

2–The Danger of Martyrdom: Mathilde's perception of herself as a martyr leads her to take unwise, self-serving actions. She undertakes the hard work with grim determination, behaving more like a martyr than ever before. Whereas Mathilde sees herself as a martyr but is actually very far from it, Monsieur Loisel himself is truly a martyr, constantly sacrificing his desires and, ultimately, his wellbeing for Mathilde's sake. When Mathilde loses the necklace and sacrifices the next ten years of her life to pay back the debts she incurred from buying a replacement, her feeling of being a martyr intensifies. When Madame Forestier reveals that the necklace was worthless, Mathilde's sacrifices also become worthless, and her status as a martyr—however dubious—is taken away entirely. The Loisels live, appropriately, on the Rue des Martyrs, and Mathilde feels she must suffer through a life that is well beneath what she deserves.