

Characters

Sid Moreau - Main Character (Siddhartha)

Corette Moreau - Main Character's Mother

Gifford - Main Character's friend, shadow, and pet

Jules Purde - A famous artist who has found peace and happiness

Kandii - Lover

Henri de Toulouse Lautrec - Artist, alcoholic, and swinger

Vallois - River boatsman/ Garbage Bargeman

Sid Moreau Jr. - Main Character's son

Story Outline [19th Century France]

Sid Moreau becomes tired and lonely of his wealthy and spoiled lifestyle and tells his overprotective mother of his plans of going outside to play with the street children. Street children were the orphans, the misfits, the kids whose parents were ashamed. These kids had hearts as cold as stone, and minds as hot as the sun. They could have a good time next to the sewers, they could play games with a stick, and in fact they did. The street children were most well known for playing by the sewers, the most disgusting part of the city

He has always been locked up in his house while his overprotective mother, Corette Moreau, constantly leaves late at night with different men and only returns in the morning with a surprising amount of currency. Sid at first never really knew what she did, but as he grew up a little bit, he figured it out. It did not affect him a lot to know that his mother was a prostitute.

He asks his mother if he can go out to play but gets "No, absolutely not!" as a reply. Sid begs, he gets so lonely, staying in the house all the time. He wanted to go be with the street children. People related them to packs of wild dogs, and Sid thought it was so intriguing. He told his mother, in the simplest of words, it came out, "Mom, I hope you accept my decisions, as I accept yours." How could his mother say anything to that. She could do nothing but agree to let him go, and when his empty vessel had been filled he would come back home, to his mother, and teach her all that he had learned. Sid, along with his lifelong companion, Gifford, went on their way to join the street children.

Sid learns early that the street kids, are hard as rock, don't show emotions, but they feel it. They have minds that run rampant like wildfire, but hearts that are as cold as dark as the bottom of the sea. Sid, begs for food, raids restaurants trash, plays with the other street kids, and a feeling of happiness comes over Sid. For once Sid had found that happiness can be obtained without money, without fancy clothes, and 'expensive' talk. Sid was feeling a genuine happy. Sid's happiness did not last as long as he wanted, because news had spread, and Sid's mother, Corette, had passed away from a disease known as syphilis.

Filled with excitement of living on the streets, grief over his mother, and anger at the way the people treated others, Sid felt like he had experienced every face of life. He soon realized that the world was cruel and unsatisfying, and quickly decided to find a happiness that would last him forever.

Jules Purde was a man everyone seemed to be talking about. He was a french noble, a member of the French legion. People claimed he had found enlightenment through painting landscapes. Jules was nothing but happy and content with his life. Drawing landscapes had gotten him positions in high places at schools, and different political orders.

Sid confronted Jules about his happiness, and Jules only explains what the happiness feels like when he paints, but not how he achieved the happiness that he had for such a long time.

Sid believes that the same thing will not make everyone happy and confronts Jules about it. Jules has no desire to dig deeper and help people find their own path, he only wishes to help people who walk down his path.

Gifford, the dog, begins to follow Jules and the many regal and clean dogs under his care, leaving Sid who is skeptical of Jules' happiness. Sid is now without his companion and the key to his own happiness. Sid feels lost as a person; he can't figure out where his life has gone, and where it is going to go. Sid decides to leave his past life behind and accept the fact that he knows nothing of what he truly wants, desires or needs to be happy.

Wandering the streets of Paris, he comes across Pont Du Alexandre III, a bridge across the River Seine, and cannot pay the toll required to cross. Staring at the river, he contemplates about what his life is, and as he stands looking over he notices a garbage barge coming to a dock almost perfectly below him. He decides to walk down and see if he could get away without paying the toll fee. Approaching a garbage bargeman, he puts a big smile on his face, hiding what really hurts him deep down. The boatman smirks, knowing this kid's smile is a big fake one. Sid doesn't feel very comfortable talking more than he must, he mumbles the few words he needs to get the message across to the man 'Can I get across the river?' The boatman agrees and does not speak to Sid. He knows when the kid wants to talk he will, and the ferryman will be there to listen. As Sid walks away he asks 'What is your name kind gentleman?' The boatman replies with a smile on his face, 'Vallois'. Sid thanks Vallois and continues on his journey.

Looking for a safe place to sleep he comes across a club by the name of Moulin Rouge. People are pouring in and out of this place, that reeks of alcohol and is filled with the sounds of laughter and commotion. Suddenly a carriage, decorated with pinks and reds came up in front of the club and a beautiful brown haired woman sauntered out of the majestic vehicle and smiled at Sid, who was stunned by her elegance.

Sid sneaks by the bouncers who had refused to let him through at first because of his tattered clothes and hair, and enters a clamorous and alcohol smelling room that was filled with what seemed like hundreds of people. He began to watch the ladies dancing in their dresses and flaunting their underwear and legs. Men were yelling and drinking away the night, giving Sid the perfect unnoticed presence.

He followed the beautiful sauntering woman to a room, that was guarded by a large man. The man quickly saw Sid and began to storm over when a sweet voice called out "Let him in." Sid entered the room and asked the woman her name. Kandii, was her name and she questioned Sid's uncommonly presence in this type of environment. He quickly confesses his infatuation and asks her to teach him how to be so elegant and lovely at which she laughs at the poor beggar and points out his hair, clothes and the status of his empty pocket. He asks where he can attain such wealth and nice clothing and she tells him to seek the artist Henri de Toulouse Lautrec.

Among the crowd, Sid searches for the man but cannot see anything but the dancing women and faces that do not match the description of him. Before giving up his search and leaving, he notices a peculiar man, drawing at a table and drinking wine. Sid approaches him and finds out he is Henri de Toulouse Lautrec, who accepts Sid for his skills

Henri teaches Sid how to sell his art and make a profit off of the drunk people and steals from the noble rich who venture into the club, looking for happiness, and living with regrets. Sid becomes very wealthy and impresses Kandii, enough to bed her and become her very close lover.

After a time with Kandii and Henri, Sid envelops himself intensely in the habits of drinking and gambling away his possessions. He begins to bed women who seduce him into their beds because of his heavy pockets. He realizes how entranced he has become in these pathetic desires and begins to hate and loathe himself for becoming so ignorant, lazy and stupid.

Wishing his life away, he wanders the streets of Paris and falls asleep by the river Seine only to wake up and feel reborn and greeted by Gifford who was licking his face. It gave Sid a sense of relief, to know someone who was once by his side had returned. Although Gifford could not stay with Sid for long, and only came to provide Sid with a smile.

Gifford leaves soon after because he has become Jules's pet. Sid meets Vallois, who is the boatman for the river. Sid asks Vallois for guidance and mentorship and Vallois only listens to him and tells him to find it, in the river. They begin to live, listen, and help one another. Peaceful and happy they give people rides across the river. They are seen as men of guidance and intelligence. Kandii comes along when she is kicked out of Moulin Rouge by Henri and Sid meets his son, Sid Jr., they both recognize each other immediately.

Vallois and Sid notice that Kandii is incredibly sick and treat her with care and medicine till she dies and Sid Jr. must stay with Sid.

Sid grows attached to his son who cannot stand his father's calm treatment and peaceful responses. Sid Jr. confronts his father after a time, and runs away from him and Vallois.

Sid feels compelled to follow him and help guide him away from wrong paths but Vallois advises him not to.

After leaving his son to run away, Sid becomes more connected to the river and when he fully reflects back on everything that has happened to him. Vallois leaves him to adopt the business of garbage bargeman.

Gifford gets lost from his owner and finds Sid on the garbage barge. Sid helps the dog cross and treats him with peace and serenity, and shows him how to love the cats and the river.

Sid is finally enlightened

Chapter Breakdown

- Chapter 1: Sid Moreau - Dissatisfaction and Permission
- Chapter 2: Street Boys - Self-Denial and Anger
- Chapter 3: Jules Purde - Skepticism
- Chapter 4: Epiphany - Awakening
- Chapter 5: Kandii - Love and Desire
- Chapter 6: The Club - Business and deception
- Chapter 7: Indulgence - Desires and misery
- Chapter 8: The Bridge and the River - Redirection and Renewal
- Chapter 9: Garbage Man - Insight and peace
- Chapter 10: Serenity - Simplicity and happiness
- Chapter 11: The Brat - Love and frustration
- Chapter 12: Gifford - Enlightenment