

Chapter Abstracts

Chapter 1 | Chapter 2

- Pip is an orphan who lives with his sister and her husband, Joe the blacksmith. Pip meets an escaped convict on the marshes and promises to bring him food and a file because he feels pity.
- Pip's sister is 20 years older than Pip, and is cruel, caning him with a stick she calls the Tickler. Joe, however, is very kind and devoted to Pip.
- While Mrs. Joe is questioning Pip about where he has been, they hear guns on the marshes and learn that another convict has escaped from the prisoner ships.
- Pip steals some cheese, bread, mincemeat, a pork pie, and some brandy, and he gets a file from the forge. Then he runs to give them to the convict.

Chapter 3 | Chapter 4

- As Pip runs to deliver the goods to the convict, he sees a younger convict with a bruised face who tries to take a swing at Pip. He runs off and tells the older convict about what he has seen.
- The Convict gulps down the food and brandy, and begins to use the file to cut away his irons. He says he will try to find the other convict when he is stronger and free of the chains.
- When Mrs. Joe asks where Pip has been, he says he has been listening to carols. They get dressed in their formal wear and head to church. Afterwards, they enjoy a nice Christmas feast.
- Mr. Pumblechook chokes up his brandy, into which Pip has poured tarwater to hide the missing portion he has given to the convict.
- Before anyone notices the missing pork pie, the dinner is interrupted by soldiers who are looking for the escaped convicts.

Chapter 5 | Chapter 6

- The soldiers are looking for the convict. They ask Joe to help pick a lock, and they have Pip go with them to help find the convict.
- The soldiers find both of the convicts fighting on the marshes. Pip's convict claims to have stolen food from the blacksmith in order to keep Pip out of trouble.
- Pip is grateful for the convict's lie, but still feels guilty about stealing from, and lying to, Joe.

Chapter 7 | Chapter 8

- Pip is apprenticed to Joe as a blacksmith and goes to school with Mr. Wopsle's great aunt who sleeps most of the time. Pip learns his alphabet from Bidly, Mrs. Wopsle's granddaughter.
- One day, Pip writes a letter to Joe and finds out that Joe cannot read. Joe asks Pip to teach him to read in private. Joe's family life as a child was too erratic to allow for schooling.
- Miss Havisham, a rich woman, sends for Pip to come to her house and play with her adopted daughter. Mrs. Joe thinks this is very advantageous.
- Pip is taken to Miss Havisham's house where he meets Estella, a lovely young lady. They play cards together in front of Miss Havisham.
- Pip calls his Jacks "knaves," and Estella laughs at this, calling him a common boy. Pip cries at this harsh treatment, and Estella laughs and pushes him out of the gate.

Chapter 9 | Chapter 10

- Pip tries to protect Miss Havisham and her eccentricities by lying to his sister about his visit. He tells her they rode in a carriage and ate cake off of golden plates.
- When Pip tells Joe that he has lied, Joe is disappointed, but understands. Pip complains about being so common, and Joe tells him that all educated men must start from the same foundation.
- Pip tells Joe that he feels his first day at Miss Havisham's house was the most important day of his entire life. He asks Bidly to help him learn as fast as possible.
- One night, Pip goes to a local tavern to find Joe and meets a stranger who stirs his drink with an old file. Pip realizes that this stranger must know the convict he helped.
- The stranger gives Pip a guinea wrapped in some one pound notes. When Joe and his wife see this, they go back to the tavern to return it, but the stranger is gone.

Chapter 11 | Chapter 12

- Pip goes to Miss Havisham's house a second time, and notices that all the clocks are stopped at 20 minutes before 9. Miss Havisham has Pip walk with her.
- Miss Havisham tells Pip that, when she dies, she wants to be laid out on the table that held her wedding feast. Pip fights with a pale young man at the house and wins.

- Before Pip leaves Miss Havisham's house the second time, Estella allows Pip to kiss her on the cheek. It is implied that she had seen him win the fight.
- Pip goes to Miss Havisham's house every other day and pushes her around a room in a mobile lawn chair. She asks him every time if Estella is getting prettier.
- Pip tells Bidley about his experiences at Miss Havisham's house.
- Mr. Pumblechook and Mrs. Joe are excited for Pip's prospects with Estella until Miss Havisham suggests it is time for Pip to be apprenticed to Joe.

Chapter 13 | Chapter 14

- Pip and Joe go to Miss Havisham's house at her request. Miss Havisham gives Joe 25 guineas and asks Pip to not come to her house again.
- Pip is indentured to Joe, and the family celebrates at the Blue Boar. Pip is disappointed as he was hoping to get the chance to become a gentleman.
- Pip is ashamed of his apprenticeship and is miserable in his surroundings. However, he tries to work hard to please Joe and his industrious spirit.
- Pip knows that, as a blacksmith, he will never be able to feel more than common in the presence of Estella.

Chapter 15 | Chapter 16

- Pip begs Joe to give him a day off so that he can go see Miss Havisham. He consents, and Pip goes there only to learn that Estella is not home. Pip meets with Mr. Wopsle and goes to a tavern.
- Orlick, who dislikes Pip for his special treatment and sends sparks his way while working, demands to be given the day off as well. Mrs. Joe objects, and Joe and Orlick fight.
- While Pip is at the tavern with Mr. Wopsle, he hears that his sister has been badly injured at home. She is unable to speak, but makes a hammer sign meaning Orlick.
- Bidley moves into the house to help out, and Orlick visits Mrs. Joe a number of times.

Chapter 17 | Chapter 18

- Pip goes to see Miss Havisham on her birthday and she gives him a guinea. Bidley begins changing her appearance and takes better care of herself.

- Pip walks with Biddy in the marshes and tells her about his dream of being a gentleman. He says he wishes he could fall in love with her as she is good and stable.
- After four years of working for Joe, Pip goes to the tavern with him where the men are all talking about a murder.
- A strange lawyer name Mr. Jaggers is there who reminds the men that, in England, a man is innocent until proven guilty, which embarrasses Mr. Wopsle.
- Mr. Jaggers tells Pip that he is there to make him a gentleman. He has an anonymous benefactor who wants to pay for his education under Matthew Pocket, a relative of Miss Havisham.
- The only contingencies on Pip for this strange fortune is that he keep his name as Pip, and never ask about the identity of his anonymous benefactor.

Chapter 19 | Chapter 20

- Joe burns Pip's indenture papers, and Pip gets a new suit from the tailor. Mr. Pumblechook is pleased with the change in Pip and is kind to him.
- Pip goes to see Miss Havisham who is happy with this new development in Pip's life. Pip is certain it is she who is funding his new life.
- Before leaving, Pip asks Biddy to help Joe with his education. She and Joe throw an old shoe after Pip when he leaves as an old parting ritual.
- When Pip gets to London, he goes to see Mr. Jaggers in his office where he sees a long line of people, most of whom are dismissed without a word.
- While he waits, Pip is taken on a tour of the Newgate prison, and is appalled at what he sees. He spends his first night in London at Barnard's Inn.

Chapter 21 | Chapter 22

- Mr. Wemmick is painted as a depressing and business-minded man. He is to be Pip's conduit for money in London.
- Pip meets his roommate who is the son of his tutor. His name is Herbert Pocket, and Pip recognizes him as the boy he fought at Miss Havisham's house.
- Herbert teaches Pip some table manners, and tells him some history about Miss Havisham. She had been spoiled by her father after her mother died, and he favored her over her half-brother in his will.

- On Miss Havisham's wedding day, her suitor, who was believed to be in a conspiracy with her half-brother, sent her a note ending the wedding. She read this letter at 20 minutes to 9.

- Herbert spends his days at a counting house, and hopes to be an insurer of ships some day. He has many siblings.

Chapter 23 | Chapter 24

- Pip meets Matthew Pocket, his tutor and Herbert's father, and Belinda Pocket, Herbert's mother. Matthew was educated at Cambridge, and Belinda was raised thinking she would be royalty.

- Belinda continues her reading when she meets Pip and seems annoyed at his intrusion. The house is run mostly by the servants.

- Belinda bursts into tears when she gets a note from a neighbor saying that her servant was seen slapping her baby. She is bothered that they would dare to interfere.

- Matthew tells Pip that his education is not heading towards any profession and that he will be overseeing all of Pip's education.

- Pip chooses to live with Herbert so that he does not get lost in all the chaos at the Pocket's house.

- Pip goes to see Mr. Jaggers to request some more money for furniture, and sees him using ingenious means to win his murder case.

- Mr. Wemick invites him to dinner and to watch Mr. Jaggers in action.

Chapter 25 | Chapter 26

- Pip describes some of his school mates. Pip goes boating with Drummle, whom he dislikes, and Startop.

- Pip is invited to Mr. Wemick's house for dinner, and finds him to be a different man at home from that at work. He is happy and personable, and his house is made to look like a castle with a drawbridge.

- Pip and his schoolmates dine with Jaggers, who takes a keen interest in Drummle and gives him the nickname "Spider".

- Jaggers's maid, Molly, is introduced as a pale woman with strange scars on her wrists.

Chapter 27 | Chapter 28

- Joe comes to visit Pip in London, and is very uncomfortable for the entire time, having never been in fine clothes or away from the forge for extended periods of time.
- Joe tells Pip that Mr. Wopsle has decided to become an actor. Pip has decorated his room with help from Herbert, and has hired a servant named Pepper.
- Pip goes to the marshes to visit Estella, but stays at the Blue Boar rather than with Joe. He reads a newspaper article about Pumblechook's being his mentor.
- While travelling to the Blue Boar, there are some convicts in his carriage who are being transferred to a prison boat. One of them is the man who gave Pip the pound notes when he was a child.

Chapter 29 | Chapter 30

- Pip goes to the Havisham estate where he sees Orlick, who is Miss Havisham's new porter. Estella says she does not remember making Pip cry when they were younger.
- Miss Havisham tells Pip to love Estella no matter how she treats him. Mr. Jaggers comes to visit and play cards, but does not look at Pip even once while he is there.
- Pip tells Jaggers that he does not trust Orlick, and Jaggers says he will tell Miss Havisham. Pip returns to London and tells Herbert he loves Estella.
- Herbert tells Pip he should detach himself from Estella as she does not love him. Herbert is in love with Clara.
- Pip sees a handbill for Mr. Wopsle's playing Hamlet.

Chapter 31 | Chapter 32

- Pip goes to see Mr. Wopsle in Hamlet. It is not good, and the audience laughs at the actors. Pip takes Mr. Wopsle, now going by the name Waldengrove, to supper after the show.
- Estella writes to Pip telling him she is coming to London. Pip visits Newgate prison with Mr. Wemmick because a Colonel who is about to be executed is leaving him his pigeons.
- After a long wait, Pip finally sees Estella in a coach window.

Chapter 33 | Chapter 34

- Estella tells Pip that she is heading to Surry, and that her entire family is against Pip. She seems not to care and tells him he will be allowed to see her from time to time.
- Herbert and Pip both start spending a lot of money, and Herbert gets deeply in debt. They join the Finches in the Grove Club after Startop's suggestion.
- Pip has to return home when he receives word that his sister has died.

Chapter 35 | Chapter 36

- Pip returns home to find a large funeral procession underway for his sister. Joe wanted a small funeral, but was afraid of what the neighbors would think.
- Orlick is pursuing Biddy, and Biddy is mad at Pip because she knows he will not keep his promise to visit Joe often now that his wife is dead.
- Mr. Jaggers meets with Pip on his 21st birthday to discuss his outrageous spending. He tells Pip his allowance is 125 pounds per quarter.
- Mr. Jaggers refuses to give Pip any information about his anonymous benefactor.

Chapter 37 | Chapter 38

- Pip visits Wemmick at his castle and asks him to help Herbert. Wemmick promises to use his connections to get Herbert a job in an accounting house.
- Pip notices Wemmick put his arm around Miss Skiffins, his maid, a number of times in a loving manner. She always discreetly unwinds his hand with a smile.
- Pip reproaches Estella one night for being cold. At a club meeting, Pip finds out that Estella and Drummle have been courting, and Pip is crushed.

Chapter 39 | Chapter 40

- One night during a horrible snow storm after Herbert has moved out, Pip hears a knock at his door. It is the convict from the marshes. The convict is his anonymous benefactor.
- The convict had gone to Australia and made a fortune through a number of different business ventures. He risked his life to come back to England to see Pip become a gentleman with his help.

- Magwitch, the convict, will be hanged if he is recognized in England. He tells Pip that he will be disguising himself as a farmer.

- Herbert walks in and sees Magwitch. Magwitch makes Herbert swear on his Bible that Herbert will not tell anyone what he sees or hears that day.

Chapter 41 | Chapter 42

- Magwitch expresses his gratitude to Herbert for keeping his secret, and tells Herbert about his strange history with Pip.

- Herbert arranges for Magwitch to stay with Clara, and Herbert and Pip begin planning a way to get Magwitch out of the country.

- Magwitch had grown up poor and was in and out of prisons. He was taught to read and write by strangers along the way. He met Compeyson, the other convict, at the Epsom races.

- Magwitch and Compeyson become partners in crime with another man named Arthur, who died of fright when he saw a ghost.

- Pip writes a note to Herbert saying that he thinks Compeyson may be the man who jilted Miss Havisham because her brother's name was Arthur.

- Both Compeyson and Magwitch are caught and sent to jail, but Magwitch gets 14 years while Compeyson only seven.

Chapter 43 | Chapter 44

- Magwitch takes on the name Provis. Compeyson is still a huge threat, so Pip volunteers to help him leave the country.

- Before Pip leaves, he decides he wants to see Estella and Miss Havisham. When he gets to the Blue Boar, he sees Drummle who brags about his relationship with Estella.

- The two almost fight until they are interrupted by some farmers. A man lights Drummle's cigar, and Pip thinks it is Orlick.

- Pip confronts Estella and Miss Havisham about their lying to him. They both admit to leading him on. Estella says she will be marrying Drummle despite how much Pip loves her.

- As Pip is leaving the Havisham estate, he sees a letter to him from Mr. Wemmick instructing him to not go home.

Chapter 45 | Chapter 46

- Pip returns to London and finds some temporary lodgings in Covent Gardens. He then goes to see Mr. Wemmick to ask about the note.
- Mr. Wemmick stays vague, but tells Pip that his apartment is being watched. He does not say by whom, but clearly indicates that it is Compeyson.
- Pip goes to see Magwitch at Clara's house. Magwitch says he is being watched and must leave the country immediately. He tells Pip to call him Campbell.

Chapter 47 | Chapter 48

- Pip decides not to take any more of Magwitch's money, and has Herbert give him the pocket book back. He sells some of his jewelry to pay some bills.
- Pip entertains himself by going to see Mr. Wopsle's production. Mr. Wopsle later tells him that Compeyson was sitting behind him at the theater.
- Mr. Jaggers sees Pip walking along Cheapside, and invites him to dine with him and Mr. Wemmick.
- Mr. Jaggers tells Pip that Estella has married Drummle, and that Drummle will probably beat her when he gets angry.
- Mr. Jaggers says he got his maid acquitted of an accused murder. She had a daughter whom she gave up for adoption in order to take revenge on the father.

Chapter 49 | Chapter 50

- Pip walks to Miss Havisham's house. She gives him 900 pounds to help Herbert, and she apologizes for Estella's treatment of him.
- She says she replaced her heart with ice on purpose, and she regrets it now since Estella has no love in her heart, not even for Miss Havisham.
- Pip takes a walk around the grounds and decides to check on Miss Havisham before leaving. He sees her just in time to save her from a great fire. They are both badly burned.
- Pip's arms are badly burned. Herbert helps nurse him back to health, and tells Pip that he has spoken to Magwitch.
- Magwitch and Molly had once been a couple. They have a child. Magwitch is Estella's father, but he does not know that she is alive.

Chapter 51 | Chapter 52

- Pip asks Mr. Jaggers about Estella's birth, and after arguing with Mr. Wemmick, he tells Pip the truth.
- Estella's mother had wanted to kill her, but Mr. Jaggers promised to represent her in court if she would give her up for adoption. Jaggers gave Estella to Miss Havisham.
- Mr. Jaggers refuses to make public the truth about Estella's birth because it would harm her marriage, and can do no good.
- Pip, with the help of Mr. Wemmick, has arranged for Herbert to take a position at Clerriker's office owned by Wemmick's brother-in-law.
- Pip and Herbert receive a strange letter concerning Provis, telling them to meet the sender in the sluice house, a place out on the marshes.
- Mr. Wemmick sends Pip and Herbert a letter saying they must go and travel abroad immediately.

Chapter 53 | Chapter 54

- Pip goes to the sluice house and finds that Orlick is there. Orlick puts a noose around his neck and says he wants to kill Pip and burn his body in a lime kiln.
- Orlick hates Pip for having cost him his jobs at Joe's and Miss Havisham's and for ruining his chances with Bidly. He admits to killing Pip's sister.
- Just as Orlick is about to kill Pip, Herbert, Startop, and Trabb's boy all enter. They had discovered the letter from Orlick and came to help Pip.
- Pip and Magwitch, who is disguised as a river pilot, plan to row to a boat and lay low until they can get off at one of the port stops abroad.
- As they are rowing out, they see a police vessel coming for them. Magwitch sees Compeyson in the vessel and tries to dive after him.
- Magwitch is arrested and injured. He tells Pip to visit him in jail, but only when Mr. Wemmick is available to accompany him.

Chapter 55 | Chapter 56

- Magwitch's trial is delayed because he has to be identified by a man who had been on the ship from which he escaped years ago. Herbert takes a trip to Cairo.

- Mr. Wemmick asks Pip to take a walk with him, and they wind up at Mr. Wemmick's wedding where Pip is surprised to play the best man. Wemmick tells him not to tell Mr. Jaggers.
- Magwitch is sentenced to death with 31 other people. Magwitch says that God gave him his sentence of death first.
- Pip goes to visit Magwitch ten days before his execution. He tells Magwitch his daughter is alive. Magwitch raises his hand at hearing this, and then dies.

Chapter 57 | Chapter 58

- Pip falls ill and is unable to pay any of his debts. He is arrested, but falls unconscious from his illness. When he wakes up, he is at Joe's house.
- Pip learns that Miss Havisham is dead, Orlick has been arrested for breaking into Mr. Pumblechook's house, and Pip has been set free after Joe pays all of his debts.
- Pip feels that he may want to marry Biddy. When he tries to find her, he learns that Joe and Biddy are now married. Pip congratulates them, and promises Joe he will pay him back.
- Pip gets a job as a clerk where Herbert works. He does well, and just as he is about to become one of the partners, Clarriker tells Herbert what Pip did for him.

Chapter 59

- After being gone for 11 years, Pip comes back to see Joe and Biddy, who have named their son Pip. Joe takes Pip to see his parents' graves.
- Pip goes to Miss Havisham's house and sees Estella. Estella asks him to forgive her and asks if they can be friends.
- Pip lives abroad at the end of the book and does well for himself in his new profession.