Impoverished young aristocrat Eugène de Rastignac is determined to climb the social ladder and impress himself on Parisian high society. While staying at the Maison Vauquer, a boarding house in Paris’s rue Neuve-Sainte-Geneviève, he encounters Jean-Joachim Goriot, a retired vermicelli maker who has spent his entire fortune supporting his two daughters. The boarders strike up a friendship and Goriot learns of Rastignac’s feelings for his daughter Delphine. He begins to see Rastignac as the ideal son-in-law, and the perfect substitute for Delphine’s domineering husband. But Rastignac has other opportunities too, as the notorious criminal Vautrin, ‘The Death Dodger’, offers to murder the brother of a wealthy woman, giving the ambitious young lawyer a clear path to her fortune… Profound and realistic, Father Goriot is a startling glimpse into the vanity and selfishness of 19th-century Paris. It is considered one of the finest works of Balzac’s La Comédie Humaine.
Father Goriot caught the student's hand...
Rastignac's battle with himself...
But before the chief had time to answer...
A messenger came in at that moment...
‘Have we guessed your wishes rightly?’
It was midnight. Mme de Nucingen's carriage...
Love in Paris is a thing distinct and apart...
Next day, Goriot and Rastignac were ready...
‘Oh! Father dear, be careful how you set about it!’
Anastasie bowed her head...
‘That is not all, father,’ said Anastasie...

The Countess stood motionless and speechless...
That evening at the opera...
‘How they will enjoy themselves tomorrow,’...
He went to his rooms and dressed...
Rastignac went. He asked for the Marquis...
At two o’clock in the afternoon...
‘They will come before long...’
‘The next day I went to Delphine for comfort...’
‘Christophe!’ shouted Eugène...
Eugène bowed to the husband and wife...
There was something awful and appalling...

Total running time: 12:01:08 • 10 CDs

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Hannah Whale, Fruition – Creative Concepts, using the image Mourning old Man by Vincent van Gogh, 1853–1890 courtesy of AKG Images
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