

The Gods Will Have Blood: Study Guide

The Gods Will Have Blood: by Anatole France

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Plot Summary

"The Gods Will Have Blood" by Anatole France is a historical fiction set during the French Revolution. The narrative focuses on the political rise and downfall of painter Evariste Gamelin. "The Gods Will Have Blood" is a terrifying account of the Reign of Terror and its many executions which were justified by the desire to punish those who were not loyal to the Republic.

Evariste Gamelin, a young Parisian artist and a dedicated Republican, works on a pack of Revolutionary cards in his attempt to provide for his mother, despite his poverty. Jean Blaise refuses to buy Evariste's cards, but his daughter, Elodie, flirts with the young artist. She meets him a week later and convinces him to reveal his feelings for her, eventually persuading him to engage in a secret liaison. Citizeness Rochemaure takes an interest in Evariste because she wants to meet Marat, and she helps Evariste acquire a seat as a magistrate on the Revolutionary Tribunal for the day she will need a friend in court.

As a magistrate, Evariste judges many, his sense of justice leading to many executions. He accompanies Jean Blaise and a group of artists on an excursion through the countryside. After Rochemaure visits Brotteaux, the letter she writes is stolen by her lover, Henry, and taken to the Committee of General Safety. Evariste begins to follow the doctrines of Robespierre, condemning even more of the accused to the guillotine in an attempt to preserve the Republic by slaughtering her enemies.

Shortly after allowing Father Longuemare to move into his garret, Brotteaux rescues a prostitute, Athenais, who is being investigated by one of the Revolutionary Committees. Meanwhile, Evariste condemns Maubel to death, a young man he falsely believes to be Elodie's first lover. After Rochemaure's letter comes to the attention of several delegates, Brotteaux, Father Longuemare, Rochemaure, and Athenais are all arrested. When Fortune de Chassagne is arrested, Julie, his lover and Evariste's sister, visits Citizeness Gamelin to ask for help, but when Citizeness Gamelin talks to her son, Evariste insists he would denounce Julie himself if he knew where she was. Evariste eventually condemns Fortune to death and in a separate trial, he sentences Brotteaux, Father Longuemare, Rochemaure, and Athenais to death as well. Tired of the Revolution and the deaths it brings, people begin to plot against Robespierre and Robespierre and his council are finally arrested and executed, including Evariste. Five months later, Elodie takes a new lover, the artist Desmahis.



Chapter 1 & Chapter 2

Chapter 1 & Chapter 2 Summary

In Chapter 1, Evariste Gamelin walks purposefully toward the ancient church of the Barnabites, which is now the meeting place for the general assembly of the Section for three years. After voting to expel twenty-one unworthy members, he goes to another room where Citizen Trubert, the secretary of the Military Committee, tells him the situation is still disastrous; two-thirds of France has been either invaded or is in revolt. When Citizen Beauvisage announces that Custine has evacuated Landar and will be guillotined, Trubert reacts with his typical calm. Despite their defeats, these men believe in eventual victory as they do not expect mercy from their enemies, and their fanaticism stems from the alternatives being victory or death.

In Chapter 2, Evariste returns to his fourth floor studio and bedroom in the Place Dauphine where he lives with his mother. He greets the elderly Citizen Brotteaux and assists him downstairs with his package. Instead of painting the idealistic as he wishes, Evariste draws the vulgar to please the tastes of his commissioners. A dutiful son, he refrained from joining the army in order to care for his mother. Citizeness Gamelin complains about poverty and the cost of food as she enters, disinterested in her son's political idealism. Concerning the cost of food, Evariste insists taxation is the remedy, but his mother objects that there is no money. He silences her because the Revolution will make the entire human race happy forever, meaning their short-lived hardships will not matter. Citizeness Gamelin mellows as she recalls bringing Evariste into the world early and how he has always had a tender and affectionate nature. Though he is handsome, he cares for her instead of chasing girls. While she has no love for the old Regime, she blames the Revolution for their poverty, telling her son "don't you ever tell me the Revolution will bring equality, because men'll never be equal" (p. 42).

Chapter 1 & Chapter 2 Analysis

Evariste Gamelin, the main character in this novel, is introduced immediately in the first chapter. The fact that the religious symbols in the ancient church of the Barnabites have been replaced by the Republic's slogan shows the country's deviation from religion in favor of politics. Citizen Dupont, one of twelve members of the Committee of Surveillance is seated at the desk with a petition to expel twenty-one unworthy members. Dupont praises Evariste for coming as too many are indifferent, and Evariste suggests fining those who do not vote, showing his stringent attitude towards the political atmosphere. Though Evariste does not have a penny to his name, he is permitted to be a militant citizen of the Section and a member of the Military Committee because he paid for his National Guard uniform out of his own pocket. These men believe in success as the alternative is death, and this sets the tone for the violent nature of this time period in French history.



In the second chapter, Evariste's encounter with Citizen Brotteaux introduces this other important character. Evariste's studio is filled with scenes of gallantry from his days as a student, though he prefers to draw sketches of Liberty, Tyranny and so forth as a citizen of a free people; yet, times are hard for an artist as the French art once widely appreciated throughout Europe now finds no outlet to foreign countries. So, Evariste abandons his masterpieces to please the vulgar. He plans to design a pack of cards depicting Genius, Liberty and Equality in the place of the king, queen and knave, believing it will make his fortune. He did not join the army because it would have meant leaving his mother alone to starve. Evariste's argument with his mother about the Revolution shows his idealistic nature, but his mother does not agree with his idealism, though she praises his tender, affectionate nature. A young girl enters, asking Evariste to paint a portrait of her fiance, a volunteer in the army at Ardennes, but when Evariste points out that he cannot paint a portrait without seeing the man and shows her a portrait he painted of another volunteer, she seizes it and pays him, insisting it is the spitting image of her Ferrand.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

When Evariste visits the printing shop of Citizen Jean Blaise that afternoon to try to sell his idea of Revolutionary playing cards, he fixes his eyes on the bedroom window of Elodie, Blaise's daughter. He finds Elodie inside, and though he has not declared his love, his gaze alerts Elodie to his feelings which she reciprocates unbeknownst to Evariste. Since he dislikes her embroidery design, she asks him to draw a pattern for her, insisting her pattern does not please her since it does not please him. Evariste's discussion of Antique beauty and his hatred of Fragonard is interrupted by the arrival of Citizen Blaise, but Blaise is unimpressed by Evariste's card design as he has already seen three packs of Revolutionary playing cards. He suggests Evariste should draw pretty girls as the French are tired of the Revolution but never tire of pretty girls. Evariste is outraged, causing Blaise to accuse him of living in a dream. Blaise is patriotic and a good Republican, proven by his deeds. Evariste leaves in a rage, thinking it is strange of Blaise to support the soldiers but arouse alarm and discontent in one of the country's defenders. Deciding his artist friend, Desmahis, will print the cards, Evariste seeks Desmahis, but when he finally finds him on the street, Desmahis is busy following an attractive young girl.

Chapter 3 Analysis

When Evariste visits Amour Peintre, his feelings for Elodie are revealed, and these foreshadow their future relationship. Elodie's feelings for Evariste serve to show her character which contrasts greatly with Evariste's in terms of what is acceptable, shown by the earlier mention of his continuing disapproval of his sister who ran away with her aristocrat lover. Elodie is plain but coquettish, loving Evariste but finding him too reserved. She would marry him, yet her father would never approve of the poor, unknown artist. While she is not alarmed at the idea of a secret union, she knows Evariste has enough difficulty providing for his mother and himself, and since he has not yet mentioned his feelings or intentions, Elodie hopes to compel him to do so. Jean Blaise finally arrives, but he refuses to buy Evariste's playing card design, offending Evariste when he suggests people are tired of the Revolution. Evariste storms off in a huff, disapproving of Jean Blaise arousing alarm and discontent in one of the country's defenders. Evariste has no doubts about the future of the country; though enthusiasm has obviously been replaced by indifference, this means good citizens must simply redouble their zeal and boldness in order to reawaken the people from their apathy. His courage is upheld by the thought of Elodie. Convincing himself that Desmahis will print his cards, Evariste visits Desmahis's home to find his friend is not home. Growing tired of waiting when night falls, Evariste takes his leave, and in the street, he sees a detachment of the National Guard escorting a cart carrying a man being taken to the guillotine. He notices Desmahis among the onlookers, but Desmahis pushes Evariste aside because he is busy following a marvelous young girl from the milliner's shop. This

shows Desmahis embodies Jean Blaise's belief that the French are more interested in beautiful girls than in the Revolution and it also foreshadows Desmahis's licentious nature.



Chapter 4 & Chapter 5

Chapter 4 & Chapter 5 Summary

In Chapter 4, Evariste waits for Elodie on a bench in *Alles des Veuves* at 10 A. M. Arriving early, Evariste observes the passersby as he waits, but he rushes toward Elodie when she jumps from a carriage. Elodie is upset by Evariste's letter, and she assures him that her father bears him no malice, insisting that she returns Evariste's feelings for her. Encouraged, Evariste confesses his love which Elodie quickly reciprocates. Exultant in his triumph, Evariste talks to Elodie about themselves, forgetting all else until she decides to leave since there is no advantage in staying any longer. On the way home, Evariste passes a procession honoring Marat as a man is carted to his death, and he is happy that those plotting against Marat have achieved his triumph.

In Chapter 5, Evariste meets Elodie at Luxembourg Gardens a month later. While Evariste acts honorably with reserved intimacy, Elodie hopes to persuade him to agree to a secret liaison. When she confesses to yielding to a former lover's advances, Evariste is ready to condemn her, but he softens when Elodie explains her belief that men are naturally honest. Though Elodie refuses to reveal her seducer's identity, based on Elodie's half-truths, Evariste draws the conclusion that her lover was an aristocrat and claims he will avenge her lover's infamy with his own love. As they exit Luxembourg Gardens and find crowds in the *Rue de l'Egalite*, a soldier accuses Marat of sleeping while the Federalists forget chains, causing Elodie to try to hurry Evariste away when she recognizes the soldier. They part in the *Place de la Nation* after swearing their eternal love.

Chapter 4 & Chapter 5 Analysis

In the fourth chapter, Evariste waits to meet Elodie on a park bench. He has not returned to *Amour Peintre* in a week, but he wrote to Elodie. She is displeased by his determination to avoid her father, but she arranged this rendezvous in order to charm him. When Elodie finally arrives, she insists she returns Evariste's feelings, encouraging him to reveal his love for her. They then spend several hours talking of their love. After Elodie finally departs, Evariste is anguished as he feels he will never again know such hours of tenderness and forgetfulness. Evariste's joy at the sight of a man being carted to his death shows his dedication to the Revolution as well as his blood-thirsty nature which is so common during the time period.

The novel skips a month before the next chapter opens, indicating that Evariste is again meeting Elodie as he has daily since their first meeting. Though they meet daily, their intimacy is reserved since Evariste acts honorably, but Elodie hopes for a liaison that can be kept secret until time gives it respectability, and she hopes to persuade Evariste to agree. Evariste is ready to cast Elodie aside, as he did his sister, when he learns that



she has given in to a lover's advances in the past, but her innocent claim that she believes men are naturally honest convinces Evariste to pity her. He tries in vain to convince her to reveal the name of her seducer, never occurring to him that she could be the seducer. The narrator's mention of this indicates that perhaps Elodie did seduce her first lover, as she now seduces Evariste. When Evariste decides to avenge Elodie by his own true love, Elodie wishes that Evariste were wiser in such matters, yet she admires his artistic genius and loves him. The sight of a soldier in the Place de la Nation causes Elodie to hurry Evariste away, indicating that she does not want him to see the soldier and foreshadowing the revelation that this soldier was her first lover. Early that morning, Citizen Brotteaux gifted Citizeness Gamelin with a capon which she invited him to share at the midday meal. Evariste enters his home as he thinks of wreaking vengeance against Elodie's seducer while Brotteaux discusses the trade of foretelling the future. This serves to show Brotteaux's generous nature which is contrasted with Evariste's vindictive thoughts, and it also foreshadows Evariste's continued obsession with vengeance against Elodie's first lover.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

During the hottest July ever, four National Guards maintain order as one hundred citizens gather at the baker's door. Evariste and Citizen Brotteaux join the queue as a hawker announces the Bulletin of the Revolutionary Tribunal, a list of the condemned. Suggesting there should be a tribunal in every hamlet, Evariste believes "only the guillotine can save our country" (p. 75). Several women join the line, including the Citizeness Dumonteil, a young mother with a sickly, suckling infant who cries for lack of milk, but with his father away, the young woman can barely feed herself, let alone her child. When a pretty girl claims her purse was stolen, the crowd turns indignant and suspicion falls on an old man suspected of being a defrocked monk. As the crowd calls for the death of the Capuchin, Brotteaux defends the man, and Evariste defends Brotteaux; the crowd is ready to condemn all three until the girl finds her purse. Thanking Brotteaux, the monk introduces himself as Louis de Longuemare, of the Order of the Barnabites, though he was forced to leave the convent when it was taken for the headquarters of Section Pont-Neuf. Brotteaux's claim that man only worships God because they fear him is interrupted by the baker opening his door, but by the time they reach the counter, Evariste buys the last scrap of bread, weighing less than two pounds. He fears a riot, but the poor people, trained to obey their former oppressors and their new liberators, slink away in dejection. Seeing Citizeness Dumonteil sitting with empty eyes, Evariste cuts his loaf in half and lays it at the young mother's feet before hurrying home to apologize to his mother for eating half of their bread on the way home.

Chapter 6 Analysis

The National Guard stands outside the baker's door to maintain order as citizens await the bakery's opening. Since the Convention decreed a maximum, there is not enough food for everyone. A foul odor rises from the sewer, causing those gathered to suspect someone has been buried there. This demonstrates the society in which the book takes place. Evariste's feelings about the tribunal and the guillotine shows his cold, violent beliefs and foreshadows his actions once he is appointed to the Revolutionary Tribunal. This unfeeling nature is contrasted with his compassion at the end of the chapter when he splits his small amount of bread with a hungry young mother who cannot feed her child. When Father Longuemare is accused of theft, the crowd quickly turns against him, but Brotteaux quickly defends the monk, and Evariste comes to Brotteaux's defense. Evariste's actions contrast with his words and beliefs at this point in the novel; however, it also serves to show the change in Evariste as he becomes more involved with politics throughout the novel. Arguing with Evariste about whether man is naturally good, Brotteaux insists "Reason is our guide, a light to show us our way; but if you make a divinity of it, it will blind you and lead you into crime" (p. 80). When the bakery runs out of bread, Evariste fears a riot, but the people are too frightened by their former oppressors and their new liberators to riot, despite the fact that they are starving. This

indicates the similarities between the two groups, though Evariste believes the liberators are much more caring and will benefit the general populace. His feelings are obviously not shared by all.



Chapter 7 & Chapter 8

Chapter 7 & Chapter 8 Summary

In Chapter 7, Citizeness Rochemaure, accompanied by a young dragoon Henry who Evariste recognizes as the man haranguing the crowd near the Theatre de la Nacion, enters as Evariste and his mother eat their midday meal. She is struck by Evariste's good looks and youth and asks about his paintings. Citizeness Rochemaure embraces the new ideas of the Revolution, and she offers Evariste a commission before asking the favor of an introduction to Marat. While Evariste dresses to visit Marat, Citizeness Gamelin laments their poverty and praises her son to Citizeness Rochemaure who promises to get her rich friends to buy his paintings and to arrange for Evariste to be appointed magistrate to sit on the Revolutionary Tribunal. As Evariste leads Citizeness Rochemaure toward Rue de Thionville, he is stupefied with grief when he learns Marat has just been assassinated by the aristocrats, and he goes to pay his last homage to Marat.

In Chapter 8, Elodie and Evariste stroll around Champ de la Federation on the evening of the Festival as preparations are made to welcome the Deputies from the Primary Assemblies which accepted the Constitution and rejected Federalism, making it inevitable that the Republic will now conquer all of her enemies. Elodie has not seen Evariste in three days during which her father was denounced for defrauding the army of supplies, and Evariste is silent as she expresses her fear that her father would be arrested. He buys a silver ring with Marat's head in relief on it and places it on Elodie's finger. Later, Evariste visits Citizeness Rochemaure who tells him he has been nominated and accepted as a magistrate, and though Evariste accepts his duty to serve the Republic and exterminate her enemies, Citizeness Rochemaure finds his gratitude cold; however, she counts on binding Evariste to her and securing a friend at court for the day she needs one as she sends many letters abroad which is always suspect.

Chapter 7 & Chapter 8 Analysis

Henry's recurring presence in Chapter 7 where Evariste recognizes him as the man haranguing the crowd near the Theatre de la Nacion reconfirms the foreshadowing that Henry is Elodie's former lover. This chapter also marks the first appearance of Citizeness Rochemaure, a well-to-do woman struck by Evariste's looks and youth. She attempts to charm Evariste, even offering him a commission, before asking for an introduction to Marat. Her reasons and her general attitude indicate the type of person she is, taking advantage and using feminine wiles to get her way. Henry declines joining them, deploring the fate of the Republic who was betrayed by the same men she put trust in, but his comments are luckily unnoticed by Evariste who is dressing and would have taken offense had he heard them. While Evariste prepares for their visit to Marat, Citizeness Gamelin talks to Citizeness Rochemaure whose suggestion of acquiring appointment to the Revolutionary Tribunal for Evariste foreshadows the event while



raising the question of Rochemaure's motives as it is obvious she never does anything without it benefitting her in some way. As Evariste and Rochemaure head toward their visit with Marat, they learn that Marat has been assassinated. Evariste's devastation demonstrates his loyalty to the Republic, but Marat's death foreshadows a change in regime, also reinforcing the foreshadowing that Evariste will be appointed to the new Revolutionary Tribunal.

In Chapter 8, Evariste buys a silver ring for Elodie, indicating his devotion. On the evening of the Festival, the citizens' faces reveal the lack of joy in their lives, indicating how bad things are for most people at this time. Elodie expresses her fear of her father being arrested as he was denounced for defrauding the army of supplies, but Evariste dismisses her fears. When Evariste visits Rochemaure, he learns he has been appointed as a magistrate, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing. Her motives are revealed at this point to be securing a friend at court as she knows she will someday need one as she sends many letters abroad; this also indicates that perhaps Citizeness Rochemaure is not a staunch Republican. When Henry enters, he congratulates Evariste on his new position at Citizeness Rochemaure's order, though he does not have much faith in the Revolutionary Tribunal. At home, Citizeness Gamelin is happy and proud of Evariste's new appointment, trusting he will do what is best but also excited about his pay. Brotteaux also congratulates Evariste, telling him his verdicts will be good if he judges from his heart but joking that throwing dice is the surest method in matters of justice. These reactions show the general opinions of the Revolutionary Tribunal and the government as a whole, and they contrast sharply with Evariste's idealistic belief in the goodness of the government.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Evariste begins his duties on September 14th upon the completion of the Tribunal reorganization. Evariste's first formal act as a magistrate is visiting President Herman who disapproves of torture and the death penalty except when it pertains to crimes against national security. Evariste next presents himself to the Public Prosecutor, Citizen Fouquier. He is sworn in at the opening meeting of the reorganized Section where Citizen Beauvisage discusses the generals' betrayal in surrendering their armies to the enemy. When Citizen Dupont questions Evariste's attitude about the Brissotins and the Widow Capet, Evariste proclaims the judgment is his, but Dupont continues because he has not forgiven Evariste for acquiring a position he coveted for himself. Fortune Trubert gives a speech that meets with applause before the members disperse. Citizeness Gamelin assumes a fine air of importance overnight, obviously worshipping her son. Brotteaux treats Evariste with surprised interest and reluctant deference though he scorns the Revolutionary Tribunal, yet he says enough that Evariste suspects the lack of patriotism behind his innuendos. Desmahis congratulates his friend, and Elodie is impressed by the glamour attached to the title of magistrate. Citizen Blaise calls on Evariste to invite him on his semi-annual excursion through the countryside where he invites artists to depict various scenes; he has been fearful of the Revolutionary Tribunal since he was denounced for fraud, and a friendship with Evariste suddenly seems worth cultivating. They will also be joined by Desmahis, Phillippe Dubois, Elodie, Citizeness Hasard, and Citizeness Thevenin, an actress on the friendliest terms with Blaise.

Chapter 9 Analysis

The fact that the narrator notes that Convention's remedy for their problems calls for terror and blood foreshadows the continuation of bloodshed and terror as Evariste takes his seat upon the Revolutionary Tribunal. As Evariste begins to report to President Herman and Citizen Fouquier for his duties, he is displeased to note how much the new magistrates resemble those of the old regime; in fact, both of these men had held offices in the old regime. After leaving the Public Prosecutor's office, Evariste runs into Phillippe Desmahis who praises the beauty of Citizeness Saint-Jorre, again demonstrating Desmahis's frivolous, flirtatious nature. Evariste decides to attend a meeting of the Tribunal as an ordinary member of the public in order to better learn about the powers with which he has been invested. The public is eager to watch the trial, and Evariste is certain the Tribunal needs to attack the two monsters tearing the nation apart: revolt and defeat. This shows the severity with which Evariste is taking his newfound duties in addition to the public's eagerness to witness the trials. After Evariste is sworn in, the narrator notes how those nearest to him treat him after his political elevation. The most important of these is the change in Citizen Jean Blaise who realizes cultivating Evariste's friendship may be worthwhile, and he invites Evariste to join him and several others on an artistic excursion through the countryside.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

When Citizen Blaise arrives to collect Evariste, he also invites Brotteaux to join their expedition. As they travel across the Plain of Longjumeau, Desmahis, Dubois and Evariste discuss art and styles while the women discuss fashion. They stop at an inn, L'Auberge de la Cloche in Orangis for lodging, enjoying the charming view across the plain. While Evariste and Elodie recall their first meetings on their way back to the inn for midday meal, Dubois and Brotteaux discuss their individual visits to Rome. Desmahis is stunned by the whimsical example of nature's oddness in the girl Tronche, a maiden with thick calves and ankles who tends the stables. While the women help prepare the meal, their hostess tells them about seeing King Louis XIV in Paris sixty years earlier, and Elodie's way of cutting bread reminds Evariste of a book in which young Werther falls in love with Charlotte after seeing her cut bread gracefully; the novel ends with the violent death of Werther. The group hungrily devours the indifferent food. After dinner, Citizen Blaise sets the artists to sketching the inn because he feels its dilapidated condition is romantic. That evening, Desmahis is in a thoughtful mood because he is ardently in love with the three women at the moment, but he decides to whisper his most ardent words to Citizeness Hasard who does not seem indifferent. When they part for the night, he passes her a note begging her to meet him in the garret above the ladies' room, but when he finds Tronche in the garret, he throws himself on her as she feigns sleep to relieve her scruples in the matter. Desmahis returns to his room and sleeps until daybreak. The group works more the next day, returning to Paris late in the day as their host sends his guests away with flowers for the lovely Citizenesses.

Chapter 10 Analysis

As Jean Blaise's excursion begins, there is some tension between two of his artists when Desmahis and Dubois nearly come to blows when Dubois calls Desmahis by a nickname that causes the villagers to want to arrest him until he provides proof of his identity; this serves to show the unstable political situation in France at this time. The men and women carry on separate conversations as they travel to an inn in Orangis. As they draw the Plain of Longjumeau, Evariste is moved by a sudden love for nature while Desmahis flirts with the ladies, a behavior obviously typical for him. They all draw scenes of nature except Citizeness Thevenin who entertains her companions with scenes from various plays. This is the first time Rose Thevenin appears in the novel, and she is drawn to Brotteaux who she sees as a surviving example of the generous, wealthy aristocrats. Desmahis's fascination with Tronche foreshadows his rendezvous with her which occurs later in this chapter. The conversation between Evariste and Elodie in which Evariste cutting bread reminds him of a scene in a book about young Werther continues on with Evariste noting that Werther dies violently, and this foreshadows Evariste's similarly violent demise at the novel's end. After continuing work

the next day, the group returns to Paris. This expedition serves to bring together most of the main characters in the novel and to show that they are all part of the same social circle.



Chapter 11 & Chapter 12

Chapter 11 & Chapter 12 Summary

In Chapter 11, Citizeness Rochemaure visits Evariste on September 7th to solicit help for her friend denounced as a suspect, but she encounters her former lover, Brotteaux, who invites her to his garret. Rochemaure has lately been anxious about the Revolution as her lover has been arrested and she is suspect. She wonders what will happen to her before leaving Brotteaux's garret. Later, she is preparing for a new admirer's arrival when Henry visits unexpectedly. Doubting Henry's discretion, Rochemaure hides the letter in her writing desk, but when she leaves the room to get dressed, Henry steals it and takes it to the Committee of General Safety since it contains comments about the Queen, the Revolutionary Tribunal, Rose Thevenin and Brotteaux. That afternoon, Evariste is seated on the magistrates' bench with fourteen colleagues as three judges sit at the table on the platform. There are few spectators, but Evariste is little reassured by the small audience. As the accused, Marie-Adolphe Guillergues, is brought in and tried, Evariste notes there is no proof, fearing the man is innocent, and after seven vote guilty and eight vote innocent, they reconvene. When Evariste speaks out that there is no proof of the man's guilt, the majority of the votes declare the accused not guilty, and the audience applauds their verdict. Outside, Evariste is overcome by his own act of justice and humanity while Elodie flings herself into his arms and praises his nobility and generosity in saving the man. She leads Evariste to her apartment and into her bedroom, and night has fallen by the time Elodie releases him since her father will soon return.

In Chapter 12, Brotteaux goes to Rue de la Loi with his dolls for the toy merchant, Citizen Caillon, who warns him to be careful as members of the Committee of Safety of the Section have declared Brotteaux's dolls to be anti-revolutionary since they mock National representatives. Shocked, Brotteaux protests the innocence of his dolls, but Citizen Caillon insists the dolls be taken away. Brotteaux despairs because his dolls are the easiest of his vocations, so he decides to offer them to another toy merchant, Joly, the next day. On his way home, Brotteaux sees Father Longuemare by a stone post, exhausted with hunger and fatigue, and he offers him a place to stay in his own garret. Father Longuemare objects because he is suspect, but Brotteaux insists because he is also. Father Longuemare accepts Brotteaux's hospitality and food while telling of his trials since being turned out of his cloister. Brotteaux has suffered the same position, but he insists that Father Longuemare does not owe him any obligation as he has nothing better to do and he enjoys the pride as an atheist of feeling superior to the monk. Father Longuemare tells Brotteaux not to slander himself as Brotteaux is a better man than he except in the fact that he cannot love Father Longuemare because he does not know him while Father Longuemare loves Brotteaux more than himself as God demands it. Father Longuemare prays before going to sleep peacefully.



Chapter 11 & Chapter 12 Analysis

In Chapter 11, Rochemaure is astonished to encounter Brotteaux while attempting to visit Evariste. She is sorrowfully surprised by his cramped living arrangements, but though their conversation is friendly and gracious, her thoughts are elsewhere. The Revolution has been pleasurable for Citizeness Rochemaure, but lately it has been a source of anxiety as many of her acquaintances have gone into hiding, her lover Morhardt is under arrest and she is suspect herself. She asks Brotteaux what will happen to them, and he offers several suggestions before she departs. Later, Henry pays an uninvited visit to Citizeness Rochemaure as she seals an envelope to Citizen Rauline at Vernon. She fears her lover's discretion while Henry is irritated by falling in her favor. When he tells her that he is leaving to join the army, she congratulates him because she is expecting the arrival of a new admirer more to her tastes and more likely to be useful. While Citizeness Rochemaure retires to her dressing room, Henry steals the letter from her writing desk which contains information about the Queen, Rose Thevenin and the Revolutionary Tribunal, in addition to comments by Brotteaux. Henry takes the letter to the antechamber of the Committee of General Safety. When Evariste first sits on the bench and tries Marie-Adolphe Guillergues, his verdict is just and humane, but unfortunately, this does not foreshadow his future judgments. Elodie is so proud of her beloved that she leads him to her bedchambers and takes him as a lover afterward.

In Chapter 12, Brotteaux tries to sell his marionette dolls but is offended to learn that his dolls have been declared anti-revolutionary. He decides to offer them to another toy merchant, Joly, the next day, foreshadowing Joly's eventual betrayal as Brotteaux is forced to expand his acquaintances. When Brotteaux notices Father Longuemare, the monk from the bakery, looked fatigued and hungry, he offers the monk room in his garret, insisting that it does not matter that Father Longuemare is suspect since Brotteaux is suspect as well. This foreshadows the eventual arrest of these two men. When the monk praises Brotteaux's generosity, Brotteaux insists that he should not be praised as he has nothing better to do and, as an atheist, enjoys feeling superior to the Godly man. Father Longuemare insists that Brotteaux is a good man before praying and sleeping peacefully. This chapter shows Brotteaux's generous, caring nature and foreshadows that he will be accosted by the Republicans.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Evariste and his colleagues are concerned that the armies of the Coalition have joined forces, Lyons is in revolt and Toulon surrendered to the English who are sending reinforcements because their fates are bound irrevocably to their country's fate. Evariste tries several accused individuals, sentencing them all to death for treason and anti-revolutionary sentiments. He begins to feel that punishment is its own virtue and merit. Since Marat's death, Evariste attends Jacobin meetings nearly every evening, admiring their vigilance, dogmatism and arts of governing. That day, Robespierre delivers an eloquent attack against the enemies of the Republic, allowing Evariste to understand as he simplifies matters: Centralization means unity and safety while Federalism leads to chaos and damnation. Robespierre also enlightens Evariste regarding those who want to abolish wealth and poverty to establish a happy mediocrity for all as men try to undermine the Republic. The greatest revelation concerns the crimes and infamies of atheism. Evariste believes in God, but he has a vague concept of God and has even felt sympathy for persecuted atheists, but Robespierre now shows Evariste that atheism is a crime to deprive the unfortunate people of the consoling thought of a benevolent Providence that rewards them, the lack of hope thus leading them to immorality. Evariste swears enmity toward atheists, such as Brotteaux. In the following days, Evariste judges 20 people, sentencing them all to death. The next week, he and his Section beheads 45 men and 18 women, drawing no distinction between men and women. The magistrates show women no favor, fearing their deception and seduction. Few women are young and pretty, but Evariste is insensible to the charms of the few who are, knowing desire only when he is deeply in love. He considers women more dangerous than men, like others who sit on the Tribunal. As he becomes more involved with the Jacobins, Evariste becomes increasingly suspicious, and though Elodie is appalled by his violence, she finds herself drawn to him even more strongly than ever before.

Chapter 13 Analysis

When Evariste sits at the Tribunal for the second time, he and his colleagues are concerned because the armies of the Coalition joined forces, Lyons is in revolt and Toulon surrendered to the English who is sending 14,000 troops. These man's fates are irrevocably bound to the fate of their country. Evariste received a letter from Trubert announcing he has been appointed as Commissioner of Supplies of Powder and Salt petre, showing his advancement in politics.. An accused general is tried, and as everything he says is questionable, he declared guilty of treason against the Republic as the crowd roars its approval. Outside, a group of tricoteuses demand Evariste obtain the head of the Queen. The next day, Evariste decides the fate of Widow Meyrion who was heard making anti-revolutionary remarks and has confessed to such. Evariste begins to believe that punishment has its own virtue and merit as he sentences Widow



Meyrion to the supreme punishment. Most evenings, Evariste attends the Jacobin Club since he follows the doctrines of Robespierre since Marat's death. Powerful men who rule by the power of the spoken word attend these meetings; these builders of the new order use the guillotine as an instrument of their Reign of Terror. Evariste admires their vigilance, dogmatism and arts of governing. When Evariste listens to Robespierre speak, he is astounded by his newfound understanding of many topics as Robespierre seems to simplify matters for him; however, Robespierre's speech is filled with propaganda and violence intent toward those whose opinions dissent from his own. Evariste swears enmity toward atheists, foreshadowing his imminent condemnation of Brotteaux. In the next short period of time, Evariste and his colleagues on the Revolutionary Tribunal condemn many citizens to death for crimes against France. Like his colleagues, Evariste feels women are even more dangerous than men and shows them no mercy unlike President Montare who lost his seat by trying to alter the trial of Charlotte Corday because he was moved by her beauty and bravery. Evariste's honesty, modesty and devotion to his country sends many to the guillotine. There is no longer any need to seek out the guilty as victims freely offer themselves, many taking their own lives as "the fury to kill inspires a fury to die" (p. 153). Evariste becomes increasingly suspicious and alarmed as he learns the lessons of the Jacobins. His visits to Elodie now feel her with horror as he becomes more monstrous. She fears and adores Evariste as "the bloody-minded lover and the sensually mad girl" (p. 153) make savage and silent love all night long.



Chapter 14 & Chapter 15

Chapter 14 & Chapter 15 Summary

In Chapter 14, Brotteaux ponders the human condition while Father Longuemare attends chapel. He paints his dancing dolls until the monk returns, and after dinner, Brotteaux takes the dolls to Joly who orders two gross to begin with. Returning home, Brotteaux asks Father Longuemare to help make the dolls. As they discuss the madness of the Revolution, Brotteaux asks why God does not prevent such evils. Though he disagrees with theologians, he believes religion is necessary for the people; "he only desired that its ministers were philosophers instead of controversialists" (p. 159). Nine days after Father Longuemare moves in with Brotteaux, Brotteaux delivers his dolls to Joly, but on his way home, a girl throws herself into his arms and begs him to hide her as the Revolutionary Committee is in her rooms because she yelled "Vive le Roi!" Since Athenais has an aunt she can go to in Palaiseu, Brotteaux takes her home for the evening, and though Father Longuemare has no objections to sharing their garret with a prostitute, Athenais fears he has gone to denounce her the next morning when she wakes to find him gone. When Brotteaux assures her the madman is honest, she chides his mockery of faith as she often prays God will forgive her sins. Athenais is gratefully astounded when Brotteaux provides her with fare to reach Palaiseau and asks for nothing to repay his kindness.

In Chapter 15, the judging continues without rest or respite as the full prisons must be emptied. The magistrates see judgment as their duty to the Republic and sentence most to death. Queen Marie Antoinette is finally tried and beheaded, and soon afterward, Evariste learns he has been appointed a member of the General Council of the Commune by only 30 voters. That day, the Twenty-one come up for trial; despite their faults, they were once the first and most brilliant leaders of the Revolution, and the magistrates and the audience once extolled their talents and virtues, though they no longer remember this. Though Evariste once worshipped them, any trace of worship he now remembers serves "only to increase their monstrosity in deceiving such fine citizens as himself" (p. 169).

Chapter 14 & Chapter 15 Analysis

In Chapter 14, Brotteaux and Father Longuemare discuss their differing theological beliefs. When Brotteaux acquires many orders for his marionettes, he convinces Father Longuemare to assist him in making the dolls. After Brotteaux delivers the dolls, he is accosted by a young girl begging him for help as the Revolutionary Committee are searching for her since she yelled "vive le Roi!" in the streets. Though she never liked the King, these lot are wicked and cruel to poor girls, and this shows that the new liberators are no fairer than the old oppressors as indicated earlier in the novel. The sixteen-year-old girl, Athenais, has a servant aunt in Palaiseau who will take her in so Brotteaux takes her home and explains the situation to Father Longuemare who does



not object to sharing the room with the prostitute. Since the monk has left for prayers by the time Athenais wakes, she fears he has gone to denounce her, but Brotteaux assures her that the madman is honest. Athenais chides him for calling the monk a madman because of his religion as she frequently prays that God will forgive her sins. After mending her clothes, Athenais is ready to repay Brotteaux's kindness in whatever way he asks, but she finds it more becoming that he asks for nothing and even gives her coach fare to reach Palaiseau.

In the fifteenth chapter, the judging continues with most of the accused being sentenced to death. Three days after the Queen is beheaded, Evariste is called to Trubert's deathbed where Trubert predicts the Republic will be saved through one final effort. Evariste weeps at the funeral, envying Trubert whose task is accomplished. Evariste is appointed to the General Council by only 30 voters because citizens now try to avoid performing public duties, causing Evariste to doubt that half of the inhabitants of Paris maintain a Republican spirit. When the Twenty-one, the first leaders of the Revolution, are tried, no one seems to remember that they were once worshipped for their virtues, including Evariste, showing this populace's habit of turning their backs quickly and easily on those they once revered and thus foreshadowing Evariste's fate.



Chapter 16, Chapter 17 & Chapter 18

Chapter 16, Chapter 17 & Chapter 18 Summary

In Chapter 16, Evariste believes he has found Elodie's first lover in a man named Maubel. Though Elodie insists she does not know the young émigré, she allows Evariste to stay focused on his false trail so he does not learn the truth about her first lover. Though the magistrates are ready to acquit Maubel, Evariste presses for a conviction, and Elodie is furious that he sent the innocent young man to his death but is quickly overcome with desire.

The next month, in Chapter 17, Citizens Guenot and Delourmel, delegates of the Committee of General Safety, present themselves to Citizen Beauvisage and produce an order for the arrest of Monsieur des Ilettes. Beauviage knows no one by that name but suggests des Ilettes may be living under another name. There is no time to waste as a letter from Mme. Rochemaure was intercepted two weeks ago which discusses M. des Ilette being reduced to earning a living by making marionettes as well as his ill opinion of the Revolutionary Tribunal. They visit Dupont and offer 100 sols for the location of des Ilettes and are quickly pointed to Brotteaux's lodging. In Brotteaux's garret, they find Brotteaux and Father Longuemare working on marionettes. They question Brotteaux who realizes his lack of wisdom in confiding in a woman. As he follows them out, he insists Father Longuemare is simply his assistant, but the monk is also arrested when he fails to produce a certificate of citizenship. When Athenais sees Brotteaux's arrest, she objects, and ignored, she intentionally gets arrested alongside him, showing her loyalty to her savior.

In Chapter 18, Citizeness Gamelin is startled one day by a knock at her door, and she is astounded that the handsome young man who enters her home reveals himself as her daughter, Julie. Julie seeks Evariste's help in freeing her lover, Fortune de Chassagne, who has been taken to Luxembourg Prison, but her mother objects that her brother has still not forgiven Fortune or Julie. Julie explains her situation and begs her mother for help, so Citizeness Gamelin agrees to talk to Evariste, sure her kind-hearted son will heed his mother's request; however, when Evariste returns home and his mother mentions seeing Julie, he orders her to tell him no more because he does not want to kill his sister and her lover. He furthermore tells his mother that he would denounce Julie if he knew where she was. His mother is distraught to realize her son has become a monster.

Chapter 16, Chapter 17 & Chapter 18 Analysis

In Chapter 16, Evariste finally finds a man he has an accusation against after judging for three months. He has watched for the man who seduced Elodie and images he has found him in the young emigre named Maubel, showing that he has never forgot his intention to seek vengeance. He studies the case until his doubts vanish, but when he



questions Elodie, she insists she has never known Maubel. Evariste does not believe her, but she stops defending Maubel because she prefers Evariste to be lost on a false trail rather than discover the true identity of her first lover. As the Tribunal devotes itself to crushing Federalism, Evariste tries to hasten Maubel's trial, and at the trial, the magistrates are ready to acquit Maubel who has satisfactory explanations for going to England and returning to France, but Evariste presses for conviction, speaking so vehemently that Maubel is sentenced to death. No one applauds the sentence. That night, Evariste tells Elodie she is avenged, but she denies knowing Maubel and accuses Evariste of being a monster for sending the young man to an unjust death. Yet, she is overcome by lust, hungering more for Evariste the crueler that he becomes.

When two delegates of the Committee of General Safety ask Citizen Beauvisage about Monsieur des Ilettes in Chapter 17, Beauvisage has never heard of the man, but the delegates urge that there is no time to waste as they intercepted Citizeness Rochemaure's letter concerning his poor opinion of the Revolutionary Tribunal. When they offer Dupont 100 sols for information about des Ilettes, Dupont points them to Brotteaux's garret where they find Brotteaux and Father Longuemare. They arrest both men since the monk fails to produce a certificate of citizenship. At the bottom of the stairs, they encounter Athenais who is visiting with eggs and cake to express gratitude to Brotteaux for saving her, and after she is pushed aside for objecting to Brotteaux's arrest, she shouts "Vive le Roi! Vive le Roi" (p.184).

In Chapter 18, Citizeness Gamelin fears offending the authorities by saying goodbye to Brotteaux, but she is devastated to lose her friend and prays for him and Evariste daily. One day, she is frightened by a knock at the door, and the handsome young man that enters chides her for not recognizing her own daughter, Julie. Julie comes to see Evariste because her husband, Fortune de Chassagne, was arrested and taken to Luxembourg. Citizeness Gamelin objects to Julie talking to Evariste who has never forgiven Chassagne for his treatment of Julie, but Julie insists she cannot allow her beloved to be killed. They came to Paris on an important living, and since the banker to whom they were given a draft is closed, Fortune kept them for the past two weeks by shining shoes until he was recognized as an aristocrat and arrested. Julie begs her mother to help save her lover, and as they both cry, Citizeness Gamelin offers to talk to Evariste because he is a good man with a kind heart and will do this for his mother. Julie hides when Evariste comes up the stairs, but he is in a good mood, talking of his plans to return to art once peace comes and all conspiracies are suppressed. His mother mentions that she heard from Julie today, but Evariste wants to hear no more. He does not want to know if his sister and her lover have returned to France because he does not want them to die by his hand, but if he knew where Julie was, he would denounce her to the Committee of Vigilance of their Section. Distraught, his mother whispers that she did not want to believe that he has become a monster as Evariste runs off to find oblivion with Elodie.



Chapter 19, Chapter 20 & Chapter 21

Chapter 19, Chapter 20 & Chapter 21 Summary

In Chapter 19, Brotteaux is thrown in the dungeon at the Conciergerie with a murderer and a counterfeiter. He wakes with a fever and, two days later, is offered the privilege of paying for his accommodations and taken to quarters with a group of aristocrats. When he learns Father Longuemare has been thrown into dungeon, he pays for his friend to join him in his better quarters. The aristocrats hide all of their most precious belongings when they learn their quarters will be raided and valuables seized. Brotteaux often reads in the courtyard once the weather warms, and one day, he is surprised when Rose Thevenin calls his name. Rose has been denounced as a Royalist and accused of conspiring to help the Queen escape, but she is sure her powerful friends will save her. Brotteaux begs her to allow her friends to forget them because "in that only lies safety" (p. 203), claiming he will die happy knowing she is saved. She objects to the thought of Brotteaux's death and offers to be whatever he wants before they kiss through the iron railings separating the men and women's quarters.

In Chapter 20, Evariste allows his mind to wander one day while sitting on the Tribunal bench. Evil men forced Marat to hide, leading to the Tribunal which seeks the enemies of the State to distinguish between vice and virtue in order to protect their country. Enemies are those who repudiate order, wisdom and opportunity, and the duties of a judge is terrible as they must seek and strike down all traitors. Many evil men have thus perished at the guillotine, but the Republic is saved and good citizens offer homage, allotting the Tribunal its share of praise. The men who made the Revolution did so only to betray her, but if Robespierre discovers more traitors, when and where will this procession to the guillotine end?

In Chapter 21, Julie visits Luxembourg Gardens every day to sign to her lover when he appears in the window as other women do. Determining to beg for Fortune's life, Julie dresses in women's clothes and visits the judge Renaudin in Rue Mazarine, claiming to be Fortune's sister and pleading for the judge's intervention. Renaudin promises that what is necessary will be done, acting brutally and rapidly as he takes Julie who is willing to do anything to save Fortune; however, the look on Renaudin's face afterwards shows that her sacrifice was useless as he claims the law will have its way and insists the Revolutionary Tribunal is always just. Julie rushes off, weeping with rage and sorrow. The next day in Luxembourg Gardens, sentinels are posted to prevent anyone from communicating with the prisoners. There have been talks of plots in the prison, and the "women were being blamed for by meeting in the Gardens they roused people's pity for aristocrats and traitors" (p. 211).



Chapter 19, Chapter 20 & Chapter 21 Analysis

In Chapter 19, while Athenais and Father Longuemare are questioned at the Section, Brotteaux is taken to the Conciergerie since there is no room at Luxembourg Prison. He is thrown into the dungeon with a murderer and a counterfeiter waiting to be taken to the guillotine. Brotteaux wakes the next day with a fever, and the jailor offers him the privileges of a prisoner who pays for his accommodations two days later, causing Brotteaux to weep with joy when he is taken to a room with a bed to share quarters with a group of aristocrats. Three days later, Brotteaux learns that Father Longuemare has been imprisoned with the thieves and murderers, so he offers to pay for the monk to be brought to his quarters, making and selling portraits to supplement his little money, showing his loyalty to the monk. While he waits to be summoned to the Revolutionary Tribunal, Father Longuemare prepares his defense, planning to "floor them with the light of understanding" (page 197). The other prisoners have no faith in Christianity and mock Father Longuemare mercilessly. When the weather warms, Brotteaux often reads his Lucretius in the courtyard next to the women's quarters. The Terror increases monthly as 20 to 50 prisoners are taken to their deaths daily, yet the room full of aristocrats pass their time enjoying poetry and such. Brotteaux is unmoved by war, feeling no triumph at the victories of the Republic. When the prisoners learn their quarters will be searched and their valuables seized, they hide their precious belongings so the Commissaries only find trifles which the prisoners considered judicious to allow them to discover. While Brotteaux is reading in the courtyard one warm evening, he hears a woman's voice calling him and is shocked to see Rose Thevenin who has been denounced as a Royalist and accused of conspiring to help the Queen escape. She is sure her powerful friends will free her and then she will have them free Brotteaux also, but Brotteaux begs her to let herself be forgotten. He insists that she cannot explain herself to the magistrates because things do not understand explanations, but he will die happy knowing he has saved her life if she heeds his warning. Rose agrees but objects to Brotteaux speaking of death. He argues his life is finished. She knows he is not indifferent to her and offers to do or be for him whatever he wants. They kiss through the iron railings.

In Chapter 20, Evariste considers the state of the Revolution, defining enemies as those who repudiate order while the judge's duty is to strike down all traitors. He knows the Tribunal is praised for sending many evil men to the guillotine, but this foreshadows the public turning against the Tribunal as they have so many of their heroes before. Evariste believes that those who created the Revolution betrayed her, but he shows insight in his fear of where the procession to the guillotine will end if Robespierre continues to discover traitors; this foreshadows the deaths of Evariste and Robespierre.

In the next chapter, Julie visits Luxembourg Gardens daily to communicate with her lover. She lives in an attic in Rue du Cherche-Midi, passing herself off as a draper's shopboy in search of work, and her mother helps her as much as possible with food and linen. Julie spends her days outside the prison, sometimes venturing out alone at night. One day, she overhears Citizen Hanriot mock the Commander-in-Chief, but when her laughter leads to a fight and her breasts appear under her torn shirt, she barely escape



before the patrol arrives. She visits a judge to beg for Fortune's life, giving in to the judge's carnal desires in hopes of procuring her lover's pardon, but the judge mocks her afterward, insisting the Tribunal always judges fairly. The next day, Julie learns that women are no longer allowed in the gardens before they are blamed for the talks of plots in the prison since they arouse the people's pity for those imprisoned and their loved ones.



Chapter 22, Chapter 23 & Chapter 24

Chapter 22, Chapter 23 & Chapter 24 Summary

In Chapter 22, Robespierre marches up the mountain suddenly piled in Garden of the Tuileries and proclaims the God of Rousseau to the crowds of Republicans, allowing Evariste to see the joyful future where "at last we shall be happy, pure and innocent, if the traitorous scoundrels permit it" (p. 212). Yet, it is not permitted, and three days after this new alliance, the Convention passes the Law of Pairial to suppress traditional law, taking away the accused's chance for defense. Now, batches of up to 50 prisoners are brought to the platform to be judged and condemned at once. During one group, Fortune de Chassagne looks at Evariste with contempt, and when Evariste announces no intent to withdraw despite familial ties, his colleagues agree there is no reason for him to withdraw since "a patriotic magistrate is above human passions" (page 215). Evariste announces the men guilty, and outside, a young man stops him to spit in his face, revealing herself as Julie before escaping during the ensuing confusion.

In Chapter 23, Evariste cannot relax, and he wakes Elodie as he cries out in his sleep but she cannot understand him. In the morning, he comforts himself that he is no parricide and has "acted like a pious son in shedding the impure blood of the enemies of my fatherland" (p. 217).

In Chapter 24, the trials of those accused of plotting in prison seem endless. Brotteaux sits in the place of honor with Mme. Rochemaure, Father Longuemare and Athenais next to him along with the other accused, totaling 49. The accusation is read, outlining their supposed plot to slaughter Representatives and their former crimes, the death penalty is demanded for them all. Brotteaux denies the charges, Father Longuemare leaves himself in the hands of God, and Athenais verbally abuses the President, insisting Brotteaux has never done anything but good to her knowledge. The magistrates deliberate and unanimously vote guilty, Evariste insisting their punishment is necessary for the safety of the nation. The executions will occur that same day at Barrier de Trone Renverse. In the tumbril, Mme. Rochemaure asks Father Longuemare for absolution before shouting "Vive le Roi!" Father Longuemare asks Brotteaux to pray for him, and Brotteaux is tranquil as the cart drives off, though he is filled with regret for the light of day. Athenais gazes haughtily at the crowd, proud to die in the same way as the Queen of France.

Chapter 22, Chapter 23 & Chapter 24 Analysis

In Chapter 22, Evariste begins to hope for a joyful future after Robespierre's speech in the Garden of the Tuileries, but soon after, the Convention passes the Law of Pairial which revokes the accused's right to defend themselves. Evariste is only troubled momentarily before quickly adapting to his new duties, and his colleagues are also eased with the simplified law, believing themselves to be all truth, wisdom and



goodness. This shows the lack of conscience on the part of Evariste and his colleagues. Now, large batches of prisoners are tried and condemned at the same time. When Fortune de Chassagne appears in a group of the accused, Evariste refuses to withdraw from judgment despite his personal relationship with the accused, and he announces all of the men guilty. Julie spits on her brother outside. In Chapter 23, Evariste's conscience bothers him during the night, but the next day, he assures himself that he has acted like a dutiful son to his country, disregarding his act against Fortune who he should treat as a brother.

In Chapter 24, Brotteaux, Father Longuemare, Citizeness Rochemaure and Athenais are finally tried, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing. Brotteaux is listed as the most pernicious article, claiming he was living in concubinage with a prostitute and preached atheism. Rochemaure is accused of corresponding with foreign agents and aiding Brotteaux, Father Longuemare is accused of a long career of treasonous acts, and Athenais is said to represent the greatest cause of public immorality as a prostitute; thus, the death penalty is demanded for all. Athenais shows her loyalty by defending Brotteaux without speaking to the charges against herself. The magistrates unanimously vote guilty and condemn the accused to execution. Fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing, Evariste speaks out against Brotteaux and Rochemaure who were formerly his friends. Brotteaux is gripped with despair and cannot leave this life without regret, but when Father Longuemare suggests he does not fear death though he is less brave because he sees the light that Brotteaux cannot, Brotteaux argues that he has simply enjoyed life more. Citizeness Rochemaure asks Father Longuemare for absolution before showing her defiance by shouting "vive le Roi!" Athenais is haughty as she stares at the crowd gathered to see their execution, proud that she, a prostitute, will die in the same manner as the Queen of France.



Chapter 25, Chapter 26 & Chapter 27

Chapter 25, Chapter 26 & Chapter 27 Summary

In Chapter 25, Evariste is deep in thought on a bench in the Garden of the Tuileries while Brotteaux and his accomplices are carted off to their execution. Waiting for Elodie, he thinks a heavy price has been paid for victory, and despite the victories of the past year, he is gloomy, thinking "we used to say: To conquer or to die. We were mistaken, it was To conquer and to die, we should have said" (p. 227). Enthusiasm has been replaced with weariness and disgust, and people no longer want to hear of the Revolutionary Tribunal or see the guillotine; even those in the Tribunal plot Robespierre's downfall. When Elodie arrives, Evariste explains he has asked her to meet him in order to say goodbye forever. He can no longer accept her love because he has devoted his life to his country and will be despised so it is impossible for him to love anyone. Elodie objects, though she knows he is right. Evariste insists he no longer belongs to humanity for the sake of his country and begs her to bury his name in eternal silence if she loves him. When Evariste rushes off, Elodie chases after him, begging him to send her to the guillotine.

In Chapter 26, Evariste recognizes Robespierre as he wanders through Marbeuf Gardens, and he notes what weight grief and weariness have left on the young man. He wonders about his fears and hopes as Robespierre listens to a child playing rural music, giving the child money before strolling on. Evariste does not talk to Robespierre, but he can see that Robespierre wants to end the Reign of Terror and begin the Reign of Fraternity. Evariste will support the plan, redoubling vigilance and severity so their land might return to innocence and virtue. Two men mutter and mock Robespierre before hurrying away.

In Chapter 27, Robespierre hesitates to denounce at least 60 conspirators so he is accused. A large crowd gathers as Robespierre announces he will drink the hemlock with fortitude. While Evariste tries 21 implicated in a plot at Lazare prison the next day, news arrives that the Convention has accused Robespierre, and Evariste is ordered to present himself to sit on General Council at Hotel de Ville. Elodie meets Evariste outside and warns him that he will be throwing his life away for nothing, but he refuses to be a coward. She pleads with him as news of Robespierre's fall spreads, begging him to come to her tonight instead of going to the hotel, but Evariste simply apologizes for involving her in his terrible affairs. He hastens to Hotel de Ville where they eagerly await Robespierre who speaks until after midnight when a delegate from the Convention arrives and reads a decree outlawing the members of the rebellious Commune and of the General Council. Evariste sweats at the thought of death without a trial. The General Council sends for weapons to defend themselves, but the troops of the Convention attack. Evariste watches as Robespierre falls, but he fails when he attempts to stab himself in the heart. Henry shouts "the tyrant is no more." His slaves are broken! The Revolution can continue in majesty and terror" (p. 237) Evariste's wounds are tended



because the Convention will allow none of Robespierre's accomplices to escape the guillotine.

Chapter 25, Chapter 26 & Chapter 27 Analysis

In Chapter 25, Evariste begins to think that the price for victory is steep, and he begins to believe that death will follow victory regardless of their intentions. He knows that the public no longer cares about the Revolution and even members of the Tribunal plot against Robespierre, foreshadowing the demise of Robespierre and Evariste. Evariste meets Elodie in the Garden of the Tuileries to try to sever their romantic ties, insisting that it is impossible for him to love anyone since he has devoted his life to his country. Grabbing a child, Evariste tells the boy that he is cruel and steeped in blood so the child may be kind and happy; he will owe his innocence to Evariste though he will curse Evariste's name. When Evariste tries again to leave Elodie, she refuses to allow it, though she knows he is right, and chases after him, begging him to send her to the guillotine rather than leave her. In Chapter 26, Evariste notices Robespierre in Marbeauf Gardens, and he can tell his leader wants to end the Reign of Terror; however, Evariste shows how badly he has been brainwashed by his belief that he must redouble his severity to end the bloodshed, increasing bloodshed before it can end. The two men mocking Robespierre foreshadows the public's animosity toward him.

In Chapter 27, the public turns against Robespierre when he hesitates to accuse sixty conspirators, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing leading to Robespierre's demise. Evariste is summoned to the Hotel de Ville the next day, and Elodie's warning foreshadows that Evariste will also be implicated alongside Robespierre, but he refuses to act cowardly. Thus, Evariste joins his colleagues at the Hotel de Ville where he listens to Robespierre speak until a delegate from the Convention arrives to outlaw the entire group. Robespierre's men prepare to defend themselves, but they are outnumbered. When Robespierre falls, Evariste tries to commit suicide but fails. Henry's presence is appropriate as he has obviously been on the opposite side the entire time per his comments and actions. The Convention tends to Evariste's wounds because they will not allow any of Robespierre's accomplices to escape punishment, foreshadowing Evariste's execution at the guillotine.



Chapter 28 & Chapter 29

Chapter 28 & Chapter 29 Summary

In Chapter 28, Evariste wakes in horror as the rest of Paris celebrates the fall of Robespierre. The next day, Evariste is brought before the Tribunal along with 70 other outlaws, and he finds it odd to be on the other side of the platform. Citizens Remacle and Dupont identify Evariste and receive money, though they are too embarrassed to meet their former friend's eyes. The women shout at Evariste as the tumbril takes him to his execution at the Place de la Revolution. Evariste believes he dies a just death and that he deserves this fate because he betrayed the Republic by being too weak. He is overwhelmed with memories at the site of Amour Peintre. The windows are shut, but a woman's hand, wearing a silver ring, throws a red carnation toward Evariste. His body is still suffused with the charm of Elodie's farewell as Evariste sees the guillotine still dripping with blood.

In Chapter 29, five months later, in the winter, allegories are published about Robespierre, and Phillippe Desmahis brings an engraving of Robespierre to Citizen Jean Blaise. He also engraves some of Evariste Gamelin's drawings, and having seen some of Gamelin's painting, Desmahis notes that Gamelin could have been a genius if he had not taken to politics, but Jean Blaise argues that Evariste had the soul of a criminal. Julie enters the shop and asks for Elodie. Though she first felt distaste for her brother's mistress, Elodie gave Citizeness Gamelin refuge after Evariste's death, and Julie also found safety at Amour Peintre when she accepted Jean Blaise's affections. Julie finds her solace in the loss of her beloved only through her savage fury at the Jacobins. Rose Thevenin is also Elodie's constant companion. Rose was released from prison by Jean Blaise's intervention, but she soon took up with Citizen Montfort, a big army contractor. Desmahis accompanies Julie and Elodie on their visit to Rose as he is in love with Elodie who has half-decided to end his suffering. Rose receives her friends and leads them to the garden where she points to a place where she plans to erect a memorial to Brotteaux. She then takes them to Theatre Feydeau to watch a show with the most elegant citizens of Paris. The audience objects to a bust of Marat and throws it to the ground, and Elodie recognizes the dragoon, Henry, her first lover. After the performance, Desmahis escorts Elodie home and tells her that he loves her. Though she mocks him, Elodie allows Desmahis inside her apartments once they reach Amour Peintre, yielding to his kisses but pausing to cast her ring with Marat's image into the fire with tears in her eyes. She then returns to Phillippe's arms, refusing to allow her lover to leave until long after dark when she bids him adieu before falling back against her pillow, tired and happy.

Chapter 28 & Chapter 29 Analysis

In Chapter 28, the sentiments against Robespierre are obvious as the city celebrates his fall. The guillotine is returned to the Place de la Revolution so it is easy for the public



to witness Robespierre's execution, and the accused are dragged to their deaths among public joy. This is another example of the animosity the public bears toward Robespierre. In an odd turn of events, Evariste is tried by the Tribunal, fulfilling earlier foreshadowing of his demise, and the public shouts against him as they once shouted for him, as they have done for many other public figures in the Revolution. Ironically, Evariste believes that his fate results from being too weak. As he passes Amour Peintre, Elodie throws a red carnation toward the tumbril carrying Evariste, demonstrating her continuing love, and Evariste is touched by the gesture even as he approaches the guillotine, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing of Evariste's tragic, violent death.

In Chapter 29, the narrative skips ahead to five months after Evariste's death. At this point, Desmahis is engraving for Jean Blaise, and though Jean Blaise asks him to engrave some of Evariste's paintings, he insists that Evariste was a criminal, offended when Desmahis tries to defend his former friend by claiming he could have done well had he not become involved in politics, an observation that seems accurate. The narrator also explains what is going on with the surviving key characters. Elodie has taken care of Citizeness Gamelin and Julie. Julie has accepted Jean Blaise as a lover. Rose Thevenin has left Jean Blaise and continues to worship Brotteaux's kindness, planning to erect a memorial for him in her garden. At the theatre, the narrator acknowledges Henry as Elodie's first lover, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing and insinuations regarding this fact. After Julie and Elodie visit Rose, escorted by Desmahis who has fallen in love with Elodie, Desmahis tells Elodie of his love for her, though she already knows. She mocks him at first but still leads him inside her apartment. Before yielding to her new lover, she throws her ring from Evariste into the fire, effectively removing him completely from her heart and body before yielding to Desmahis. Her first physical encounter with Desmahis parallels her first encounter with Evariste, foreshadowing that their love affair may last as Desmahis does not have the political aspirations that Evariste did.



Characters

Evariste Gamelin

Evariste Gamelin is a young painter who worships the revolutionaries of the Jacobin cause. He becomes an ardent revolutionary, seeking justice for all. Evariste goes to the meeting place of the general assembly to vote, suggesting those who do not vote should be fined. Evariste returns to his fourth floor studio and bedroom in the Place Dauphine where he lives with his mother. He greets the elderly Citizen Brotteaux and assists him downstairs with his package. Evariste's studio is filled with scenes of gallantry from his days as a student, though he prefers to draw sketches of Liberty, Tyranny and so forth as a citizen of a free people; yet, times are hard for an artist as the French art once widely appreciated throughout Europe now finds no outlet to foreign countries. So, Evariste abandons his masterpieces to please the vulgar. He plans to design a pack of cards depicting Genius, Liberty and Equality in the place of the king, queen and knave, believing it will make his fortune. He did not join the army because it would have meant leaving his mother alone to starve. Evariste and his mother argue about their poverty and the remedies. When Evariste visits the printing shop of Citizen Jean Blaise that afternoon, he fixes his eyes on the bedroom window of Elodie, Blaise's daughter. He finds Elodie inside, and though he has not declared his love, his gaze alerts Elodie to his feelings.

She is plain but coquettish. She loves Evariste but finds him too reserved. She would marry him, yet her father would never approve of the poor, unknown artist. While she is not alarmed at the idea of a secret union, she knows Evariste has enough difficulty providing for his mother and himself, and since he has not yet mentioned his feelings or intentions, Elodie hopes to compel him to do so. Since he dislikes her embroidery design, she asks him to draw a pattern for her, insisting her pattern does not please her since it does not please him. Evariste's discussion of Antique beauty and his hatred of Fragonard is interrupted by the arrival of Citizen Blaise, but Blaise is unimpressed by Evariste's card design as he has already seen three packs of Revolutionary playing cards. He suggests Evariste should draw pretty girls as the French are tired of the Revolution but never tire of pretty girls. Evariste is outraged, causing Blaise to accuse him of living in a dream. Blaise is patriotic and a good Republican, proven by his deeds. Evariste leaves in a rage, thinking it is strange of Blaise to support the soldiers but arouse alarm and discontent in one of the country's defenders. Evariste has no doubts about the future of the country; though enthusiasm has obviously been replaced by indifference, this means good citizens must simply redouble their zeal and boldness in order to reawaken the people from their apathy. His courage is upheld by the thought of Elodie. Convincing himself that Desmahis will print his cards, Evariste visits Desmahis's home to find his friend is not home. Growing tired of waiting when night falls, Evariste takes his leave, and in the street, he sees a detachment of the National Guard escorting a cart carrying a man being taken to the guillotine. He notices Desmahis among the onlookers, but Desmahis pushes Evariste aside because he is busy following a marvelous young girl from the milliner's shop.



Evariste meets Elodie in *Alles des Veuves* and declares his love. After they talk for hours, Evariste is anguished as he feels he will never again know such hours of tenderness and forgetfulness. On the way home, Evariste passes a procession honoring Marat as a man is carted to his death, and he is happy that those plotting against Marat have achieved his triumph. After Elodie tells Evariste of her first seduction, he vows vengeance against the unknown man. When Evariste and Brotteaux wait in the queue at the bakers, Brotteaux defends the monk who is falsely accused of theft, and Evariste defends Brotteaux. Evariste buys the last loaf, but seeing a young mother unable to feed her child outside, he cuts his loaf in half and lays it at the young mother's feet before hurrying home to apologize to his mother for eating half of their bread on the way home. Citizeness Rochemaure visits Evariste to ask him to introduce her to Marat, and after talking to his mother, Rochemaure decides to arrange for Evariste to be appointed magistrate to sit on the Revolutionary Tribunal. As Evariste leads Citizeness Rochemaure toward Rue de Thionville, he is stupefied with grief when he learns Marat has just been assassinated by the aristocrats, and he goes to pay his last homage to Marat. On the evening of the Festival, Evariste buys a silver ring with Marat's relief on it and places it on Elodie's finger. When he learns he has been appointed magistrate, he accepts his duty to serve the Republic and exterminate her enemies. Evariste begins his duties on September 14th upon the completion of the Tribunal reorganization. Evariste's first formal act as a magistrate is visiting President Herman who disapproves of torture and the death penalty except when it pertains to crimes against national security. Evariste next presents himself to the Public Prosecutor, Citizen Fouquier. He is displeased to note how much the new magistrates resemble those of the old regime; in fact, both of these men had held offices in the old regime. After leaving the Public Prosecutor's office, Evariste runs into Phillippe Desmahis who praises the beauty of Citizeness Saint-Jorre. Evariste decides to attend a meeting of the Tribunal as an ordinary member of the public in order to better learn about the powers with which he has been invested. Evariste is certain the Tribunal needs to attack the two monsters tearing the nation apart: revolt and defeat. He is sworn in at the opening meeting of the reorganized Section where Citizen Beauvisage discusses the generals' betrayal in surrendering their armies to the enemy. Citizen Blaise calls on Evariste to invite him on his semi-annual excursion through the countryside where he invites artists to depict various scenes. Evariste enjoys the trip which allows him time with Elodie.

When he tries Marie-Adolphe Guillergues, Evariste notes there is no proof, fearing the man is innocent, and after seven vote guilty and eight vote innocent, they reconvene. When Evariste speaks out that there is no proof of the man's guilt, the majority of the votes declare the accused not guilty, and the audience applauds their verdict. Outside, Evariste is overcome by his own act of justice and humanity while Elodie flings herself into his arms and praises his nobility and generosity in saving the man. She leads Evariste to her apartment and into her bedroom, and night has fallen by the time Elodie releases him since her father will soon return. Evariste becomes increasingly blood-thirsty as he continues his role as magistrate. Most evenings, Evariste attends the Jacobin Club since he follows the doctrines of Robespierre since Marat's death. Powerful men who rule by the power of the spoken word attend these meetings; these builders of the new order use the guillotine as an instrument of their Reign of Terror. Evariste admires their vigilance, dogmatism and arts of governing. That day,



Robespierre delivers an eloquent attack against the enemies of the Republic, allowing Evariste to understand as he simplifies matters: Centralization means unity and safety while Federalism leads to chaos and damnation. Robespierre also enlightens Evariste regarding those who want to abolish wealth and poverty to establish a happy mediocrity for all as men try to undermine the Republic. The greatest revelation concerns the crimes and infamies of atheism. Evariste believes in God, but he has a vague concept of God and has even felt sympathy for persecuted atheists, but Robespierre now shows Evariste that atheism is a crime to deprive the unfortunate people of the consoling thought of a benevolent Providence that rewards them, the lack of hope thus leading them to immorality. Evariste swears enmity toward atheists, such as Brotteaux. In the following days, Evariste judges 20 people, sentencing them all to death. Evariste's honesty, modesty and devotion to his country sends many to the guillotine. There is no longer any need to seek out the guilty as victims freely offer themselves, many taking their own lives as "the fury to kill inspires a fury to die" (p. 153). Evariste becomes increasingly suspicious and alarmed as he learns the lessons of the Jacobins. His visits to Elodie now fill her with horror as he becomes more monstrous. Eventually, Evariste refuses to help his sister save her lover from execution, even insisting he would denounce her if he knew her whereabouts, forcing his mother to accept that he has become a monster. Evariste eventually sends Fortune de Chassagne, Brotteaux, Citizeness Rochemaure, Father Longuemare and Athenaias to the guillotine. He tries to leave Elodie because he is so despised, but she will not allow it. When Robespierre is accused, Evariste refuses to be a coward who hides in Elodie's room, instead attending the meeting of the General Council at Hotel de Ville where he is arrested. A few days later, he is executed.

Maurice Brotteaux

Maurice Brotteaux, a former aristocrat and Evariste's neighbor, is an atheist and an intellectual. While standing in line outside the bakers, Brotteaux defends the monk who is accused of theft. Arguing with Evariste about whether man is naturally good, Brotteaux insists "Reason is our guide, a light to show us our way; but if you make a divinity of it, it will blind you and lead you into crime" (p. 80). When Evariste acquires the position of magistrate, Brotteaux congratulates him, telling him his verdicts will be good if he judges from his heart but joking that throwing dice is the surest method in matters of justice. Brotteaux treats Evariste with surprised interest and reluctant deference though he scorns the Revolutionary Tribunal, yet he says enough that Evariste suspects the lack of patriotism behind his innuendos. When Citizen Blaise arrives to collect Evariste, he also invites Brotteaux to join their expedition. Dubois and Brotteaux discuss their individual visits to Rome. Rose Thevenin is drawn to Brotteaux who she sees as a surviving example of the generous, wealthy aristocrats. Citizeness Rochemaure visits Brotteaux, her former lover, and they discuss what will happen to them as they have become suspect. Her letter which Henry steals contains several of Brotteaux's comments. Brotteaux goes to Rue de la Loi with his dolls for the toy merchant, Citizen Caillon, who warns him to be careful as members of the Committee of Safety of the Section have declared Brotteaux's dolls to be anti-revolutionary since they mock National representatives. Shocked, Brotteaux protests the innocence of his dolls, but



Citizen Caillon insists the dolls be taken away. Brotteaux despairs because his dolls are the easiest of his vocations, so he decides to offer them to another toy merchant, Joly, the next day. On his way home, Brotteaux sees Father Longuemare by a stone post, exhausted with hunger and fatigue, and he offers him a place to stay in his own garret. Father Longuemare objects because he is suspect, but Brotteaux insists because he is also. Father Longuemare accepts Brotteaux's hospitality and food while telling of his trials since being turned out of his cloister. Brotteaux has suffered the same position, but he insists that Father Longuemare does not owe him any obligation as he has nothing better to do and he enjoys the pride as an atheist of feeling superior to the monk. Father Longuemare tells Brotteaux not to slander himself as Brotteaux is a better man than he except in the fact that he cannot love Father Longuemare because he does not know him while Father Longuemare loves Brotteaux more than himself as God demands it.

Brotteaux ponders the human condition while Father Longuemare attends chapel. He paints his dancing dolls until the monk returns, and after dinner, Brotteaux takes the dolls to Joly who orders two gross to begin with. Returning home, Brotteaux asks Father Longuemare to help make the dolls. As they discuss the madness of the Revolution, Brotteaux asks why God does not prevent such evils. Though he disagrees with theologians, he believes religion is necessary for the people; "he only desired that its ministers were philosophers instead of controversialists" (p. 159). Nine days after Father Longuemare moves in with Brotteaux, Brotteaux delivers his dolls to Joly, but on his way home, a girl throws herself into his arms and begs him to hide her as the Revolutionary Committee is in her rooms because she yelled "Vive le Roi!" Though she never liked the King, these lot are wicked and cruel to poor girls. The sixteen-year-old girl, Athenais, has a servant aunt in Palaiseau who will take her in so Brotteaux takes her home and explains the situation to Father Longuemare who does not object to sharing the room with the prostitute. Since the monk has left for prayers by the time Athenais wakes, she fears he has gone to denounce her, but Brotteaux assures her that the madman is honest. Athenais chides him for calling the monk a madman because of his religion as she frequently prays that God will forgive her sins. After mending her clothes, Athenais is ready to repay Brotteaux's kindness in whatever way he asks, but she finds it more becoming that he asks for nothing and even gives her coach fare to reach Palaiseau. When delegates of the Committee of General Safety search for the Monsieur des Ilettes of Citizeness Rochemaure's letter, they are directed to Brotteaux who is arrested and imprisoned.

While Brotteaux is reading in the courtyard one warm evening, he hears a woman's voice calling him and is shocked to see Rose Thevenin who has been denounced as a Royalist and accused of conspiring to help the Queen escape. She is sure her powerful friends will free her and then she will have them free Brotteaux also, but Brotteaux begs her to let herself be forgotten because "in that only lies safety" (page 203). He insists that she cannot explain herself to the magistrates because things do not understand explanations, but he will die happy knowing he has saved her life if she heeds his warning. Rose agrees but objects to Brotteaux speaking of death. He argues his life is finished. She knows he is not indifferent to her and offers to do or be for him whatever he wants. They kiss through the iron railings. At his trial, Brotteaux sits in the place of honor with Mme. Rochemaure, Father Longuemare and Athenais next to him along with



the other accused, totaling 49. The accusation is read, outlining their supposed plot to slaughter Representatives, and Brotteaux is listed as the most pernicious article, claiming he was living in concubinage with a prostitute and preached atheism. Rochemaure is accused of corresponding with foreign agents and aiding Brotteaux, Father Longuemare is accused of a long career of treasonous acts, and Athenais is said to represent the greatest cause of public immorality as a prostitute; thus, the death penalty is demanded for all. Brotteaux denies the charges, Father Longuemare leaves himself in the hands of God, and Athenais verbally abuses the President, insisting Brotteaux has never done anything but good to her knowledge. The magistrates deliberate and unanimously vote guilty, Evariste insisting their punishment is necessary for the safety of the nation. The executions will occur that same day at Barrier de Trone Renverse. Brotteaux is gripped with despair and cannot leave this life without regret, but when Father Longuemare suggests he does not fear death though he is less brave because he sees the light that Brotteaux cannot, Brotteaux argues that he has simply enjoyed life more. Added to the tumbril, Mme. Rochemaure asks Father Longuemare for absolution before shouting "Vive le Roi!" Father Longuemare asks Brotteaux to pray for him, and Brotteaux is tranquil as the cart drives off, though he is filled with regret for the light of day. Later, Rose Thevenin decides to erect a memorial to Brotteaux in her garden.

Elodie Blaise

Elodie Blaise is the daughter of Citizen Jean Blaise and the object of Evariste Gamelin's affections. She is plain but coquettish, loving Evariste but finding him too reserved. She would marry him, yet her father would never approve of the poor, unknown artist. While she is not alarmed at the idea of a secret union, she knows Evariste has enough difficulty providing for his mother and himself, and since he has not yet mentioned his feelings or intentions, Elodie hopes to compel him to do so. She meets Evariste a week after his argument with her father in Allee des Veuves. She is displeased by his determination to avoid her father, but she arranged this rendezvous in order to charm him. Arriving early, Evariste observes the passersby as he waits, but he rushes toward Elodie when she jumps from a carriage. Elodie is upset by Evariste's letter, and she assures him that her father bears him no malice, insisting that she returns Evariste's feelings for her. Encouraged, Evariste confesses his love which Elodie quickly reciprocates. Exultant in his triumph, Evariste talks to Elodie about themselves, forgetting all else until she decides to leave since there is no advantage in staying any longer. When she meets him a month later at Luxembourg Gardens, she tells him of her first lover, hoping to persuade Evariste to agree to a secret liaison. At Champ de la Federation on the night before the Festival, Evariste buys a silver ring with Marat's head in relief and places it on Elodie's finger. Elodie accompanies her father and his artists on their trip through the country.

After Evariste judges in his first trial, Elodie flings herself into his arms and praises his nobility and generosity in saving the man. She leads Evariste to her apartment and into her bedroom, and night has fallen by the time Elodie releases him since her father will soon return. As he becomes more monstrous, Elodie fears and adores Evariste as they make love all night long. Elodie denies knowing Maubel when Evariste questions her,



and she accuses him of being a monster when he sends the young man to an unjust death. When Elodie meets Evariste in the Garden of the Tuileries, Evariste explains he has asked her to meet him in order to say goodbye forever. He can no longer accept her love because he has devoted his life to his country and will be despised so it is impossible for him to love anyone. Elodie objects, though she knows he is right. Evariste insists he no longer belongs to humanity for the sake of his country and begs her to bury his name in eternal silence if she loves him. Grabbing a child, Evariste tells the boy that he is cruel and steeped in blood so the child may be kind and happy; he will owe his innocence to Evariste though he will curse Evariste's name. When Evariste rushes off, Elodie chases after him, begging him to send her to the guillotine. After Robespierre is accused, Elodie begs Evariste to come to her instead of going to the Hotel de Ville, but Evariste refuses to be a coward. Elodie throws a red carnation toward Evariste as he is carted to his execution, and five months later, she accepts Desmahis as her lover.

Father Louis de Longuemare

Father Louis de Longuemare is a monk of the Order of the Barnabites, though he was forced to leave the convent when it was taken for the headquarters of Section Pont-Neuf. Brotteaux first meets Father Longuemare while waiting at the bakers when the monk is falsely accused of being a thief. Later, Brotteaux sees Father Longuemare by a stone post, exhausted with hunger and fatigue, and he offers him a place to stay in his own garret. Father Longuemare objects because he is suspect, but Brotteaux insists because he is also. Father Longuemare accepts Brotteaux's hospitality and food while telling of his trials since being turned out of his cloister. Brotteaux has suffered the same position, but he insists that Father Longuemare does not owe him any obligation as he has nothing better to do and he enjoys the pride as an atheist of feeling superior to the monk. Father Longuemare tells Brotteaux not to slander himself as Brotteaux is a better man than he except in the fact that he cannot love Father Longuemare because he does not know him while Father Longuemare loves Brotteaux more than himself as God demands it. Father Longuemare prays before going to sleep peacefully. When Brotteaux is arrested, Father Longuemare is also taken away because he fails to produce a certificate of citizenship. Brotteaux pays for Longuemare to join him in the more lush prisoners' quarters rather than being subjected to the dungeon where thieves and murderers are held. At their trial, Father Longuemare is accused of a long career of treasonous acts, and he is taken to the guillotine along with Brotteaux, Citizeness Rochemaure, and Athenais.

Citizeness Rochemaure

Citizeness Rochemaure is a lady who visits Evariste to procure an introduction to Marat. She decides to arrange for Evariste to be appointed magistrate to sit on the Revolutionary Tribunal. Citizeness Rochemaure finds his gratitude cold; however, she counts on binding Evariste to her and securing a friend at court for the day she needs one as she sends many letters abroad which is always suspect. Citizeness



Rochemaure visits Evariste on September 7th to solicit help for her friend denounced as a suspect, but she encounters her former lover, Brotteaux, who invites her to his garret. She is sorrowfully surprised by his cramped living arrangements, but though their conversation is friendly and gracious, her thoughts are elsewhere. The Revolution has been pleasurable for Citizeness Rochemaure, but lately it has been a source of anxiety as many of her acquaintances have gone into hiding, her lover Morhardt is under arrest and she is suspect herself. She asks Brotteaux what will happen to them, and he offers several suggestions before she departs. Later, Henry pays an uninvited visit to Citizeness Rochemaure as she seals an envelope to Citizen Rauline at Vernon. She fears her lover's discretion while Henry is irritated by falling in her favor. When he tells her that he is leaving to join the army, she congratulates him because she is expecting the arrival of a new admirer more to her tastes and more likely to be useful. While Citizeness Rochemaure retires to her dressing room, Henry steals the letter from her writing desk which contains information about the Queen, Rose Thevenin and the Revolutionary Tribunal, in addition to comments by Brotteaux. Henry takes the letter to the antechamber of the Committee of General Safety. This letter leads to the arrest and execution of Brotteaux and Citizeness Rochemaure. Rochemaure is accused of corresponding with foreign agents and aiding Brotteaux, and on the way to her execution, she asks Father Longuemare for absolution before shouting "Vive le Roi!"

Henry

Henry is a young dragoon who is the lover of Citizeness Rochemaure as well as the first lover of Elodie. He congratulates Evariste on his new position at Citizeness Rochemaure's order, though he does not have much faith in the Revolutionary Tribunal. Later, Henry pays an uninvited visit to Citizeness Rochemaure as she seals an envelope to Citizen Rauline at Vernon. She fears her lover's discretion while Henry is irritated by falling in her favor. When he tells her that he is leaving to join the army, she congratulates him because she is expecting the arrival of a new admirer more to her tastes and more likely to be useful. While Citizeness Rochemaure retires to her dressing room, Henry steals the letter from her writing desk which contains information about the Queen, Rose Thevenin and the Revolutionary Tribunal, in addition to comments by Brotteaux. Henry takes the letter to the antechamber of the Committee of General Safety. After Robespierre and his accomplices are arrested, Henry shouts "the tyrant is no more." His slaves are broken! The Revolution can continue in majesty and terror" (p. 237)

Robespierre

Robespierre is a French revolutionary known as the Incorruptible whose philosophy Evariste subscribes to after Marat's death. Robespierre delivers an eloquent attack against the enemies of the Republic, allowing Evariste to understand as he simplifies matters: Centralization means unity and safety while Federalism leads to chaos and damnation. Robespierre also enlightens Evariste regarding those who want to abolish wealth and poverty to establish a happy mediocrity for all as men try to undermine the



Republic. The greatest revelation concerns the crimes and infamies of atheism. Evariste believes in God, but he has a vague concept of God and has even felt sympathy for persecuted atheists, but Robespierre now shows Evariste that atheism is a crime to deprive the unfortunate people of the consoling thought of a benevolent Providence that rewards them, the lack of hope thus leading them to immorality. Robespierre marches up the mountain suddenly piled in Garden of the Tuileries and proclaims the God of Rousseau to the crowds of Republicans, allowing Evariste to see the joyful future where "at last we shall be happy, pure and innocent, if the traitorous scoundrels permit it" (p. 212). When Robespierre hesitates to denounce 60 conspirators, he is accused. He and his council are decreed as outlaws and arrested by the troops of the Convention. Robespierre is executed at the guillotine.

Julie Gamelin

Julie Gamelin is Evariste's sister. She leaves France with her lover, Fortune de Chassagne, and when she returns and her lover is arrested, she turns to her brother who refuses to help her. Julie often dresses as a boy. She visits Luxembourg Gardens daily during Fortune's imprisonment so she can communicate with him, and she tries to bribe a judge to rule in Fortune's favor by sleeping with him by the judge mockingly tells her that the Revolutionary Tribunal is always fair after using her. After Evariste condemns Fortune to death, Julie spits in her brother's face outside of the court. Once Evariste is executed, Julie becomes friends with Elodie and accepts the affection of Jean Blaise. Julie finds her solace in the loss of her beloved only through her savage fury at the Jacobins.

Jean Blaise

Jean Blaise is a printseller and Elodie's father. He gets into an argument with Evariste at the beginning of the novel, but he decides to cultivate his friendship with Evariste after Evariste is appointed a magistrate of the Revolutionary Tribunal since Jean Blaise was recently denounced for fraud, so he invites Evariste on an excursion to the countryside where he often invites artists to paint various scenes. Later, Jean Blaise arranges for his lover, Rose Thevenin, to be released from prison, but when she leaves him for Citizen Montfort, he takes Julie Gamelin as a lover. Jean Blaise commissions Desmahis to engrave several of Evariste's paintings after Evariste's execution.

Citizeness Gamelin

Citizeness Gamelin is Evariste's mother. She laments their poverty, and when she mentions this to Citizeness Rochemaure, Citizeness Rochemaure determines to acquire a position on the Revolutionary Tribunal for Evariste. When Julie visits her mother to ask Evariste for help freeing her lover, Mme. Gamelin decides to talk to her son in her daughter's behalf, but when Evariste insists he would denounce his sister if he knew her



whereabouts, Citizeness Gamelin is forced to face the fact that her son has become a monster.

Philippe Desmahis

Philippe Desmahis is an engraver and a friend of Evariste. He is constantly chasing women. During his expedition to the country with Jean Blaise and the other artists, he sleeps with the girl Tronche. Desmahis survives the Reign of Terror and becomes an engraver for Jean Blaise, engraving some of Evariste's paintings even. Five months after Evariste's death, Desmahis confesses his love to Elodie, and she takes him as a lover.

Fortune de Chassagne

Fortune de Chassagne is Julie Gamelin's lover. He is an aristocrat who flees France, with Julie, during the French Revolution. When they return, Fortune is recognized as an aristocrat and arrested. Julie plans to turn to her brother for help, but Evariste tells his mother that he would denounce his sister if he knew where she was. Julie tries to bribe a judge to rule in Fortune's favor by sleeping with him, but the judge uses her and assures her the Revolutionary Tribunal will judge Fortune fairly. During Fortune's trial, Evariste proclaims him guilty, and Julie spits in Evariste's face outside the courtroom. Julie laments Fortune's death, giving reign to her grief by attacking Jacobins.

Marat

Marat is a French revolutionary who Evariste worships at the beginning of the novel. Citizeness Rochemaure seeks Evariste out to introduce her to Marat, but on their way to visit Marat, Evariste is distraught to learn that Marat has been assassinated.

Athenais

Athenais is a prostitute who Brotteaux protects when her apartments are being searched after she was caught yelling "vive le Roi" in the streets. She returns to Paris to thank Brotteaux for saving her, and finding him being arrested, she abuses his arrestors, leading to her own arrest and eventually her execution.



Objects/Places

Paris, France

Paris, France is the main setting of "The Gods Will Have Blood" where the totality of the novel takes place.

Section Pont-Neuf

Section Pont-Neuf is the portion of Paris where this novel occurs. This is where Evariste Gamelin and the other characters live and where Evariste serves as a magistrate on the Revolutionary Tribunal.

Place Dauphine

Evariste lives in the Place Dauphine with his mother in a fourth floor studio and bedroom.

Alles des Veuves

Evariste meets Elodie on a bench in Alles de Veuves after he has not visited Amour Peintre in a week, and this is where Elodie convinces Evariste to reveal his love for her.

Amour Peintre

Amour Peintre is the small printing shop owned by Citizen Jean Blaise. His daughter, Elodie, also lives here. Evariste avoids the shop for some time after arguing with Jean Blaise, but when he takes Elodie as a lover, he frequents her apartments above the shop. On the way to his execution, Evariste is moved when Elodie throws a red carnation toward him from her window. After Evariste's death, Phillippe Desmahis also attends Elodie's physical needs in her apartments above Amour Peintre.

Luxembourg Gardens

Elodie meets Evariste at Luxembourg Gardens a month after convincing him to reveal his feelings, and at this time, she tells him about her former lover in her attempt to convince him to yield to a secret liaison. Later, Julie visits Luxembourg Gardens every day when her lover, Fortune Chassagne, is imprisoned at the Luxembourg.



Champ de la Federation

Elodie and Evariste stroll around Champ de la Federation on the evening of the Festival as preparations are made to welcome the Deputies from the Primary Assemblies which accepted the Constitution and rejected Federalism, making it inevitable that the Republic will now conquer all of her enemies.

Plain of Longjumeau

Jean Blaise takes artists across the Plain of Longjumeau to paint scenes of nature. His expedition includes Evariste, Brotteaux, Desmahis, Phillippe Dubois, Elodie, Citizeness Hasard, and Citizeness Thevenin.

L'Auberg de la Cloche in Orangis

L'Auberg de la Cloche in Orangis is the inn where Jean Blaise and his company of artists take lodging for the night when they travel to the countryside to paint nature and various buildings. Jean Blaise asks his artists to paint the inn as well because he feels its dilapidated condition gives it an air of romance.

Place de la Revolution

The guillotine is placed in the Place de la Revolution until it is removed during the Reign of Terror when citizens do not wish to see or hear of the bloody instrument. After the fall of Robespierre, it is returned to the Place de la Revolution so it is easy for the public to witness his execution. Evariste is also executed here.

Guillotine

The guillotine is the chosen instrument of death for those accused of acts against France during Robespierre's Reign of Terror. It contains a sharp blade, dropped to behead those executed by this means.

The Luxembourg

The Luxembourg is a prison in Paris where many were incarcerated during the Reign of Terror. Fortune de Chassagne is taken here after his arrest, but Brotteaux is taken to the Conciergerie since there is no room at the Luxembourg.



Conciergerie

Conciergerie is another prison in Paris where Brotteaux is incarcerated after his arrest as there is no room at the Luxembourg.

Garden of the Tuileries

Robespierre marches up the mountain suddenly piled in Garden of the Tuileries and proclaims the God of Rousseau to the crowds of Republicans, allowing Evariste to see the joyful future where "at last we shall be happy, pure and innocent, if the traitorous scoundrels permit it" (page 212). Later, Evariste meets Elodie at the Garden of the Tuileries to tell her that he has come to say goodbye to her forever. He can no longer accept her love because he has devoted his life to his country and will be despised so it is impossible for him to love anyone.

Hotel de Ville

After Robespierre's arrest, Evariste is ordered to present himself to sit on the General Council at Hotel de Ville. He attends, despite Elodie's warning that he will be throwing his life away. While they listen to Robespierre speak, a delegate from the Convention arrives to read a decree outlawing those in attendance. Troops of the Convention attack and arrest those gathered in Hotel de Ville in order to prepare them for execution.



Themes

Justice

One of the primary themes in "The Gods Will Have Blood" is the concept of justice. Evariste Gamelin's concept of justice is largely influenced by his Jacobin beliefs. In the very first chapter, his harsh attitude toward punishment is evidenced when he suggests fining citizens who do not vote. Concerning the cost of food, Evariste insists taxation is the remedy, but his mother objects that there is no money. He silences her because the Revolution will make the entire human race happy forever, meaning their short-lived hardships will not matter. On the way home from his first rendezvous with Elodie, Evariste passes a procession honoring Marat as a man is carted to his death, and he is happy that those plotting against Marat have achieved his triumph. Later, he is ready to condemn Elodie when she admits to having taken a lover in the past, but forgiving her since she believes men are naturally honest, he instead vows vengeance against her unknown seducer. When a girl believes her purse has been stolen outside of the bakery, the crowd is ready to condemn and execute the monk, Father Longuemare, as well as Brotteaux and Evariste for defending him, until the girl finds her purse. When Citizen Rochemaure arranges for Evariste to be accepted as a magistrate on the Revolutionary Tribunal, he gravely accepts his duty to serve the Republic and exterminate her enemies. Evariste begins his duties on September 14th upon the completion of the Tribunal reorganization. Evariste's first formal act as a magistrate is visiting President Herman who disapproves of torture and the death penalty except when it pertains to crimes against national security. Evariste next presents himself to the Public Prosecutor, Citizen Fouquier. He is sworn in at the opening meeting of the reorganized Section where Citizen Beauvisage discusses the generals' betrayal in surrendering their armies to the enemy. When the accused is brought in and tried during Evariste's first sitting on the Tribunal, Evariste notes there is no proof, fearing the man is innocent, and after seven vote guilty and eight vote innocent, they reconvene. When Evariste speaks out that there is no proof of the man's guilt, the majority of the votes declare the accused not guilty, and the audience applauds their verdict. Outside, Evariste is overcome by his own act of justice and humanity while Elodie flings herself into his arms and praises his nobility and generosity in saving the man, rewarding his actions in her bedchamber.

As the Tribunal becomes concerned when the armies of the Coalition join forces, Evariste tries several accused individuals, sentencing them all to death for treason and anti-revolutionary sentiments. He begins to feel that punishment is its own virtue and merit. Since Marat's death, Evariste attends Jacobin meetings nearly every evening, admiring their vigilance, dogmatism and arts of governing. That day, Robespierre delivers an eloquent attack against the enemies of the Republic, allowing Evariste to understand as he simplifies matters: Centralization means unity and safety while Federalism leads to chaos and damnation. Robespierre also enlightens Evariste regarding those who want to abolish wealth and poverty to establish a happy mediocrity for all as men try to undermine the Republic. The greatest revelation concerns the crimes and infamies of atheism. Evariste believes in God, but he has a vague concept



of God and has even felt sympathy for persecuted atheists, but Robespierre now shows Evariste that atheism is a crime to deprive the unfortunate people of the consoling thought of a benevolent Providence that rewards them, the lack of hope thus leading them to immorality. Evariste swears enmity toward atheists, such as Brotteaux. In the following days, Evariste judges 20 people, sentencing them all to death. The next week, he and his Section beheads 45 men and 18 women, drawing no distinction between men and women. As the novel progresses, Evariste's blood-thirsty nature becomes increasingly worse as he condemns his sister's lover and the man he suspects of being Elodie's first seducer, though she has never met the young émigré. He sits in judgment against Brotteaux, Rochemaure, Father Longuemare and Athenais, condemning them all to death. When he notes that Robespierre is ready to end the Reign of Terror, he vows to redouble his vigilance and severity, condemning all enemies quickly so they can move onto the Age of Fraternity, feeling that more bloodshed will lead to peace. Eventually, Robespierre and his accomplices, including Evariste, are condemned to death. On the way to the guillotine, Evariste feels that he deserves this end because he failed the Republic by being too weak and lenient.

Love

A recurring theme in "The Gods Will Have Blood" is the theme of love. Many of the characters experience love in varying degrees and circumstances. The main love story going on in this novel is that between Evariste and Elodie, but there are several other romances that play a role in the narrative. Evariste finds Elodie inside her father's store, Amour Peintre, and though he has not declared his love, his gaze alerts Elodie to his feelings which she reciprocates unbeknownst to Evariste. A week later, Evariste waits for Elodie on a bench in Alles des Veuves at 10 A. M. Arriving early, Evariste observes the passersby as he waits, but he rushes toward Elodie when she jumps from a carriage. Elodie is upset by Evariste's letter, and she assures him that her father bears him no malice, insisting that she returns Evariste's feelings for her. Encouraged, Evariste confesses his love which Elodie quickly reciprocates. Exultant in his triumph, Evariste talks to Elodie about themselves, forgetting all else until she decides to leave since there is no advantage in staying any longer. Evariste meets Elodie at Luxembourg Gardens a month later. While Evariste acts honorably with reserved intimacy, Elodie hopes to persuade him to agree to a secret liaison. When she confesses to yielding to a former lover's advances, Evariste is ready to condemn her, but he softens when Elodie explains her belief that men are naturally honest. Though Elodie refuses to reveal her seducer's identity, based on Elodie's half-truths, Evariste draws the conclusion that her lover was an aristocrat and claims he will avenge her lover's infamy with his own love. They part in the Place de la Nation after swearing their eternal love. Elodie and Evariste stroll around Champ de la Federation on the evening of the Festival as preparations are made to welcome the Deputies from the Primary Assemblies which accepted the Constitution and rejected Federalism, making it inevitable that the Republic will now conquer all of her enemies. Elodie has not seen Evariste in three days during which her father was denounced for defrauding the army of supplies, and Evariste is silent as she expresses her fear that her father would be arrested. He buys a silver ring with Marat's head in relief on it and places it on Elodie's



finger. At the inn in Orangis, Elodie's way of cutting bread reminds Evariste of a book in which young Werther falls in love with Charlotte after seeing her cut bread gracefully; the novel ends with the violent death of Werther. After Evariste's first judgment, Elodie flings herself into his arms and praises his nobility and generosity in saving the man. She leads Evariste to her apartment and into her bedroom, and night has fallen by the time Elodie releases him since her father will soon return. Eventually, Evariste believes he has found Elodie's first lover in a man named Maubel. Though Elodie insists she does not know the young émigré, she allows Evariste to stay focused on his false trail so he does not learn the truth about her first lover. Though the magistrates are ready to acquit Maubel, Evariste presses for a conviction, and Elodie is furious that he sent the innocent young man to his death but is quickly overcome with desire. Near the novel's end, Evariste meets Elodie to say goodbye forever. He can no longer accept her love because he has devoted his life to his country and will be despised so it is impossible for him to love anyone. Elodie objects, though she knows he is right. Evariste insists he no longer belongs to humanity for the sake of his country and begs her to bury his name in eternal silence if she loves him. When Evariste rushes off, Elodie chases after him, begging him to send her to the guillotine. Elodie tries to dissuade Evariste from going to the Hotel de Ville when he is summoned after Robespierre is denounced, but he will not heed her warning. On the way to his execution, Evariste is overwhelmed with memories at the site of Amour Peintre. The windows are shut, but a woman's hand, wearing a silver ring, throws a red carnation toward Evariste. His body is still suffused with the charm of Elodie's farewell as Evariste sees the guillotine still dripping with blood.

When Desmahis first appears, he cannot be bothered with talking to Evariste because he is busy chasing a beautiful young girl. In Orangis, Desmahis is stunned by the whimsical example of nature's oddness in the girl Tronche, a maiden with thick calves and ankles who tends the stables. During the excursion, Desmahis is in a thoughtful mood because he is ardently in love with the three women at the moment, but he decides to whisper his most ardent words to Citizeness Hasard who does not seem indifferent. When they part for the night, he passes her a note begging her to meet him in the garret above the ladies' room, but when he finds Tronche in the garret, he throws himself on her as she feigns sleep to relieve her scruples in the matter. After Evariste's death, Desmahis falls in love with Elodie. After the performance, Desmahis escorts Elodie home and tells her that he loves her. Though she mocks him, Elodie allows Desmahis inside her apartments once they reach Amour Peintre, yielding to his kisses but pausing to cast her ring with Marat's image into the fire with tears in her eyes. She then returns to Phillippe's arms, refusing to allow her lover to leave until long after dark when she bids him adieu before falling back against her pillow, tired and happy. On the excursion through the country, Rose Thevenin accompanies Jean Blaise and his artists, and it is noted that she is on the "friendliest terms" with him. While imprisoned, Rose sees Brotteaux and offers to be whatever he wants her to be. Five months after Evariste's execution, Rose has become the lover of Citizen Montfort, a big army contractor.

When Citizeness Rochemaure is first introduced, she appears with her young lover, Henry, a dragoon who is later revealed to have been Elodie's first lover. When Henry appears uninvited at her home later in the novel, she is eager to get rid of him because



she is awaiting a more desirable admirer. She has come to distrust Henry's discretion, a wise decision as he steals her letter and takes it to the Committee of General Safety. Citizeness Rochemaure is also noted to have been one of Brotteaux's lovers in the past. Julie returns home to seek Evariste's help in freeing her lover, Fortune de Chassagne, who has been taken to Luxembourg Prison, but though her mother speaks to Evariste, he refuses to help his sister, threatening to denounce her if he learns her location. Julie visits Luxembourg Gardens every day to sign to her lover when he appears in the window as other women do. Determining to beg for Fortune's life, Julie dresses in women's clothes and visits the judge Renaudin in Rue Mazarine, claiming to be Fortune's sister and pleading for the judge's intervention. Renaudin promises that what is necessary will be done, acting brutally and rapidly as he takes Julie who is willing to do anything to save Fortune; however, the look on Renaudin's face afterwards shows that her sacrifice was useless as he claims the law will have its way and insists the Revolutionary Tribunal is always just. Julie rushes off, weeping with rage and sorrow. The next day in Luxembourg Gardens, sentinels are posted to prevent anyone from communicating with the prisoners. There have been talks of plots in the prison, and the "women were being blamed for by meeting in the Gardens they roused people's pity for aristocrats and traitors" (page 211). Evariste condemns Fortune to death. Julie becomes Jean Blaise's lover, though she still mourns for Fortune.

Betrayal

A major theme in this novel is betrayal which takes many forms throughout "The Gods Will Have Blood". Evariste's strong political affiliations and beliefs cause him to betray many of those closest to him, but he is not the only character willing to betray his friends. Evariste is devastated when he learns that Marat has been assassinated. Citizeness Rochemaure's decision to establish Evariste as a magistrate is not exactly betrayal, but her reasons for it are selfish as she intends to secure a friend at court for the day she needs it. Citizeness Rochemaure visits Evariste on September 7th to solicit help for her friend denounced as a suspect, but she encounters her former lover, Brotteaux, who invites her to his garret. Rochemaure has lately been anxious about the Revolution as her lover has been arrested and she is suspect. She wonders what will happen to her before leaving Brotteaux's garret. Later, she is preparing for a new admirer's arrival when Henry visits unexpectedly. Doubting Henry's discretion, Rochemaure hides the letter in her writing desk, but when she leaves the room to get dressed, Henry steals it and takes it to the Committee of General Safety since it contains comments about the Queen, the Revolutionary Tribunal, Rose Thevenin and Brotteaux. This betrayal eventually leads to the arrests and executions of Rochemaure, Brotteaux, Father Longuemare and Athenais.

Learning much from Jacobin meetings, Evariste believes in God, but he has a vague concept of God and has even felt sympathy for persecuted atheists, but Robespierre now shows Evariste that atheism is a crime to deprive the unfortunate people of the consoling thought of a benevolent Providence that rewards them, the lack of hope thus leading them to immorality. Evariste swears enmity toward atheists, such as Brotteaux. Evariste's judgments become more cruel and prone to a deadly result. Brotteaux



shelters Athenais from the Revolutionary Committee, but she fears Father Longuemare has gone to denounce her the next morning when she wakes to find him absent; Brotteaux assures her that the monk is honest. Shortly after the execution of the Queen, the Twenty-one come up for trial; despite their faults, they were once the first and most brilliant leaders of the Revolution, and the magistrates and the audience once extolled their talents and virtues, though they no longer remember this. Though Evariste once worshipped them, any trace of worship he now remembers serves "only to increase their monstrosity in deceiving such fine citizens as himself" (p.169). When Citizeness Gamelin mentions seeing Julie, Evariste orders her to tell him no more because he does not want to kill his sister and her lover. He furthermore tells his mother that he would denounce Julie if he knew where she was. His mother is distraught to realize her son has become a monster. He ultimately condemns Fortune to death. Evariste is devastated when he learns that some members of the Tribunal are plotting against Robespierre, and this ultimately leads to the demise of Robespierre and his accomplices, including Evariste. On the way to his execution, Evariste believes he dies a just death and that he deserves this fate because he betrayed the Republic by being too weak.

Style

Point of View

The narrator in "The Gods Will Have Blood" is a third-person narrator. The narrator is omniscient and reliable. This is proven by the fact that the narrator has access to the thoughts and feelings of most, if not all, of the characters. He also has knowledge of the events occurring in the actual scenes he describes as well as in other places which he frequently alludes to. The narrator's claims are never contradicted so it is assumed that the narrator is reliable. This form of narrator is important to this particular novel as it allows him to provide the reader with various thoughts and opinions about the Revolution and the Reign of Terror. He is able to present the reasons that certain individuals engage in bloody activities in addition to the general public's feelings about these executions.

The novel is written using a distribution of approximately three-quarters exposition and one-quarter dialogue. This is useful as it allows the focus to remain more on the generic than on the specific characters. The characters serve only to keep the action going and to provide occasional commentary on events and political situations. Generally, the characters can be seen as types more than actual individuals. The viewpoint of this novel varies between several characters. Evariste Gamelin is the most common viewpoint, but the novel's action is also seen through the eyes of Maurice Brotteaux, Julie Gamelin, Elodie Blais, Citizeness Rochemaure, and Henry.

Setting

This novel is set in the real world, in France during the late 18th century which was the time of the French Revolution, specifically the Reign of Terror. The characters are all French, but they represent opposing political factions as the Republic is being established through the bloody dictatorship of Robespierre and the Jacobins. The characters are generally politicians, but the Jacobins in power view the aristocrats as enemies as well as anyone who opposes the establishment of the Republic.

Paris, France is the main setting of "The Gods Will Have Blood" where the totality of the novel takes place. Section Pont-Neuf is the portion of Paris where this novel occurs. This is where Evariste Gamelin and the other characters live and where Evariste serves as a magistrate on the Revolutionary Tribunal. Evariste lives in the Place Dauphine with his mother in a fourth floor studio and bedroom. Evariste meets Elodie on a bench in Alles de Veuves after he has not visited Amour Peintre in a week, and this is where Elodie convinces Evariste to reveal his love for her. Amour Peintre is the small printing shop owned by Citizen Jean Blaise. His daughter, Elodie, also lives here. Evariste avoids the shop for some time after arguing with Jean Blaise, but when he takes Elodie as a lover, he frequents her apartments above the shop. On the way to his execution, Evariste is moved when Elodie throws a red carnation toward him from her window.



After Evariste's death, Phillippe Desmahis also attends Elodie's physical needs in her apartments above Amour Peintre. Elodie meets Evariste at Luxembourg Gardens a month after convincing him to reveal his feelings, and at this time, she tells him about her former lover in her attempt to convince him to yield to a secret liaison. Later, Julie visits Luxembourg Gardens every day when her lover, Fortune Chassagne, is imprisoned at the Luxembourg. Elodie and Evariste stroll around Champ de la Federation on the evening of the Festival as preparations are made to welcome the Deputies from the Primary Assemblies which accepted the Constitution and rejected Federalism, making it inevitable that the Republic will now conquer all of her enemies. Jean Blaise takes artists across the Plain of Longjumeau to paint scenes of nature. His expedition includes Evariste, Brotteaux, Desmahis, Phillippe Dubois, Elodie, Citizeness Hasard and Citizeness Thevenin. L'Auberg de la Cloche in Orangis is the inn where Jean Blaise and his company of artists take lodging for the night when they travel to the countryside to paint nature and various buildings. Jean Blaise asks his artists to paint the inn as well because he feels its dilapidated condition gives it an air of romance.

The guillotine is placed in the Place de la Revolution until it is removed during the Reign of Terror when citizens do not wish to see or hear of the bloody instrument. After the fall of Robespierre, it is returned to the Place de la Revolution so it is easy for the public to witness his execution. Evariste is also executed here. The guillotine is the chosen instrument of death for those accused of acts against France during Robespierre's Reign of Terror. It contains a sharp blade, dropped to behead those executed by this means. The Luxembourg is a prison in Paris where many were incarcerated during the Reign of Terror. Fortune de Chassagne is taken here after his arrest, but Brotteaux is taken to the Conciergerie since there is no room at the Luxembourg. Conciergerie is another prison in Paris where Brotteaux is incarcerated after his arrest as there is no room at the Luxembourg. Robespierre marches up the mountain suddenly piled in Garden of the Tuileries and proclaims the God of Rousseau to the crowds of Republicans, allowing Evariste to see the joyful future where "at last we shall be happy, pure and innocent, if the traitorous scoundrels permit it" (page 212). Later, Evariste meets Elodie at the Garden of the Tuileries to tell her that he has come to say goodbye to her forever. He can no longer accept her love because he has devoted his life to his country and will be despised so it is impossible for him to love anyone. After Robespierre's arrest, Evariste is ordered to present himself to sit on the General Council at Hotel de Ville. He attends, despite Elodie's warning that he will be throwing his life away. While they listen to Robespierre speak, a delegate from the Convention arrives to read a decree outlawing those in attendance. Troops of the Convention attack and arrest those gathered in Hotel de Ville in order to prepare them for execution.

Language and Meaning

The language used in this novel tends to be stiff and formal, as appropriate both for the time it represents and for the time it was written. The novel was originally written in 1912 in French, but it has since been translated into English, likely losing some of its original flavor as frequently happens with translations. It is also possible that the translation may stiffen the speech. The language in this novel aid reader comprehension as it transports



readers to a different time and place, allowing them to feel that they are in Paris during the French Revolution; however, the unfamiliarity of the language can be difficult to understand, and it is tedious and boring at times.

The language tends to characterize the time and place during which the novel is set as well as the instability of a nation at war with itself. The novel is written using a distribution of approximately three-quarters exposition and one-quarter dialogue. This is useful as it allows the focus to remain more on the generic than on the specific characters. The characters serve only to keep the action going and to provide occasional commentary on events and political situations. Generally, the characters can be seen as types more than actual individuals. At times, the language can be hard to understand, but it aids the writing style as it is generally quite appropriate for the novel's setting and allows readers to immerse themselves in the environment the book offers. Overall, the language can be difficult and monotonous but is accurate for the time period.

Structure

"The Gods Will Have Blood" is comprised of 251 pages divided into 29 chapters. The chapters average 10 pages in length, ranging from 2 to 30 pages. The chapters are numbered rather than titled. They are generally fairly long and detailed. The entire book occurs during a period of about 15 months, but the chapters range from specific hours to general synopses spanning a period of months. The last chapter takes place five months after the previous in which Evariste Gamelin was executed.

"The Gods Will Have Blood" by Anatole France is a historical fiction set during the French Revolution. The narrative focuses on the political rise and downfall of painter Evariste Gamelin. "The Gods Will Have Blood" is a terrifying account of the Reign of Terror and its many executions which were justified by the desire to punish those who were not loyal to the Republic. The novel's pace is slow and tedious, frequently making it difficult to read. It contains several flashbacks and allusions to the past, allowing readers to understand various characters' motivations and beliefs. Overall, it is an interesting account of the Reign of Terror, but it is dry and somewhat hard to get through.



Quotes

"The symbols of religion had been smashed with hammers and above the door was inscribed in black letters the slogan of the Republic: 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity- or Death'" (Chapter 1, p. 27).

"Mother, the scarcity we're suffering from is caused by the monopolists and speculators who starve the people and conspire with our enemies outside the country to turn the citizens against the Republic and to destroy liberty" (Chapter 2, p. 38).

"You live in a dream; I see life as it is. Believe me, my friend, the Revolution's become a bore: it's lasted too long. Five years of rapture, five years of brotherly love, of massacres, of endless speeches, of the Marseillaise, of bells ringing to man the barricades, of aristocrats hanging from lamp-posts, of heads stuck on pikes, of women with cannons between their legs, of little girls and old men in white robes on flower-bedecked chariots, the prisoners, the guillotine, semi-starvation, proclamations, cockades, plumes, swords, carmagnoles, it's all gone on too long! Nobody knows any more what it's all about! We've see too much, we've seen too many of these great patriots raised up for us to worship only for them to be hurled from your Tarpeian Rock-Necker, Mirabeau, La Fayette, Bailly, Petion, Manuel and all the rest of them. How do we know you're not preparing the same fate for your new heroes?... Nobody knows any more" (Chapter 3, p. 53).

"Credit me, Evariste, with all the feelings you would like me to have for you, and you will not be mistaken about how my heart truly feels" (Chapter 4, p. 61).

"Only the guillotine can save our country" (Chapter 6, p. 75).

"Man is naturally good. God has planted the seed of virtue in the hearts of all men" (Chapter 6, p. 79).

"There is still money in France, but it is playing hide and seek" (Chapter 7, p. 92).

"Citizenship, although I have not a scrap of bread to give my mother, I swear on my honour that my only reasons for accepting the duty of magistrate are to serve the Republic and exterminate her enemies" (Chapter 8, p. 97).

"Defeat in the field, revolt in the provinces: the Convention intended to have one remedy for everything: Terror. Blood would have blood" (Chapter 9, p. 101).

"I am a magistrate. I am responsible only to my conscience. Any undertaking I might give you would be against my duty, which is to speak in this court and hold my peace elsewhere. From henceforth, I shall not know you. Judgment is mine, not yours. I know neither friends nor enemies" (Chapter 9, p. 105).



"I read a book a few days ago by some young German whose name I've forgotten. There was a beautiful young girl in it called Charlotte, who was busy cutting the bread like you are, Elodie, and she was doing it so gracefully and charmingly that when he saw her the young Werther fell in love with her... It all ended with the violent death of Werther" (Chapter 10, p. 121).

"When considering a crime so great as stealing the sinems of victory from the defenders of our country, we need to be shown positive proof of guilt. We have not been shown any such proof" (Evariste Gamelin, Chapter 11, p. 135).

"Father, do not concern yourself over such a matter nor feel yourself under any obligation to me whatever. What I am doing at this moment and the merit of which you exaggerate, I am not doing out of love: for though you may well be a lovable man, Father, I do not know you well enough to have any feelings for you. Nor is what I am doing out of humanity, for I am not as simple as Don Juan, to believe, like him, that humanity has certain rights, and such a prejudice, in a mind so free as his, grieves me. I do it simply out of that egoism that inspires all men's acts of generosity and self-sacrifice, by making us see ourselves in all who dwell in misery, by causing us to count our blessings, and by inciting us to help one who shares our common humanity, deluding us into believing that in helping him we are also helping ourselves. I do it also simply because I've nothing better to do: for life is so completely pointless, we have to seek desperately for distractions, and benevolence adds a certain flavour, of an insipid sort, for want of anything more savoury. Finally, I do it out of pride to make myself feel superior to you. Briefly, I do it calculatedly to show you what an atheist can do" (Chapter 12, p. 142).

"The Revolutionary Tribunal, dedicated to Equality, prided itself on its impartiality and made a point of being as severe with porters and servant-girls as with aristocrats and financiers. Gamelin himself could not conceive a people's government acting otherwise. He would have judged it contemptible, an insult to the people, to exclude the people themselves from punishment; that would have appeared as if the people, so to speak, were unworthy of punishment. If reserved only for the aristocrats, the guillotine would have appeared to him as a sort of iniquitous privilege. Gamelin was beginning to turn punishment into a religious and mystical ideal, to give it a virtue and merit of its own. He was beginning to believe that society owes criminals their punishment and that to cheat them of it is to do them an injustice in depriving them of their rights" (Chapter 13, p. 146).

"In themselves things are involved and confused; facts are so complex it is difficult not to lose one's way amongst them" (Chapter 13, p. 148).

"When I consider the events which have brought us to our present condition, I doubt if I know which party has shown most madness in the general insanity. Sometimes I am greatly tempted to believe it was the monarchy" (Chapter 14, p. 158).



"By what right should I object? Should I consider myself offended by her presence? Should I be so sure that I am of more value than she in the sight of God" (Chapter 14, p. 162).

"You miserable creature! It is you who have killed him, and he was not my lover...I didn't know him...I'd never set eyes on him...What had he done? He was young, kind...and innocent. And you have killed him! You monster! You wretched monster" (Chapter 16, p. 177-178).

"You're not taking him away? But it's not possible!...You can't know him! He's a good man, good as the good Lord Himself!...Vive le Roi! Vive le Roi" (Chapter 17, p. 184).

"My child, Evariste has never forgiven Monsieur de Chassagne for his treatment of you. You know how violently he used to speak about him, the names he called him...It was his pride that was hurt, my dear. Terribly. He has vowed never to mention Monsieur de Chassagne's name again, and for two years now he hasn't spoken of him or of you. But his feelings are still the same; you know him, he will never forgive you...Fortune is an aristocrat, an emigre, and that is enough to make Evariste think of him as an enemy" (Chapter 18, p. 187).

"No more, mother! Never tell me they have both returned to France...Since they must die, let it at least not be at my hands. For them, for you, for me, let me remain ignorant if they are in Paris... Do not force me to know it; otherwise...Mother, listen to me: If I knew my sister Julie was there in that room...I would go immediately and denounce her to the Committee of Vigilance of our Section" (Chapter 18, p. 193).

"That is why all nations are nations of heroes and all armies consist only of brave men" (Chapter 19, p. 196).

"Keep silent, Rose, let yourself be forgotten: in that only lies safety. All that your friends could do would only make things worse for you. Let time work for you. You'll only need to wait a little, a very little I hope, in order to be saved... Above all, do not appeal to the magistrates, to a Gamelin. They are not men, they are things: you cannot explain yourself to things. Let yourself be forgotten. If you follow my advice, my dearest friend, I shall die happy knowing I have saved your life" (Chapter 19, p. 203).

"At last we shall be happy, pure and innocent, if the traitorous scoundrels permit it" (Chapter 22, p. 212).

"Anyway, you have no reason to withdraw: a patriotic magistrate is above human passions" (Chapter 22, p. 215).

"All the same, I am certainly no parricide. On the contrary, I have acted like a pious son in shedding the impure blood of the enemies of my fatherland" (Chapter 23, p. 217).



"Monsieur Brotteaux, as far as I know, has never done anything but what is good. There should be more, many more, men like him, because there cannot be any better. Those who say the opposite are mistaken. That is all I have to say" (Chapter 24, p. 221).

"Victory is ours. And we have paid a heavy price for it" (Chapter 25, p. 226).

"The tyrant is no more! His slaves are broken! The Revolution can continue in majesty and terror" (Chapter 27, p. 239).

"I die a just death. It is just that we should receive these insults hurled at the Republic, for we should have safeguarded her against them. We have been weak; we have allowed ourselves to be too indulgent. We have betrayed the Republic. We have deserved our fate. Even Robespierre, pure and saintly as he was, sinned by being too mild, too merciful; his faults are wiped out by his martyrdom. By following his example, I have betrayed the Republic; she perishes: it is just that I die with her. I did not shed enough blood; let my own blood flow! Let me perish! I have deserved it" (Chapter 28, p. 242).



Topics for Discussion

Describe the time period in which this novel is set, including the political atmosphere.

Who is Evariste Gamelin?

How does Evariste become a magistrate and how does it change him?

Compare and contrast Elodie Blaise and Julie Gamelin.

What happens to Robespierre? Why?

Who is Henry? How does his actions direct the plot?

Why does Evariste leave Elodie's love? What happens to him?