

Crime & Punishment: Part 1 - Chapter 3 – summary and excerpts

The next day, Raskolnikov awakens in his dirty cubbyhole of a room, feeling disgusted with his slovenly and degraded manner of living. He withdraws from human contact but still suffers.

Nastasya, the servant meant to look after him, tells him that the **landlady**, Praskovya Pavlovna, is going to report him to the police because he has not paid his back rent. She also brings him a long letter from his mother.

When Nastasya leaves, he kisses his mother's letter and with trembling hands, he reverently opens it.

His mother, **Pulcheria Alexandrovna**, writes of her abiding love for him and that his sister, **Dunya**, has been working in the **Svidrigailov** household as a governess (someone who looks after their children – a nanny/tutor).

Unfortunately, Svidrigailov, a well-known sensualist, has formed an intense attachment for Dunya and made unwarranted overtures and improper advances, including trying to persuade her to run away with him. The wife, **Marfa Petrovna**, overhears part of a conversation and believes that the attachment is all Dunya's fault even though she is fully aware of her husband's sensual propensities (that he's a bit of a horn-bag, to say the least). Furthermore, Marfa spreads the lie all through the countryside. Later, Svidrigailov corrects her and even shows her a letter Dunya wrote reprimanding him for his improper advances and admonishing him to be faithful to his wife. Upon discovering her mistake, once again Marfa Petrovna goes about the countryside, this time showing the letter and proclaiming Dunya's innocence and goodness to all.

Additionally, we learn that Marfa Petrovna has a kinsman, Pyotr Petrovitch **Luzhin**, visiting her who wants a wife. He is searching for a poor wife with a sound reputation who is without a dowry*. Thus he proposes to Dunya, who has accepted him.

Finally, Pulcheria Alexandrovna tells her son (Raskolnikov) that both she and Dunya will soon be in St. Petersburg so as to be with Luzhin who will find them proper living quarters, and she promises to send Raskolnikov more money as soon as she can borrow it.

EXCERPT: *Raskolnikov's reaction to the letter:*

Almost from the first, while he read the letter, Raskolnikov's face was wet with tears; but when he finished it, his face was pale and distorted and a bitter, wrathful and malignant smile was on his lips. He laid his head down on his threadbare dirty pillow and pondered, pondered a long time. His heart was beating violently, and his brain was in a turmoil. At last he felt cramped and stifled in the little yellow room that was like a cupboard or a box. His eyes and his mind craved for space. He took up his hat and went out, this time without dread of meeting anyone; he had forgotten his dread. He turned in the direction of the Vassilyevsky Ostrov, walking along Vassilyevsky Prospect, as though hastening on some business, but he walked, as his habit was, without noticing his way, muttering and even speaking aloud to himself, to the astonishment of the passers-by. Many of them took him to be drunk.

JAKE NOTE: We learn that his family and friends call Raskolnikov **RODYA** – we can now use the name **Rodya** instead of **Raskolnikov** (as it is much easier to write and type!)

Crime & Punishment: Part 1 - Chapter 4 – summary and excerpts

Upon finishing the letter, Raskolnikov resolves that Dunya will never sacrifice herself by marrying Luzhin, which she is doing only to be able to help him. He adamantly refuses such a sacrifice by saying, "While I live, this marriage will never take place."

Furthermore, he sees Luzhin as a mean and stingy person who would allow his fiancée and her mother ride in a peasant's cart for "seventeen versts" (around 12 miles) and to travel in third class accommodations on the train. After he considers Luzhin's entire proposal, Raskolnikov declares that "I will not have your [Dunya's] sacrifice, I will not have it... It shall not be, while I live, it shall not, it shall not! I will not accept it!" However, he has no course of action to prevent such a disgraceful liaison: it does not seem to be within his power.

While walking and thinking about Dunya's plight, he observes a young 15-year-old girl staggering down the street as though she were either drunk or drugged. This young girl is being followed by a "foppish" and plump man; the man's intentions towards the young girl are obvious. Raskolnikov interferes and accosts the dandy. The police arrive and they get the girl into a cab; Raskolnikov offers his last 20 kopecks for the cab, but then "at this moment an instantaneous revulsion of feeling" causes him to reverse himself. He decides that he is interfering in something that does not concern him: "What does it matter. . . Let him [the dandy] amuse himself [with the girl]." He leaves resenting that he has lost his last 20 kopecks. "How dared I give away those twenty kopecks? Were they mine to give?"

At the end of the chapter, he decides to visit **Razumihkin**, one of his only friends of times past, whom he has not seen in about four months.