
A Plea

Chapter 20

by Daisy and Malea



Plot

- Takes place a few hours after the wedding of Lucie Mannett and Charles Darnay.
 - Sydney Carton shows up to congratulate them and request Darnay's friendship
 - Darnay assures him that they already are friends, but Sydney brushes this off as politeness, which it is.
 - Sydney explains that he feels guilty for treating Darnay poorly in the past and goes on to call himself worthless and pathetic.
 - Darnay pities him and is unsure of what to react, later discusses Sydney with Ms. Pross and Dr. Mannett.
 - Later that night, Lucie tells Darnay to cut Sydney some slack, because he has been through a lot to which Darnay does not know the extent.
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Literary device: Foil

-Foil: When two characters exaggerate certain characteristics in each other, often due to one's lack of said characteristic.

Foiling: Darnay and Sydney

-Darnay highlights several aspects of Sydney, making him appear more:

-defenseless

-shabby

-insecure

“Now, you know me; you know I am incapable of all higher and better flights of men. If you doubt it ask Stryver, he’ll tell you so.”

“Well! At any rate you know me as a dissolute dog, who has never done any good, and never will”

-Sydney Carton, pg. 215

Foiling: Darnay and Sydney

Meanwhile, Sydney causes Darnay to appear:

- Condescending
- bland
- slightly pompous

“I don’t know that you ‘never will’(210)”

-Darnay in replying to Sydney’s self defeating remark about he will never amount to anything.

Literary device the second: Comic relief

-The night of Sydney's visit, Darnay and Lucie are in their bedroom, punctuating their conversation about him with over the top terms of endearment such as "my life" and "my dearest love" to the point where the reader might gag.

-They are clearly head over heels in love with each other and Dickens plays off their mutual affection to produce a comedic effect.
