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**GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS**

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**A TALE OF  
TWO CITIES**

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The Nobles and the Peasants

## CHAPTER 1

### **The Mysterious Message**

It was the year 1775, and both France and England were on the brink of revolution. King George III of England was too busy handling his country's problems with the American colonies to worry about his own people's poverty. King Louis XVI of France and the noblemen of his court were more concerned with their own pleasures and wealth to worry about the poor, hungry lower classes, who had begun to make plans to overthrow their rulers. So it was that London and Paris, the capitals of the two countries, were uneasy as their revolutions drew near.

## A TALE OF TWO CITIES

There was much crime in England during this period. Thus it was not surprising that the passengers in the mail coach traveling out of London one Friday night late in November feared for their safety when the sound of a galloping horse came from behind the coach.

The guard cocked his pistol. "Stop or I shall fire!" he shouted.

The rider slowed down and stopped. "I must speak to one of the passengers heading for Dover," he called out. "Mr. Jarvis Lorry."

The guard turned to the passengers. "Which one of you is Mr. Lorry?" he asked.

"H-Here I am," replied a trembling gentleman of about sixty. "Who wants me?"

"It's Jerry Cruncher," answered the rider. "I have a message from Tellson's."

"Very well," Mr. Lorry told the guard. "I know this messenger. I work for Tellson's Bank in London, and so does he."

Mr. Lorry took the paper the rider handed into the coach. He unfolded it and read to



A Message for Jarvis Lorry