depart until they can visit Sir John. Evelina promises to avoid Lord Orville until that time.

The next day, Lord Orville is shocked by Evelina's new reserve, and his concern increases when she refuses to accompany the party to an assembly, changing her mind and deciding to attend once Lord Orville prefers to stay at home as well. During a walk to the pump room with Mrs. Selwyn, Evelina encounters Sir Clement who praises her beauty and escorts both ladies home.

Lord Orville asks if Evelina favors Sir Clement. After she responds negatively, he questions how he has offended her, obviously confounded at her attempts to avoid him. Lord Orville is cold as the party returns from the assembly, and though Evelina tries to rejoice, she is sad to lose his friendship. However, she desires to act with propriety according to Rev. Villars' advice.



Analysis

Rev. Villars wants Evelina to return home because he fears that she is in danger from Lord Orville due to the impertinent letter she received from him back in London. Meanwhile, Evelina is disgusted with the Clifton Hill party, with Lord Orville being the exception as he is very respectful and defends her against the others, foreshadowing his romantic interest in her. Lord Orville is indignant on her behalf, so Evelina "can never lament the rudeness of Lord Merton, as it has more than ever confirmed the esteem of Lord Orville" (page 451).

At an assembly, Lord Orville dances with a young lady who is learned to be Miss Belmont, foreshadowing the mystery surrounding this lady who is supposed to be the daughter of Sir John. Seeing Mr. Macartney the next day when she visits the pump room with Mrs. Selwyn and Lord Orville, Evelina notices his agitation at the arrival of Miss Belmont, causing her to wonder if Miss Belmont is his beloved and foreshadowing the truth of this suspicion. Lord Orville demonstrates his faith in Evelina's virtue by arranging a meeting with Mr. Macartney during which she learns that Sir John is Mr. Macartney's father, making him her brother and thus fulfilling earlier foreshadowing regarding his identity.

When Evelina receives Rev. Villars' letter cautioning her against Lord Orville, she immediately changes her behavior toward him, confounding Lord Orville, especially as this change coincides with the arrival of Sir Clement, causing Lord Orville to suspect that Evelina favors the other man. Meanwhile, Mrs. Selwyn's refusal to allow Evelina to return to Berry Hill just yet foreshadows her imminent visit to Sir John to convince him to acknowledge Evelina as his daughter.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Rev. Villars fearful of Evelina being in the company of Lord Orville?

Discussion Question 2

How does Evelina react to the revelation that Mr. Macartney is her brother?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Evelina decide again to avoid Lord Orville?

Vocabulary

Defiance, felicity, impressions, expedient, baneful, repose, despondency, amiable, dissipated, unfeigned, endeavored.



Volume 3, Letters 12-15 (pages 475-496)

Summary

Volume 3, Letters 12-15 (pages 475-496)

Rev. Villars agrees that Evelina must confront Sir John because he is certain she is the rightful heir. There are obviously some strange circumstances in this affair concerning the alleged Miss Belmont. He sends a letter from Lady Belmont to Sir John in which she addresses him on behalf of their child, promising forgiveness for his betrayal if he receives Evelina as his lawful successor.

On October 3, while Sir Clement continues to plague Evelina, Lord Orville studiously avoids her, causing her to worry that the sudden change in her behavior was improper. Finding Evelina alone the next day, Sir Clement flings himself at her feet, begging for hope. When Lord Orville sees them and starts to turn back, she calls out to him, demanding Sir Clement release her. She runs away as he intervenes. Later, Mrs. Selwyn relates overhearing an argument in which Lord Orville objects to Sir Clement's unwelcome attention to Evelina.

On October 6, Lord Orville corners Evelina to question her avoidance, and he is relieved when she assures him that the change in her behavior is not attributed to Sir Clement's arrival, yet he wishes to be restored to her confidence. Later learning that Evelina will soon go to London, Lord Orville admits that he esteems her above all people. He confesses to the most sacred, secret desire of her heart. He loves her! When he asks to write to her, Evelina refuses as she recalls their past correspondence. He is confused at the mention of his previous letter, insisting he neither received nor sent a letter to her before. He asks to see the letter so he can discover its author. Evelina is very happy and wishes for Rev. Villars' congratulations as "the partiality of Lord Orville must not only reflect honor upon me, but upon all to whom I do, or may belong" (page 496).

Analysis

Rev. Villars agrees to confront Sir John again, especially as the mystery surrounding Miss Belmont must add scandal to the name of Evelina and her mother. This foreshadows Mrs. Selwyn's visit to Sir John. As their behavior generally does, the behavior of Lord Orville and Sir Clement contrasts sharply. While she strives to avoid both of them, Lord Orville avoids her in return, but Sir Clement harasses her continuously. Still, despite their unknown conflict, Lord Orville is quick to come to Evelina's defense when he finds Sir Clement making her uncomfortable, admonishing him for his unwelcome attention. Complaining that he has been deceived in Lord Orville's interest in her, Sir Clement professes "I think Miss Anville the loveliest of her sex, and were I a marrying man, she, of all the women I have seen, I would fix upon for a wife" (page 487), yet he objects to her obscure birth and lack of dowry. Impressed with



Lord Orville's nobility, Evelina dares not meet his eyes during dinner. Lord Orville's actions in this letter indicate his love for Evelina and foreshadow his proposal.

When Lord Orville questions Evelina's avoidance and learns that she is soon leaving Bristol, the foreshadowing is fulfilled as he confesses that he loves her! He asks to whom he should apply for permission because he is eager to make his devotion public to discourage dangles, but Evelina explains that her imminent journey will deprive her of the freedom to act for herself, though she cannot elaborate. Evelina refuses to agree to correspond with Lord Orville because of the freedoms taken in his past letter, but her explanation leads to the revelation that Lord Orville did not write the previous letter. The fact that the letter was a forgery foreshadows the discovery of its author.

Discussion Question 1

Who is probably the author of the forged letter? What evidence would lead the reader to suspect this person?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Rev. Villars agree that Evelina should confront Sir John?

Discussion Question 3

Describe Lord Orville's conversation with Evelina on October 6.

Vocabulary

Succor, consigned, sluice, animating, importune, sullied, plighted, antipathy, embosomed, consolation.



Volume 3, Letters 16-19 (pages 497-532)

Summary

Volume 3, Letters 16-19 (pages 497-532)

Evelina carries the offensive letter to show Lord Orville, but Sir Clement perceives it and exclaims against her valuing such a letter, demanding that she admit her love for Lord Orville as he rips it into pieces. Since she refuses to answer whether Lord Orville will marry her, he storms out, causing her to suspect him of being the author. Later, Mr. Macartney visits Evelina to inform her that Sir John Belmont, who is now in Bristol, has acknowledged him finally, though he is forbidden from seeing Miss Belmont; so he has no sister. Evelina assures him that he does have a sister, confiding her parentage. Learning of Sir John's proximity, Mrs. Selwyn calls on him, returning to tell Evelina that Sir John believes he has raised Lady Belmont's child in a convent. He even offered to introduce her to Mrs. Selwyn. Grieved at her father's rejection, Evelina cries at Lord Orville's concern, objecting that he prefers a rejected orphan, but he swears his eternal attachment. Learning the truth of the matter, he offers to make it his business if Evelina will agree to marry him. However, she insists that such an agreement would be improper until it is decided to whom she belongs. Deciding to take Sir John by surprise, Mrs. Selwyn intrudes on him and announces that she has come to introduce his daughter. He insists that he has just breakfasted with his daughter. However, when Evelina enters the room and falls at his feet, he cannot deny her resemblance to her mother, so he sends her away because it is too painful to look at her. Mrs. Selwyn and Mrs. Clinton are able to learn that the nurse who last tended Carolina passed her own child off as Sir John's daughter since Rev. Villars had agreed to care for Evelina. Returning from an interview with Sir John, Mrs. Selwyn informs Evelina that she will marry Lord Orville next Tuesday. Sir John is uncertain how to proceed with either daughter, so he eagerly proposes a hasty marriage upon learning of Lord Orville's proposal. Mr. Macartney will also marry the faux Miss Belmont. Unfortunately, Sir John refuses to see Evelina because he believes that she was raised to hate him.

Two days later, Lord Orville escorts Evelina to Sir John's lodgings. Sir John grieves at Evelina's resemblance to his dead wife, but when she gives him her mother's letter and assures him of her own filial devotion, he is moved with guilt. Though he cannot stay with her any longer, he begs her not to hate him as he is certain that Lord Orville will strive to ensure her happiness. Evelina's joy increases upon learning that Lord Orville insists that Miss Belmont be treated as Evelina's sister and co-heiress.

Analysis

Sir Clement's behavior regarding Lord Orville's letter foreshadows the discovery that he is the forger. Mr. Macartney informs Evelina that he is not permitted to see his beloved sister, but Sir John, his father, has acknowledged him. Evelina confesses that Sir John



is her father also, which means that Mr. Macartney is her brother. They both rejoice at the realization that they are siblings. The fact that Sir John acknowledges his illegitimate son foreshadows that he will also acknowledge Evelina once he is convinced that she is the daughter of the late Lady Caroline Belmont. Though Lord Orville is happy to learn that Evelina's journey has been delayed by Mr. Macartney's intelligence, he is obviously still jealous so Evelina confesses that Mr. Macartney is her brother.

Mrs. Selwyn fulfills the foreshadowing by visiting Sir John, but he again denies that Evelina could possibly be his daughter, paralleling his denial at previous points in the novel. Outraged at Evelina's grief over her father's rejection, Lord Orville offers to intervene on her behalf, indicating his devotion to his betrothed. Mrs. Selwyn returns to see Sir John, taking Evelina with her this time, and this measure proves successful as Sir John is unable to deny Evelina's resemblance to her mother. Relating the information to Mrs. Clinton, she recalls that Caroline's nurse left Berry Hill with her own six-month-old child, so she and Mrs. Selwyn suspect that Sir John has been imposed upon under false pretenses. Confronting the nurse with Sir John, these two women learn that Dame Polly Green decided to give Evelina's fortune to her own child since Rev. Villars had agreed to care for Evelina. This is why she encouraged Mr. Macartney's suit after Lady Howard wrote Sir John as she was certain that her daughter would not marry better once the truth was discovered. Evelina pities the false Miss Belmont and decides that she will always consider her as a sister.

Sir John agrees to Lord Orville's proposal, foreshadowing their wedding, and he also agrees to permit Mr. Macartney to marry Miss Belmont. The wedding is postponed until Thursday so that Evelina can appeal to Rev. Villars for advice, and Lord Orville also promises to express Evelina's concern at being banished from her father's side when he visits Sir John. Though Sir John is reluctant to see Evelina because he is convinced that she was raised to hate him, her gentle forgiveness and kind words comfort him. Lord Orville demonstrates his kindness to Miss Belmont by insisting that she be named as Evelina's co-heiress, a concept that Evelina finds extremely gratifying.

Discussion Question 1

The saying, "All's well that ends well!" can be applied to the conclusion of the novel. Give at least 3 examples of how the quote applies to Evelina's journey of acceptance.

Discussion Question 2

Why does Mr. Macartney visit Evelina?

Discussion Question 3

How does Sir John react to meeting Evelina?

Vocabulary

Confounded, perplexity, inexorable, distinguish, prevailed, abominable, conjectures, maliciously, logician, aversion, insuperable.



Volume 3, Letters 20-23 (pages 532-554)

Summary

Volume 3, Letters 20-23 (pages 532-554)

Sir Clement writes to Evelina, confessing that he forged the previous letter from Lord Orville as an attempt to separate them because he was convinced that Lord Orville did not love her. Though struck by his pride, Evelina assures him that she bears no resentment.

On a trip to Bath on October 12, Evelina encounters Captain and Miss Mirvan, surprising them with news that she is now to be known as Miss Belmont. When they return to Clifton Hill, Mrs. Beaumont kindly insists that Maria stay with them. Evelina receives congratulatory letters from Lady Howard and Mrs. Mirvan. Mme. Duval writes of her joy at Evelina's nuptials as well. Evelina enjoys a pleasant evening of conversation with Maria and Lord Orville, and her happiness increases when she receives a letter of consent from Rev. Villars which also asks that she visit him after the ceremony. Evelina signs her letter from "Evelina Belmont" for the first and last time. Evelina finishes her journal by writing to Rev. Villars that it is over, and her fate is decided. She is to be married to Lord Orville in the morning in a joint ceremony with Mr. Macartney and Miss Belmont. She is grateful and joyful at her good fortune, but she has no time to write more as the chaise is ready to convey her and her new husband to Berry Hill.

Analysis

Sir Clement's confession that he forged the letter signed from Lord Orville in London fulfills earlier foreshadowing while showing the truth of his nature which has been evidenced consistently throughout the novel. Evelina's joy at her imminent marriage is increased when Miss Mirvan arrives in Bristol, and she also receives letters of congratulations from her other friends. Still, nothing compares to her joy when Rev. Villars' letter of consent which serves to foreshadow her wedding and her trip to Berry Hill with her new husband. The significance of Evelina signing her letter as "Evelina Belmont" is seen in the fact that she has been claimed twice this week, first by her father, thus the Belmont, and she will soon be claimed by her husband and carry the last name Orville. All of the novel's earlier foreshadowing is fulfilled as Evelina weds Lord Orville and begins her happily married life with a trip to Berry Hill to see her beloved guardian and protector.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Rev. Villar's approval of Evelina's marriage to Lord Orville so important to her? Would his disapproval have changed her mind? Why or why not?



Discussion Question 2

What were Evelina's feelings as she signed her letter to her beloved guardian as "Evelina Belmont"? How might Rev. Villars have reacted to seeing the signature? Explain.

Discussion Question 3

What confession does Sir Clement make as the book draws to a close? Why?

Vocabulary

Treachery, abortive, stigmatized, impetuous, prudence, divesting, unbridled, penetrated, incomprehensible, barbarous.



Characters

Miss Evelina Anville

Miss Evelina Anville is the main character, as well as the primary narrator of this novel. She is the 17-year-old unacknowledged daughter of Sir John Belmont and the deceased Lady Caroline Belmont. Evelina has been raised by Rev. Arthur Villars at Berry Hill after her mother's death. The narrative consists primarily of a series of letters between Evelina and Rev. Villars, as Evelina recounts the trials she faces during her first introduction to society. When Rev. Villars learns that Mme. Duval wants to become acquainted with his ward Evelina, he allows Evelina to visit Howard Grove. However, he fears that Mme. Duval's influence could lead Evelina to a shameful, untimely death like her mother.

While Evelina is at Howard Grove, she becomes very close to Miss Maria Mirvan, Lady Howard's granddaughter. So, she asks permission to accompany the Mirvans to London to meet Captain Mirvan who is returning to England after a seven-year absence; Rev. Villars agrees reluctantly. In London, Evelina accompanies the Mirvans on many outings. While her beauty and the mystery surrounding her social status attracts many people's attention, her lack of knowledge about social conventions leads her to make a series of embarrassing faux pas which expose her to impertinence and unkind ridicule. Still, she gains the attention of Lord Orville, a distinguished nobleman, and Sir Clement Willoughby, an impertinent suitor.

When Mme. Duval arrives in London, she courts Evelina and introduces her to her cousins, the Branghtons. The Branghtons' poor behavior convinces Evelina that Lord Orville is unattainable. Evelina and Mme. Duval return to Howard Grove with the Mirvans. At the suggestion of the Branghtons, Mme. Duval thinks about bringing suit against Sir John Belmont. She hopes this would force him to recognize Evelina as his daughter and heir. Since Rev. Villars disapproves of such measures, Lady Howard writes to Sir John to plead with him to acknowledge his daughter, but he responds unfavorably.

To prevent Mme. Duval from rushing to Paris with Evelina to pursue the lawsuit, Rev. Villars compromises and allows Evelina to spend a month in London with her grandmother. On her second trip to London, Evelina is forced to spend more time with the Branghtons and their ill-bred friends. She is moved by one of their boarders, a Scottish poet named Mr. Macartney. After she discourages him from disgrace when she misinterprets his acquisition of pistols as a suicide attempt, Mr. Macartney tells Evelina that he was considering highway robbery to alleviate his financial burdens. It seems his mother has recently died, and he has learned that the father of his beloved is also his father. Evelina gives him her purse to help him.

While part of the Branghtons' party, Evelina has several mortifying encounters with Lord Orville, so she is stunned when he expresses interest in renewing their acquaintance. In



response to Evelina's letter apologizing for the Branghtons' behavior, Lord Orville writes her an insulting, presumptuous letter just before she returns home to Berry Hill. She falls ill due to her unhappiness at Lord Orville's duplicitous nature.

Hoping to aid Evelina's recovery, Rev. Villars insist she accompany Mrs. Selwyn, their widowed neighbor, to Clifton Heights where Evelina attracts the unwelcome attention of Lord Merton who she soon learns is engaged to Lady Louisa, Lord Orville's sister. Evelina tries to avoid Lord Orville because of his letter, but finding his manners unchanged, she is torn between her attraction to him and her belief in his past duplicity.

When Mr. Macartney visits Evelina to repay his debt, Lord Orville becomes jealous, but since she assures him that their relationship is of the business variety, Lord Orville arranges a meeting between Evelina and Mr. Macartney. Due to Rev. Villars' fear of Lord Orville's character, Evelina tries to distance herself from her friend, but she is delighted when he admits that he loves her and proposes. Lord Orville denies writing the insulting letter. Soon after, Sir Clement admits that he forged the letter in hopes of separating Evelina and Lord Orville. Learning that Sir John Belmont is in Bristol, Mrs. Selwyn visits him to discuss Evelina. After he insists that Miss Belmont resides with him, Mrs. Selwyn and Mrs. Clinton, Rev. Villars' long-time housekeeper, are able to learn that Evelina's nurse passed her own daughter off as Sir John's daughter in order to secure a better future for her child. Upon seeing Evelina, Sir John is guilt-stricken and repentant, immediately acknowledging her as his daughter because of her resemblance to his late wife. Evelina is able to ease his conscious with her gentle pardons and sweet demeanor. Evelina learns that Mr. Macartney is also Sir John's child. Once the truth about Miss Belmont's parentage is known, Mr. Macartney weds her in a joint ceremony with Lord Orville and Evelina who have never been happier.

Lord Orville

Lord Orville is a fine gentleman and earl whom Evelina first meets at an assembly in London. Evelina likes Lord Orville because he behaves according to his rank and person, plus he is engaging, gentle, attentive, and expressive in his interactions with Evelina and others. During Evelina's first trip to London with the Mirvans, Lord Orville frequently joins their parties and calls on Evelina several other times. He rescues her from mortification at several assemblies when Evelina commits social faux pas that expose her to ridicule.

When Evelina returns to London with Mme. Duval in Volume 2, she is horrified when Lord Orville finds her in the company of prostitutes at Marybone Gardens after they rescue her from a drunken sailor. Therefore, she is stunned when Lord Orville seeks her out in the unfashionable section of Holborn with the desire to renew their acquaintance. The Branghtons' impertinence upon learning of Evelina's friendship with the nobleman leads Evelina to write an apology, but when she receives an insulting letter in response, she is convinced that she has been deceived by Lord Orville's character.



When they meet again at Bristol Hill in Volume 3, Evelina tries to avoid Lord Orville because of his letter, but finding his manners unchanged, she is torn between her attraction to him and her belief in his past duplicity. When Mr. Macartney visits Evelina to repay his debt, Lord Orville becomes jealous. When she assures him that their relationship is of the business variety, Lord Orville arranges a meeting between Evelina and Mr. Macartney. Due to Rev. Villars' fear of Lord Orville's character, Evelina tries to distance herself from her friend, but she is delighted when he admits that he loves her and proposes. Lord Orville denies writing the insulting letter. Soon after, Sir Clement admits that he forged the letter in hopes of separating Evelina and Lord Orville. When they finally marry, Lord Orville and Evelina have never been happier.

Rev. Arthur Villars

Having taken custody of Evelina after her mother's death, Rev. Villars acts as her guardian, tutor, moral guide, and confidant. He is the recipient of the majority of Evelina's letters, and his responses are filled with wise advice as he attempts to save Evelina from the same disgrace that befell her mother.

Madame Duval

Mme. Duval is Evelina's French grandmother who disowned Caroline eighteen years earlier. She first shows an interest in Evelina when she is seventeen years old. Though Rev. Villars tries to prevent Mme. Duval from meeting Evelina, Evelina encounters Mme. Duval during her first trip to London with the Mirvans. Finding her grandmother to be rude and stubborn, Evelina is repulsed by the time she is forced to spend with her.

To thwart Mme. Duval's scheme of taking Evelina to Paris to sue Sir John Belmont for acknowledgement, Rev. Villars allows Evelina to spend a month in London with her grandmother in Volume 2. During this trip, Mme. Duval insists on spending much time with the Branghtons, even trying to force Evelina to marry young Mr. Branghton. She grows jealous of M. Du Bois's affection for Evelina. When Evelina refuses to marry Branghton, Mme. Duval insists she will have nothing further to do with her granddaughter.

Sir Clement Willoughby

Sir Clement Willoughby is a baronet that Evelina meets at her first London assembly, and he tries in vain to obtain her favor with flattery. Evelina rebuffs his attempts. At Clifton Hill, Lord Orville argues with Sir Clement about his unwelcome attentions toward Evelina. Eventually, Sir Clement admits to forging the insulting letter, which Evelina believed to be from Lord Orville, in an attempt to separate them.



Lady Howard

As a long time friend of Rev. Villars, Lady Howard invites Evelina to Howard Grove. She solicits Sir John on Evelina's behalf, but she is unsuccessful.

Mrs. Mirvan

Mrs. Mirvan is Lady Howard's compassionate daughter who tends to Evelina as a second daughter during their stay in London.

Miss Maria Mirvan

Miss Maria Mirvan is Mrs. Mirvan's daughter. She becomes Evelina's closest friend and confidante.

Captain Mirvan

The son-in-law of Lady Howard, Captain Mirvan is a retired Navy captain who returns to England after seven years. He despises foreigners and makes it his goal to annoy Mme. Duval.

Branghtons

The Branghtons, Evelina's cousins, are a low-bred family who live in Snow Hill. When Evelina is forced to spend much time with them on her trip to London with Mme. Duval, she suffers much embarrassment and many indignities, especially when Lord Orville finds her in their company. The Branghton sisters are jealous of Evelina's beauty and the attention that their beaux pay her. The young Mr. Branghton attempts to marry Evelina with Mme. Duval's assistance. Evelina is appalled at the knowledge that she is related to these people.

Sir John Belmont

Sir John Belmont is Evelina's father who has never acknowledged her and refuses to meet her because he believes that he already knows his daughter. When Mrs. Selwyn brings Evelina to meet him, Sir John is unable to deny her resemblance to her mother. Soon he learns that Caroline's nurse passed her own daughter off as Miss Belmont. Sir John is also the father of Mr. Macartney.



Lady Caroline Belmont

Lady Caroline Belmont is the deceased mother of Evelina who was cast off by Sir John and Mme. Duval and taken in by Rev. Villars. Her deathbed letter promises to forgive Sir John's abandonment if he removes her infamy by acknowledging their marriage and their daughter.

Mr. Lovel

Mr. Lovel is an impertinent man who torments Evelina after she refuses to dance with him at her first London assembly.

Mr. Smith

A boarder at the Branghtons' home, Mr. Smith is the preferred of Miss Branghton, causing much jealousy at his impertinent attentions toward Evelina.

Mr. Macartney

Mr. Macartney is a poor Scottish poet who boards with the Branghtons who are unkind to him. Thinking to rescue him from a suicide attempt by confiscating his pistols, Evelina later learns that he was going to resort to robbery to alleviate his poverty. His problems arise from learning that he and his beloved share the same father. Eventually, it is revealed that Mr. Macartney is the illegitimate son of Sir John Belmont. Thus, he is Evelina's brother. He is able to wed his beloved Miss Belmont when the truth of her parentage is discovered.

M. Du Bois

M. Du Bois is Mme. Duval's French companion who develops affection for Evelina, causing Mme. Duval to jealously insist that her granddaughter marry young Mr. Branghton.

Mrs. Selwyn

Mrs. Selwyn is a sarcastic widow who lives near Berry Hill. Evelina accompanies her to Bristol. She forces Sir John to meet Evelina and assists Mrs. Clinton in discovering the truth of the false Miss Belmont.



Mrs. Clinton

A longtime housekeeper at Berry Hill, Mrs. Clinton accompanies Evelina to Bristol where she helps uncover the truth of the false Miss Belmont's parentage.

Dame Polly Green

Dame Polly Green, Caroline Belmont's nurse, passes her daughter off as Sir John's child since Rev. Villars plans to raise Evelina.

Miss Belmont

The daughter of Dame Polly Green, Miss Belmont is raised as Sir John's child and educated in a convent. She is beloved by Mr. Macartney who she is able to wed after the truth of her parentage is revealed.



Symbols and Symbolism

Berry Hill

Berry Hill is Rev. Villars' domicile where Evelina is raised. It represents her country upbringing which leads to her many social faux pas during her trips to London.

Howard Grove

Howard Grove is the home of Lady Howard and the Mirvans. Evelina visits them there on an extended holiday, representing her first trip from home and her introduction to society. She later returns to Howard Grove with Mme. Duval.

London

London is the main setting of the novel. Evelina first visits London with the Mirvans where she makes many faux pas due to her lack of social experience. She returns to London with Mme. Duval in Volume 2 when she is forced to spend time with the disagreeable Branghtons. Evelina meets Sir Clement and Lord Orville in London, indicating how her trip to town influences the rest of her life.

Queen-Ann Street

Evelina resides on Queen-Ann Street during her first visit to London with the Mirvans. This high-class location, indicative of the Mirvans' social status, contrasts sharply with the living arrangements during her next visit with Mme. Duval.

Drury Lane Theater

During Evelina's first stay in London, she visits Drury Lane Theater several times with the Mirvans. This indicates their social status and ability to please.

Ranelagh

At Evelina's second London assembly at Ranelagh, she is embarrassed to see Lord Orville because of her socially unacceptable behavior at her first assembly. This foreshadows the romantic relationship between Lord Orville and Evelina.



Snow Hill

Snow Hill is the unfashionable section of London where the Branghtons live. This serves as a symbol of their low social status.

Holborn

Holborn is the unfashionable section of London where Evelina stays with Mme. Duval during her second visit to London. She is embarrassed and shocked when Sir Clement and Lord Orville both seek her out here. Holborn symbolizes the lower social status of Mme. Duval and Evelina's belief that Lord Orville is unattainable.

Paris

Sir John lives in Paris, and Mme. Duval threatens to take Evelina to Paris to sue Sir John for acknowledgement and inheritance. Paris represents Sir John's negligence of his daughter.

Vauxhall

During a trip to the beautiful gardens at Vauxhall with the Branghtons, Evelina is harangued by several men, but Sir Clement rescues her. This incident is indicative of her social faux pas as well as Sir Clement's continuous impertinence.

Hampstead

When Evelina attends an assembly at Hampstead, she is plagued by Mr. Smith, representing the jealousy and animosity that Miss Branghton feels toward her cousin.

Marybone Gardens

While visiting Marybone Gardens with the Branghtons and company, Evelina is assaulted by a young officer and rescued by prostitutes in whose company she encounters Lord Orville. This symbolizes the indignities that Evelina is forced to suffer as a result of being part of the Branghtons' party. Additionally, it reinforces her belief that Lord Orville is out of reach.

Bristol-Hotwell

Bristol-Hotwell, the main setting of Volume 3, is the resort town where Evelina accompanies Mrs. Selwyn to recover from her illness. Here, Evelina encounters Lord



Orville and Sir Clement. She also finally meets Sir John Belmont, her father. Bristol-Hotwell symbolizes the many improvements that Evelina's life takes after her visit here.

Clifton Hill

As the domicile of Mrs. Beaumont, a friend of Mrs. Selwyn's, Clifton Hill is where Lord Orville, Lord Merton, and Lady Louisa reside during their visit to Bristol. Mrs. Beaumont also invites Evelina and Mrs. Selwyn to stay with her, and this location serves as a symbol of Lord Orville and Evelina's developing romantic relationship, as it begins to take form while they are both staying in Clifton Hill. This is also where he eventually proposes to her.

The Ten Things About Opal's Mother

Since Opal is ten, she asks her father to tell her ten things about her mother who had left home when she was three. To Opal it was proof that she really knew her mother – which she really didn't.



Settings

18th Century England

“Evelina” is set in 18th century England. The majority of the characters are English, but several are French, notably Mme. Duval and M. Du Bois. This leads to some cultural differences as well as the animosity of the racist Captain Mirvan. Social class also plays a large role in this novel, as Evelina’s obscure birth and uncertain social status lead to much unkind speculation, especially after she commits several social faux pas as a result of her inexperience with society.

London

London is the main setting of the novel. Evelina first visits London with the Mirvans where she makes many faux pas due to her lack of social experience. When she returns to London with Mme. Duval in Volume 2, she is forced to spend time with the disagreeable Branghtons. Evelina meets Sir Clement and Lord Orville in London, indicating how her trip to town influences the rest of her life. Evelina resides on Queen-Ann Street during her first visit to London with the Mirvans. During Evelina’s first stay in London, she visits Drury Lane Theater several times with the Mirvans. At Evelina’s second London assembly at Ranelagh, she is embarrassed to see Lord Orville because of her socially unacceptable behavior at her first assembly. Snow Hill is the unfashionable section of London where the Branghtons live. Holborn is the unfashionable section of London where Evelina stays with Mme. Duval during her second visit to London. She is embarrassed and shocked when Sir Clement and Lord Orville both seek her out here.

Paris

Sir John lives in Paris, and Mme. Duval threatens to take Evelina to Paris to sue Sir John for acknowledgement and inheritance. During a trip to the beautiful gardens at Vauxhall with the Branghtons, Evelina is harangued by several men, but Sir Clement rescues her.

Berry Hill and Howard Grove

Berry Hill is Rev. Villars’ domicile where Evelina is raised. Howard Grove is the home of Lady Howard and the Mirvans, and Evelina visits them on an extended holiday. She later returns to Howard Grove with Mme. Duval.



Hampstead, Marybone Gardens, Bristol-Hotwell

When Evelina attends an assembly at Hampstead, she is plagued by Mr. Smith. While visiting Marybone Gardens with the Branghtons and company, Evelina is assaulted by a young officer and rescued by prostitutes in whose company she encounters Lord Orville.

Bristol-Hotwell, the main setting of Volume 3, is the resort town where Evelina accompanies Mrs. Selwyn to recover from her illness. Here, Evelina encounters Lord Orville and Sir Clement. She also finally meets Sir John Belmont, her father. As the domicile of Mrs. Beaumont, a friend of Mrs. Selwyn's, Clifton Hill is where Lord Orville, Lord Merton, and Lady Louisa reside during their visit to Bristol. Mrs. Beaumont also invites Evelina and Mrs. Selwyn to stay with her, and this proximity to Lord Orville eventually results in his confession of his love for Evelina and proposing marriage.



Themes and Motifs

Female Reputation

An important theme throughout this novel is that of a young woman's reputation and innocence needing to be protected. Young women who do not adhere to social expectations are in danger of encouraging unwanted attention which could lead to avarice and damage her reputation, inhibiting her ability to obtain a proper husband. Since ladies are expected to avoid depravity and cling to virtue, many of Rev. Villars' letters to Evelina strive to guide her to maintain her reputation, especially as the appearance of virtue is more important to the concept of reputation than being virtuous actually is.

Though possessing nothing but innocence and virtue, Evelina is constantly thrown into situations where she is uncertain of how to behave. She has never been part of fashionable society before.

Trying to adhere to her guardian's warnings, Evelina attempts to stave off inappropriate advances from impertinent young men like Mr. Lovel and Sir Clement. When she finds herself in dangerously questionable situations, she always extricates herself from them.

While her reputation at the beginning of the novel is uncertain due to the mystery surrounding her birth and social status, Evelina's behavior is generally above reproach, thus earning a good reputation and allowing her to reap the reward of acquiring a good husband, Lord Orville. The reputations of other women in the novel, particularly Mme. Duval and Mrs. Selwyn, are also investigated to lesser degrees, and much of the male behavior in the novel is determined by ladies' reputations.

Through Evelina's relationships with Lord Orville and Rev. Villars, author Frances Burney implicitly criticizes the standard of silencing women by demonstrating that silence in women leaves them and their reputations open to manipulation by less scrupulous males. Additionally, throughout the novel, Burney is careful to define herself and her heroine in the tradition of female virtue, even explicitly professing that her characters are created in very definite terms of morality to avoid any ambiguity.

Society

A large portion of this novel is dedicated to Evelina learning to navigate the complexities of society in 18th century London. Since the social sphere was considered hazardous to ladies' virtue, ladies were frequently judged on their behavior while participating in social circles. Raised in the country, Evelina is unfamiliar with social customs which leads her to make a series of embarrassing faux pas which expose her to a great deal of ridicule, speculation and unwelcome attention. Though she enjoys certain aspects of society, such as socializing and entertainment, she constantly receives warnings to guard herself against the vice that so often accompanies such enjoyments.



Because of her social inexperience and subsequent faux pas, Evelina is subjected to the impertinence of Sir Clement and Mr. Lovel, despite her desire to strictly adhere to the customs that dictate social interactions. Despite her many discomforts and several mortifying incidents, Evelina manages to navigate her way through society with her reputation intact, even gaining the affection of the honorable Lord Orville. Still, others' impertinent behavior cause her to lament living in a world where social standing and financial stability are necessary to receive respect, and this belief is reinforced by the change in how other characters, such as Mr. Lovel and Sir Clement, treat her after learning that she is the daughter of Sir John Belmont and betrothed of Lord Orville.

Male Treatment of Women

Accompanying the importance of female reputation, the way that various men treat women also plays a large role in "Evelina." Gentlemanly behavior is lauded as a prominent virtue in this novel due to the dangers that women face to their reputation while participating in social situations. The behavior of men toward women greatly contributes to the way that their reputation is formed. As such, Lord Orville stands as the masculine answer to the virtue that Evelina demonstrates which is not surprising given Evelina's admiration of his gentlemanly behavior and civility which she compares to that of Rev. Villars. Showing himself to be a gentleman by the way that he treats Evelina, Lord Orville is always respectful, and he rescues Evelina from unwelcome situations several times throughout the narrative. Lord Orville always tries to make Evelina feel welcome when she is in his company, but he does not pressure her or act aggressively.

Contrasting sharply with Lord Orville's virtuous behavior stands the other men in the novel, with the most obvious exception of Rev. Villars. Nearly all of the other men that Evelina comes into contact with treat her impertinently and disrespectfully. This list of men includes, but is not limited to, Sir Clement, Mr. Lovel, Mr. Branghton and his son, Lord Merton, and Mr. Smith. These potential suitors mock her and tease her on several occasions, even causing Lord Orville to intervene at one point when it concerns Sir Clement. Additionally, Evelina is grabbed several times while walking alone on social outings. All of this leads to Lord Orville's desire for their engagement to become public knowledge as soon as possible so that it might discourage some of these danglers. Other women also suffer from the unwelcome attentions of men, such as Mme. Duval who is tormented by Captain Mirvan and Sir Clement.



Styles

Point of View

"Evelina" is an epistolary novel, written from a first-person perspective. This point of view is limited and somewhat unreliable as the narrator is unable to convey anything other than what she witnesses, feels, and hears. This is proven by Evelina's journalistic recording of the events that transpire in the narrative when her social inexperience and her virtue, both of which are integral themes in this novel, are seen from the first-person.

The novel is written using a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogues; additionally, there are many monologues throughout the text by virtue of the author's use of the epistolary style of writing. This distribution is effective as it serves to show events primarily through Evelina's eyes, thus detailing her social education as she grows accustomed to London society. The narrative is primarily told through the eyes of Evelina with occasionally detours to include the viewpoint of Rev. Villars in response to Evelina. Several other characters sporadically write letters, as well, but these focus on furthering the novel's plot with minimal perspective changes.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel tends to be fairly stiff and formal because of the time period in which it is written. The sentences are structured in a way that is mostly grammatically correct, though sometimes they are a bit formidable. Although it may be difficult at first for many readers to adapt the language, once they get used to the style, it aids comprehension of the novel, rather than hindering it. This language allows the reader to transcend boundaries of time in order to feel more like a part of the world in which the novel occurs.

The language of this novel is pretty consistent throughout; however, some passages aid in characterizing different characters, at least as far as their social class is concerned. There is a fairly equal amount of dialogue and exposition so the characters are given plenty of time to differentiate themselves. There are portions of the novel in which a long period of time passes in a short amount of space and other portions where a short amount of time is conveyed in a large amount of space. The majority of this novel is written from Pamela's perspective, thereby acquainting the reader most thoroughly with her. Overall, the language is easy to understand and helps to distinguish characters as belonging to certain social classes.

Structure

This novel is comprised of 466 pages, divided into three volumes. Volume 1 contains 31 letters, Volume 2 is composed of 30 letters, and the final volume consists of 23 letters. Each letter ranges from one to 25 pages in length, averaging around five pages each.



The letters are numbered rather than titled, and they are generally quite detailed as Evelina describes her experiences in a journalistic style of letters to Rev. Villars who responds with advice. The entire novel occurs in an eight-month period with various amounts of time, ranging from a few hours to several days, being attributed to each letter.

"Evelina" by Frances Burney is a three volume epistolary novel about a young lady of noble birth who has not been acknowledged by her aristocratic father. Raised by Rev. Villars until the seclusion of the country until age 17, Evelina finally emerges into London society, only to suffer many impertinences and commit several social faux pas due to her lack of experience with society. Eventually, Evelina's virtue gains her the love of a distinguished nobleman and the acceptance of her father. "Evelina" is a fascinating satire on 18th century society, focusing largely on views of women and social class. The novel's pace is fairly slow, but it is easy to read. The narrative is mostly linear with a small amount of background information provided sporadically throughout. Overall, the novel is an entertaining satire on 18th century society in England.

Quotes

The sweetness of Miss Anville's disposition, I have long admired; and the offer of a communication, which does me so much honour, is too grateful to me not to be eagerly caught at.

-- Lord Orville (Volume 3, Letter 5 paragraph 27)

Importance: This quote is the first concrete indication that Lord Orville is romantically interested in Evelina, and it serves to foreshadow his confession of love and their eventual marriage.

Could I flatter myself that Lord Orville would, indeed, be sensible of your worth, and act with a nobleness of mind which should prove it congenial to your own, then would I leave my Evelina to the unmolested enjoyment of the cheerful society, and increasing regard, of a man she so greatly admires: but this is not an age in which we may trust to appearances; and imprudence is much sooner regretted than repaired.

-- Rev. Villars (Volume 3, Letter 6 paragraph 14)

Importance: This quote indicates that Rev. Villars suspects Evelina of loving Lord Orville, yet he is fearful that Lord Orville is unworthy due to the letter that Evelina supposedly received from the nobleman. This reveals the damage that Sir Clement has done to Lord Orville's reputation with Rev. Villars while foreshadowing Evelina's coldness toward Lord Orville.

Good Heaven, that so much sweetness and merit can fail to excite the love and admiration so justly their due! I cannot, -I dare not express to you half the indignation I feel at this moment!... My dear Miss Anville, allow me to be your friend; think of me as if I were indeed your brother; and let me entreat you to accept my best services, if there is anything in which I can be so happy as to show my regard, -my respect for you!

-- Lord Orville (Volume 3, Letter 7 paragraph 42 & 44)

Importance: This quote reveals Lord Orville's feelings for Evelina and foreshadows the confession of his love.

It is very true that I did not, at our first acquaintance, do justice to the merits of Miss Anville; but I knew not then how new she was to the world; at present, however, I am convinced, that whatever might appear strange in her behavior, was simply the effect of inexperience, timidity, and a retired education; for I find her informed, sensible, and intelligent. She is not, indeed, like most modern young ladies, to be known in half an hour: her modest worth, and fearful excellence, require both time and encouragement to show themselves. She does not, beautiful as she is, seize the soul by surprise, but, with more dangerous fascination, she steals it almost imperceptibly.

-- Lord Orville (Volume 3, Letter 14 paragraph 71)

Importance: This quote, in which Lord Orville addresses Sir Clement during their



argument about Sir Clement's inappropriate attention to Evelina, shows Lord Orville discreetly admitting his affection for Evelina which foreshadows his imminent proposal.

Mock you! no I revere you! I esteem and I admire you above all human beings! you are the friend to whom my soul is attached as to its better half! you are the most amiable, the most perfect of women! and you are dearer to me than language has the power of telling.

-- Lord Orville (Volume 3, Letter 15 paragraph 41)

Importance: This quote fulfills foreshadowing throughout the novel as Lord Orville finally confesses that he loves Evelina and proposes to her.

I must conclude, then, that the letter deserves your utmost contempt,-but that the name of Orville is sufficient to make you prize it.

-- Sir Clement (Volume 3, Letter 16 paragraph 16)

Importance: Sir Clement's reaction to seeing Evelina with the forged letter that was supposedly written by Lord Orville demonstrates his jealousy and foreshadows the revelation that Sir Clement was the one who forged the letter.

My God! Does Caroline Evelyn still live!... Yes, yes, I see, I see thou art her child! she lives-she breathes,-she is present to my view!-Oh, God, that she indeed lived! Go, child, go, take her away, Madam, I cannot bear to look at her!

-- Sir John Belmont (Volume 3, Letter 17 paragraph 21 & 24)

Importance: When Sir John Belmont first sees Evelina, he is struck by her resemblance to her mother, his deceased wife, and this indicates that he will formally acknowledge her as his daughter.

May Heaven bless thee, my child!- for I dare not... I see, I see that thou art all kindness, softness, and tenderness; I need not have feared thee, thou art all the fondest father could wish, and I will try to frame my mind to less painful sensations at thy sight.

Perhaps the time may come, when I may know the comfort of such a daughter;at present I am only fit to be alone: dreadful as are my reflections, they ought merely to torment myself.-Adieu, my child;-be not angry,-I cannot stay with thee;-Oh, Evelina! thy countenance is a dagger to my heart!-just so thy mother looked,-just so-

-- Sir John Belmont (Volume 3, Letter 19 paragraph 51)

Importance: This paragraph shows how Sir John's guilt has been assuaged by Evelina's kindness and forgiveness.

You are now all my own! Oh, my Evelina, how will my soul find room for its happiness? It seems already bursting!

-- Lord Orville (Volume 3, Letter 21 paragraph 180)

Importance: This quote indicates Lord Orville's love for Evelina while foreshadowing their imminent marriage and subsequent happiness.



Alas, my child!-that innocence, the first, best gift of Heaven, should, of all others, be the blindest to its own danger,-the most exposed to treachery,-and the least able to defend itself, in a world where it is little known, less valued, and perpetually deceived!

-- Rev. Villars (Volume 1, Letter 24 paragraph 8)

Importance: This quote reveals Rev. Villar's fear and love for Evelina while foreshadowing the impertinences she will suffer in London.

I could wish that you, my dearest Sir, knew Lord Orville, because I am sure you would love him; and I have felt that wish for no other person I have seen since I came to London. I sometimes imagine, that when his youth is flown, his vivacity abated, and his life is devoted to retirement, he will, perhaps, resemble him whom I most love and honor. His present sweetness, politeness, and diffidence, seem to promise in future the same benevolence, dignity, and goodness. But I must not expatiate upon this subject.

-- Evelina (Volume 1, Letter 18 paragraph 19)

Importance: This quote indicates Evelina's growing affection for Lord Orville.

Have a care, my dear! it is sometimes dangerous to make requests to men who are too desirous of receiving them.

-- Mrs. Mirvan (Volume 2, Letter 3 paragraph 6)

Importance: This indicates Mrs. Mirvan's attempts to care for Evelina as her own child. Also, the quote foreshadows the danger of attracting the wrong type of men.

You will have the occasion, in the course of the month you are to pass with Madame Duval, for all the circumspection and prudence you can call to your aid. She will not, I know, propose anything to you which she thinks wrong herself; but you must learn not only to judge but to act for yourself; if any schemes are started, any engagements made, which your understanding represents to you as improper, exert yourself resolutely in avoiding them; and do not, by a too passive facility, risk the censure of the world, or your own future regret.

-- Rev. Villars (Volume 2, Letter 8 paragraph 2)

Importance: This quote indicates Mme. Duval's lack of proper behavior and Rev. Villars' fear of how she may negatively influence Evelina.

Yesterday Mr. Smith carried his point of making a party for Vauxhall, consisting of Madame Duval, M. Du Bois, all the Branghtons, Mr. Brown, himself,-and me!-for I find all endeavors vain to escape any thing which these people desire I should not.

-- Evelina (Volume 2, Letter 15 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote indicates the continuous harassment Evelina suffers from the Branghtons during her second trip to London.

O, Miss Anville,-loveliest of women,-forgive my,-my,-I beseech you forgive me;-if I have offended-if I have hurt you-I could kill myself at the thought!-



-- Sir Clement (Volume 2, Letter 15 paragraph 60)

Importance: This quote provides an example of Sir Clement's inappropriate attention to Evelina and his attempts at gallantry which she finds offensive.

To Miss Anville. With transport, most charming of thy sex, did I read the letter with which you yesterday morning favoured me. I am sorry the affair of the carriage should have given you any concern, but I am highly flattered by the anxiety you express so kindly. Believe me, my lovely girl, I am truly sensible to the honour of your good opinion, and feel myself deeply penetrated with love and gratitude. The correspondence you have so sweetly commenced, I shall be proud of continuing; and I hope the strong sense I have of the favor you do me will prevent your withdrawing it. Assure yourself, that I desire nothing more ardently than to pour forth my thanks at your feet, and to offer those vows which are so justly the tribute of your charms and accomplishments. In your next I entreat you to acquaint me how long you shall remain in town. The servant, whom I shall commission to call for an answer, has orders to ride post with it to me. My impatience for his arrival will be very great, though inferior to that with which I burn to tell you, in person, how much I am, my sweet girl, your grateful admirer, "ORVILLE.
-- Lord Orville (presumably; actually a forgery from Sir Clement) (Volume 2, Letter 27 paragraph 7)

Importance: This quote, from the forged letter to Evelina supposedly from Lord Orville, leads to Evelina's discomfort and illness brought on by her belief in Lord Orville's duplicity. Later, she learns that Sir Clement is actually the author of the inappropriate correspondence.

I see but too plainly, that though Evelina is returned, I have lost my child!
-- Rev. Villars (Volume 2, Letter 29 paragraph 26)

Importance: This quote reveals how much Evelina suffers as a result of the improper letter she believes to be from Lord Orville. It also demonstrates Rev. Villars' love for his ward.

Without name, without recommendation, and unknown alike to success and disgrace, to whom can I so properly apply for patronage, as to those who publicly profess themselves Inspectors of all literary performances?
-- Frances Burney (To The Authors of the Monthly and Critical Reviews paragraph 2)

Importance: This quote shows Frances Burney, the author of "Evelina," appealing to the literary critics to judge her work fairly.

Whether ignorant or mischievous, I will not pretend to determine; but certain it is, she attended to all I could say to her, though I have really fatigued myself with fruitless endeavours to entertain her, with the most immovable gravity; but no sooner did Lovel begin his complaint, than she was seized with a fit of laughing, first affronting the poor beau, and then enjoying his mortification.

-- Lord Orville (Volume 1, Letter 12 paragraph 22)



Importance: This quote shows Lord Orville's first impression of Evelina due to the social faux pas she commits at her first London assembly.

Indeed, Sir, I must insist upon your leaving me; you are quite a stranger to me, and I am both unused, and averse to your language and your manners.

-- Evelina (Volume 1, Letter 13 paragraph 26)

Importance: This quote serves to demonstrate Evelina's lack of social experience as well as her aversion to impertinence.

Here, my dears, here's a relation you little thought of; but you must know, my poor daughter Caroline had this child after she run away from me, - though I never knew nothing of it, not I, for a long while after; for they took care to keep it a secret from me, though the poor child has never a friend in the world besides.

-- Mme. Duval (Volume 1, Letter 17 paragraph 14)

Importance: This quote demonstrates Mme. Duval's poor manners and lack of discretion.

Would to Heaven, that I could remain in ignorance of your proceedings with the same contentment you do of mine! Then should I not forever journey upon the wings of Hope, to meet my own despair! You cannot even judge of the cruelty of my fate; for the ease and serenity of your mind incapacitates you from feeling for the agitation of mine!

-- Sir Clement (Volume 3, Letter 11 paragraph 42)

Importance: This letter is indicative of Sir Clement's inappropriate attentions to Evelina.

Be ever thus, my dearest Evelina, dauntless in the cause of distress! let no weak fears, no timid doubts, deter you from the exertion of your duty, according to the fullest sense of it that Nature has implanted in your mind. Though gentleness and modesty are the peculiar attributes of your sex, yet fortitude and firmness, when occasion demands them, are virtues as noble and as becoming in women as in men: the right line of conduct is the same for both sexes, though the manner in which it is pursued may somewhat vary, and be accommodated to the strength or weakness of the different travelers.

-- Rev. Villars (Volume 2, Letter 18 paragraph 4)

Importance: This quote shows Rev. Villars' pride in Evelina's virtue as well as his concern for her as he cautions her against improper behavior.

To talk to you, Madam, of paying my debt, would be vain; I never can! the service you have done me exceeds all power of return: you have restored me to my senses; you have taught me to curb those passions which bereft me of them; and, since I cannot avoid calamity, to bear it as a man! An interposition so wonderfully circumstanced can never be recollected without benefit. Yet allow me to say, the pecuniary part of my obligation must be settled by my first ability.



-- Mr. Macartney (Volume 2, letter 20 paragraph 29)

Importance: This quote serves as an example of Evelina's kindness while revealing Mr. Macartney's gratitude for her kindness and foreshadowing the eventual discovery of their familial ties.

Take courage, Tom, she's only coy.

-- Mr. Branghton (Volume 2, Letter 24 paragraph 8)

Importance: This quote is indicative of the Branghtons' impertinence and their hopes that Evelina will marry young Mr. Branghton.

Well, I must take my chance! But I knew not, till now, how requisite are birth and fortune to the attainment of respect and civility.

-- Evelina (Volume 3, Letter 3 paragraph 73)

Importance: This quote is indicative of the importance of social status in 18th century England in general. Specifically, it indicates the indignities that Evelina suffers due to her obscure birth and social status.