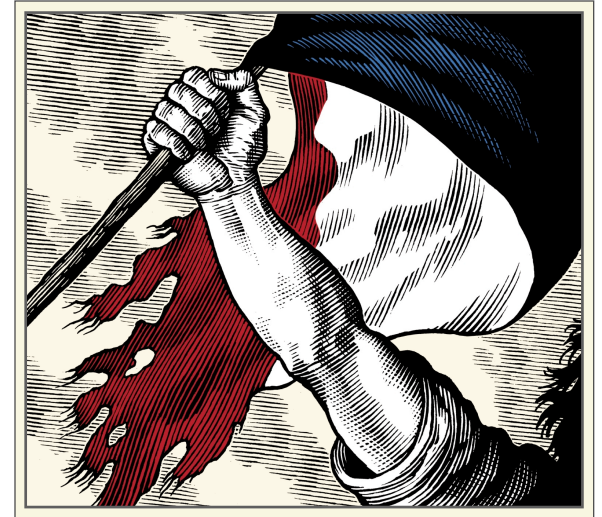


“Above all, one hideous figure grew as familiar as if it had been before the general gaze from the foundations of the world — the figure of the sharp female called La Guillotine.” (375)

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A TALE OF TWO CITIES



“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” (1)

DANIEL HUBNER

DOUBLES AND MIRROR IMAGES



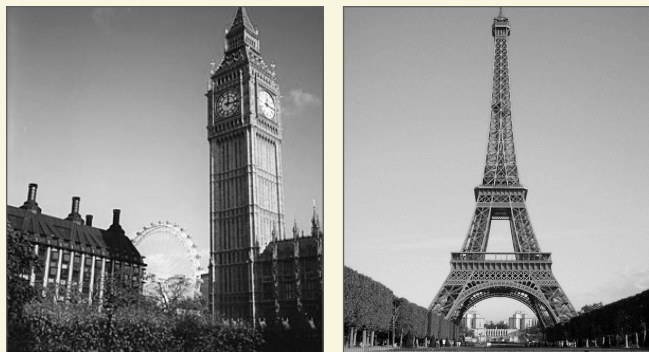
LONDON, ENGLAND AND PARIS, FRANCE

The locations of the story are mirror images of each other. London is ruled under a stable monarchy and there is a growing middle class. The system of justice and peoples common respect for each other is better than in France. In Paris, many of the people are poor and the country is broken by revolution. Criminals roam free and innocent thousands are killed at the guillotine.

"Madame Defarge wishes to see those whom she has the power to protect at such times, to the end that she may know them — that she may identify them." (366)

MADAME DEFARGE AND LUCIE MANETTE

Because these women are so different in their characteristics and their intentions they can be said to be mirror images. Madame Defarge represents revenge and hatred, her sole purpose in life is to kill Darnay and his family. Lucie represents love and innocence, she is the wife of Darnay and does everything she can (with the help of her father) to try and keep her husband alive during his imprisonment.



"France, less favoured on the whole as to matters spiritual than her sister of the shield and trident..." (2)



"Look well upon that gentleman, my learned friend there... and then look well upon the prisoner. How say you? Are they very like each other?" (96)

CHARLES DARNAY AND SYDNEY CARTON

Charles Darnay loves Lucie but has a troubled family history. This comes back to haunt him when he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Sydney Carton would do anything for Lucie's happiness and since he and Darnay look alike, Carton replaces him. Carton as Darnay's double is executed at the guillotine.