

Keya Ghatak  
Associate Professor in English

#### Chapter XIII : Rachel

When Stephen enters his house late in the evening, he finds Rachel there. Rachel tells him that she has come there on the basis of summon of his landlady in order to look after his sick wife. After a while Stephen is very much surprised to see that the sick woman has picked up one of the bottles lying on the table and is about to drink its contents. The sick woman thinks that the bottle contains liquor but actually it contains poison. Stephen sits spellbound. Rachel sees what the sick woman is going to do and throws the bottle to snatch away it from her.

#### Chapter XIV : The Great Manufacturer

With the passing of time, Louisa grows into a young woman, and her brother into a young man. Gradgrind has become a member of Parliament for Coketown. One evening, when Gradgrind is going out of his house, he tells Louisa that he has to talk to her about something very important after breakfast of the next day. He believes that Louisa has already guessed it.

#### Chapter XV : Father and Daughter

When Mr. Gradgrind and Louisa speak together after breakfast, he tells her Mr. Bounderby wants to marry her. He explains that the age difference between them is not such a problem for people as practical as they are and explains the case in favor of the marriage. He is taken aback when Louisa asks if she is expected to love Mr. Bounderby, thinking she is above such sentimentality. He tells Louisa to make a decision based on the logic and facts of the situation and an assessment of the possible outcomes of accepting or rejecting the offer. Louisa considers the course of her life and decides to accept his proposal.

#### Chapter XVI : Husband and Wife

Mrs. Sparsit, on learning the news of Bounderby's marriage, simply stares at Bounderby in a pitying manner and formally offers her good wishes to him. After a period of eight weeks, Bounderby gets married to Louisa. Bounderby and Louisa then leave for Lyons for their honeymoon. Louisa's brother Tom is extremely happy at the marriage.