

LES MISERABLES

Written by

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Adapted from the Stage Musical
"Les Misérables"

Based on the novel by
Victor Hugo

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BLACK SCREEN

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION:

The year is 1815.

The French revolution is a distant
memory. Napoleon has been defeated.
France is ruled by a King again.

A1 EXT. TOULON PORT - DAY

A1

RISE UP out of the iron-grey surface of the ocean, seething
in the wind, towards the shore. Winter rain slices the air.
Ahead, the port of Toulon, home of the French navy. A forest
of tall masted warships.

The great ships heave at anchor, the wind whipping their
rigging.

Through the sea spray we see the great ribs of warships
under construction, and warships being refitted.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION:

Toulon
Home port of the French navy

1 **EXT. TOULON DOCK - DAY**

1

Storm-lashed sea and driving rain. A great wave rises up and hammers down. As it recedes we see the figures of men heaving on great ropes, the sea water streaming down over their faces. The harsh storm light catches glints of metal: these men are CONVICTS, chained by manacles, heads shaved, wearing red shirts with prison numbers crudely stitched onto them.

Now we see that the ropes run up to a ship that is being hauled ashore - a storm-damaged man-of-war, its masts broken, rising and falling on the surge.

As yet another great wave rolls over the convicts, we follow the straining ropes down into the base of the slipway, and find the convict JEAN VALJEAN, up to his waist in water, chained by two sets of manacles, as the rain and spray and wind scream round him. A great brute of a man, he seems to feel nothing.

2.

The convicts sing in time with the rhythmic pulls on the rope -

CONVICTS

Ha - Ha -

CONVICT 3

Ha - Ha -
Look down, look down
Don't look them in the eye

CONVICTS

Look down, look down
You're here until you die.

CONVICT 4

No God above
And Hell alone below

CONVICTS

Look down, look down

There's twenty years to go.

The camera RISES UP to find JAVERT, the officer in charge of the convict workforce, looking on, his face rain-lashed and expressionless. He stands above the men on the top of the dock, as lines of convicts labour beneath him on the steep steps of the dock wall.

Behind Javert, through the storm rain we glimpse a forest of half-built ships, their ribbed frames like great skeletons in the mist.

FOREGROUND convicts are at work on another ship that is almost completed, labouring in the crashing spray.

CONVICT 2

I've done no wrong
Sweet Jesus, hear my prayer!

CONVICTS

Look down, look down
Sweet Jesus doesn't care.

CONVICT 5

I know she'll wait
I know that she'll be true -

CONVICTS

Look down, look down
They've all forgotten you.

CONVICT 1

When I get free
You won't see me
Here for dust!

3.

CONVICTS

Look down, look down
Don't look'em in the eye.

CONVICT 3

How long, O Lord
Before you let me die?

CONVICTS

Look down, look down
You'll always be a slave.
Look down, look down
You're standing in your grave.

With a last great heave the lines of convicts haul the damaged ship onto the slipway.

CRACK! The stern flagpole of the ship snaps in a vicious gust of wind and crashes down into the shallow water near Valjean. Javert sees and points his stick at Valjean in silent command. Valjean stares back for a beat, defying him. Then he drops down into the seething water and re-emerges with the great mast in his hands, held over his head. His head breaks water with his bitter gaze still on Javert, as he throws the mast ashore in a deliberate display of strength.

Javert nods to the guards, and they begin to form the chained men into lines to return to their prison. The storm is passing now, blown by the driving wind.

Javert approaches Jean Valjean.

JAVERT

Now Prisoner 24601.
Your time is up
And your parole's begun.
You know what that means?

VALJEAN

Yes. It means I'm free.

JAVERT

No! It means you get
Your yellow ticket-of-leave.

He hands Valjean a folded yellow paper.

JAVERT

This badge of shame
You'll show it everywhere.
It warns you're a dangerous man.

VALJEAN

I stole a loaf of bread
My sister's child was close to
death
And we were starving.

4.

JAVERT

You will starve again
Unless you learn the meaning of
the law.

VALJEAN

I know the meaning of those
nineteen years
A slave of the law!

JAVERT

Five years for what you did,
The rest because you tried to
run.
Yes, 24601!

VALJEAN

My name is Jean Valjean!

JAVERT

And I'm Javert!
Do not forget my name.
Do not forget me -
24601!

He strides away to command the lines of convicts as they're
marched away. Valjean walks away, hardly able to take in
that he is free at last.

The convicts sing as he goes.

CONVICTS

Look down, look down
You'll always be a slave.
Look down, look down
You're standing in your grave.

2 EXT. ROAD OUT OF TOULON - DAWN

2

Valjean makes his way up a rising track, a worn knapsack on
his back. He comes to a stop at the top of the hill, and
there before him, lit by the rising sun, spreads a wide
vista of fields and towns and villages, stretching into the
distance, with the snow capped Alps beyond. Behind and
below him lies Toulon at the sea's edge. As we hear the
musical theme ('Freedom is Mine'), we see for the first
time the darkness in his face give way to a new hope.

VALJEAN

Freedom at last -
How strange the taste!
Never forget the years - the waste,
Nor forgive them for what they've
done.
They are the guilty - Everyone!
The day begins
(more)

VALJEAN (cont'd)

And now lets see
What this new world
Will do for me!

3 **SCENE OMITTED** 3

4 **EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY** 4

Valjean strides down the long rising road, pulling his thin coat close round him against the cold winter wind.

He passes a long line of labourers working. He approaches the OVERSEER.

VALJEAN

Monsieur can I help? A day's work?

The overseer notices shaved hair showing under his cap.

OVERSEER

Take your hat off.

Valjean takes his hat off, revealing his shaved and scarred head.

OVERSEER

Passport.

The overseer scans the yellow paper, and hands it back.

OVERSEER

No work here.

5 **SCENE OMITTED** 5

6 **EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - END OF DAY** 6

Valjean slogs on up the rising track into the mountains. Snow on the ground here, and darkness falling.

He looks up and sees ahead a village built on a rock cliff, its lights twinkling, the snowy mountains rising behind. The tower of its handsome church rises up like a promise of refuge. This is Digne.

6A **EXT. DIGNE - DUSK** 6A

Valjean enters Digne. As he drinks from the fountain, he sees a guard standing outside the Mairie.

6.

6B INT. MAIRIE, DIGNE - DUSK

6B

Valjean stands waiting. The officer fastidiously writes down the name of Valjean in his huge ledger and the name of the town in his passport. The officer signs and stamps the passport.

OFFICER

Valjean.

The officer hands back the passport. Valjean leaves.

6C EXT. DIGNE - DUSK

6C

Valjean walks down the high street, spies the warm glow of an inn and enters.

7 INT. COUNTRY INN, DIGNE - DUSK

7

Valjean sits in the corner, his hat low over his head. He eyes hungrily a group of cart drivers tucking into a roast meal by a roaring fire place. The innkeeper serves him a beer. As he reaches for it his coat sleeve rides up to reveal his wrist, calloused and scarred by manacles. The innkeeper eyes him warily. He discusses Valjean with two other men, then asks for his paper. Sees the phrase "Extremely Dangerous".

VALJEAN'S POV - From the yellow paper in the innkeeper's hands up to the innkeeper's face. A blank stare, a shrug of refusal.

INNKEEPER

My inn is full.

7A EXT. DIGNE - NIGHT

7A

Valjean moves off wearily through the village. As he passes down the narrow street, faces peer at him from doorways, but the doors close when he goes by. A shadowy figure follows him. Word has spread that he's a 'dangerous man'.

Passing the uncurtained window of a cottage, he comes to a

stop. Through the window he sees a scene that breaks his heart: a father at a table by lamplight, his young wife before him, his children on either side. Nothing special, and yet everything he's never had.

8 EXT. PRISON, DIGNE - NIGHT

8

He stops at the local jail. An iron chain attached to a bell hangs from the prison door. He rings. A grate slides open.

7.

VALJEAN

Jailer. Would you let me stay here for tonight?

JAILER

This is a prison, not an inn. Get yourself arrested. Then we will open up for you.

The grate slides shut. As Jean Valjean walks away, some children who have been following begin throwing stones at him. He threatens them with his stick and they scatter.

8A EXT. DIGNE - NIGHT

8A

He sees over a garden wall a low doorway in a stone turret. Valjean stoops through the doorway and lies down on some straw. He hears a ferocious growl and sees the head of an enormous mastiff. It is a dog kennel.

8B EXT. DIGNE - NIGHT

8B

Snow falling as Valjean makes his way down the road, hungry, weary, moving slowly, his trousers ripped and bloody from where the dog has bitten him.

At the end of a road, the snow-covered church; beside it, a dark churchyard.

9 EXT. CHURCH YARD, DIGNE - NIGHT

9

Snow-covered gravestones in moonlight. Exhausted, Valjean collapses to the ground and huddles himself into the shelter of a doorway.

A lantern glows in the dark. The lantern approaches,

throwing shadows. Its little circle of light comes to rest on the crumpled figure of Valjean.

He stirs and opens his eyes.

VALJEAN'S POV - The glow of the lantern in the darkness. Beyond it, the half-seen features of a kind old man. The **BISHOP**.

BISHOP

Come in, sir, for you are weary
And the night is cold out here.
Though our lives are very humble
What we have we have to share.

Bewildered, fearful, suspicious, Valjean gets up and goes with the Bishop into the house by the church.

8.

10 INT. BISHOP'S HOUSE - NIGHT

10

A simple table on which is laid out bread and wine, with silver cutlery. Two silver candlesticks light the room, illuminating walls painted with religious scenes. The Bishop ushers the bewildered Valjean into the room. The bishop's sister Madame Baptistine stands. Valjean hesitates.

BISHOP

There is wine here to revive you.
There is bread to make you
strong.
There's a bed to rest till
morning -
Rest from pain, and rest from
wrong.

BISHOP

Sit, my brother.

The Bishop gestures to the housekeeper Madame Magloire.

BISHOP

Madame, set one more place.
(to Valjean)
Please sit.

The Bishop gently takes his arm and draws him into a chair.

Valjean sits, and the Housekeeper lays food before him. Famished, Valjean eats like an animal. The Bishop says a short grace.

BISHOP

May the Lord bless the food we eat today. Bless our dear sister and our honoured guest.

(To Valjean)

Please, eat. Where are you travelling to my brother?

VALJEAN

Pontarlier.

BISHOP

Is that where your family is?

VALJEAN

No. The destination is compulsory. That is where the Law sends me. I have no home.

BISHOP

Then let this be your home, for as long as you need it.

9.

11 INT. BEDROOM, BISHOP'S HOUSE - NIGHT

11

The Bishop leads Valjean to a bedroom where the walls are also painted with religious imagery. Across the passage, Valjean sees the open door to the Bishop's own bedroom. There the Housekeeper is putting the table silver away in a cupboard.

He turns to see a bed made up with clean white linen waiting for him. He hasn't slept in such a bed ever in his life. But the Bishop is smiling, offering it to him.

BISHOP

Sleep well. Tomorrow morning before you leave you will have a cup of milk from our cows, nice and hot.

The Bishop turns away to go to sleep.

VALJEAN

You let me sleep here next to you?
How do you know I'm not a murderer?

Valjean laughs a strange laugh.

BISHOP

God will take care of that.

LATER THAT NIGHT -

Valjean lies on the bed, fully dressed, deeply asleep.

Outside a dog barks.

Valjean's eyes snap open. The first thing he sees by the light of the moon is an image of God the Father gazing down on him from the painted ceiling. In panic, fearing judgement, he sits bolt upright. Then he looks round, and remembers. He gets out of bed, and opens the door.

There, across the narrow passage, the door stands open to the Bishop's bedroom. In the moonlight, he sees the Bishop lying asleep. Above his bed, the cupboard where the silver is kept.

Valjean moves silently into the Bishop's room, holding a metal miner's spike which he pulls from his bag. The floor boards creak. He looks down at the old man, holding his breath, but the bishop is peacefully and innocently asleep. He reaches up to the cupboard. It is unlocked. The cupboard door opens with a sharp cracking sound. The Bishop, disturbed in his sleep, moves a little. At once Valjean is over him, like a wild animal, spike raised to strike should he wake. The Bishop sleeps on. The moon comes out and lights up his beautiful, smiling face. Valjean is thrown. He turns back and opens the cupboard door fully: there is the silver.

10.

Carefully he picks it out, fearful of every clink. One last look at the sleeping old man, and he makes a run for the door.

12 EXT. CHURCHYARD - NIGHT

12

Valjean rushes out of the back door of the house. He crosses the graveyard, scrambles over a back wall, and he's gone.

13 INT. BISHOP'S HOUSE - DAY

13

The Bishop is coming in from morning Mass in his vestments when the door bursts open and two policemen drag Valjean before him. Valjean hangs his head, unable to meet the

Bishop's eyes.

CONSTABLE

Monsignor, we caught the thief
red-handed! He has the nerve to
say you gave him all this!

He upends Valjean's kitbag, and the silver tumbles out.

The Bishop looks from the silver to Valjean.

BISHOP

That is right.

Amazed, Valjean looks up.

BISHOP

But my friend, you left so early,
You forgot I gave these also.
Would you leave the best behind?

The old Bishop is holding out the two silver candlesticks.

BISHOP

(to policemen)
Messieurs, release him.
For this man has spoken true.
I commend you for your duty
Now God's blessing go with you.

Silenced by the Bishop's gentle tones, the policemen turn
and leave.

Valjean, utterly bewildered, takes the silver candlesticks.

BISHOP

But remember this, my brother -
See in this some higher plan.
You must use this precious silver
To become an honest man.
By the witness of the martyrs,
(more)

11.

BISHOP (cont'd)

By the passion and the blood,
God has raised you out of
darkness -
I have bought your soul for God.

Valjean kneels in the church.

He takes out his yellow passport and stares at it.

He turns towards the altar, and the crucifix above it.

VALJEAN

What have I done?
Sweet Jesus, what have I done?
Become a thief in the night
Become a dog on the run!
And have I fallen so far
And is the hour so late
That nothing remains but the cry
of my hate?
The cries in the dark that nobody
hears
Here where I stand at the turning
of the years.

If there's another way to go
I missed it twenty long years
ago.
My life was a war that could
never be won.
They gave me a number and
murdered Valjean
When they chained me and left me
for dead
Just for stealing a mouthful of
bread!
Yet why did I allow this man
To touch my soul and teach me
love?
He treated me like any other
He gave me his trust
He called me brother.
My life he claims for God
above...
Can such things be?
For I had come to hate the world -
This world that always hated me!

Take an eye for an eye!
Turn your heart into stone!
This is all I have lived for!
This is all I have known!
One word from him and I'd be back
Beneath the lash, upon the rack.
Instead he offers me my freedom!

(more)

VALJEAN (cont'd)

I feel my shame inside me like a
knife.
He told me that I have a soul...
How does he know?
What spirit comes to move my
life?
Is there another way to go?

Slowly, he examines the yellow passport and raises it high,
as if to the altar.

VALJEAN

I am reaching, but I fall
And the night is closing in...
As I stare into the void -
To the whirlpool of my sin.

Valjean stands and turns, walking fast to the door of the
church.

VALJEAN

I'll escape now from that world -
From the world of Jean Valjean.
Jean Valjean is nothing now!

15 **EXT. CHURCH, DIGNE - DAY**

15

Valjean comes out of the church into the graveyard and
reaches a bell set on the edge of a promontory. Below lies
the steep drop down the mountainside to the dark valley
below.

VALJEAN

Another story must begin!

He rips the yellow paper into pieces and throws the pieces
out over the valley. The scraps flutter in the wind.

FOLLOW the scraps of yellow paper as they dance in the wind
then fall away into the void below. One scrap of paper
dances upwards in the sunlight. We follow this and
accelerate upwards leaving Valjean and the town of Digne
far below, towards the sun gloriously breaking through the
heavens with the alps beyond. The camera then starts to
tumble back down through mist and cloud below - through
time and space - down to discover -

The camera hurtling towards three horses riding down a long muddy road on a flat plain towards the walled town of Montreuil-sur-Mer. Montreuil sits on an estuary leading out to the sea. We see ships sitting in low tide on the mud of the estuary along the dockside of the town, and red brick factory buildings.

13.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION:

Eight years later

Montreuil-sur-Mer, 1823.

The camera closes in to ground level to reveal the horseriders:

Javert, flanked by two policemen.

As the riders enter the walled town we see the poor clustered around the gates - destitute and sick people clammering to get in.

BEGGARS' CHORUS

At the end of the day you're
another day older
And that's all you can say for
the life of the poor.
It's a struggle! It's a war!
And there's nothing that anyone's
giving.
One more day standing about -
What is it for?
One day less to be living.

Javert sees the destitution of the people. Expressionless as ever.

BEGGARS' CHORUS

At the end of the day you're
another day colder
And the shirt on your back
doesn't keep out the chill.
And the righteous hurry past
They don't hear the little ones
crying

And the plague is coming on fast
Ready to kill -
One day nearer to dying!

TRACK PAST a plague victim, wrapped in a shroud, being thrown onto a cart.

The police enter the harbour.

17 **EXT. HARBOUR - MONTREUIL - DAY**

17

The beggars are pushed back as the gates open and close for the police.

14.

BEGGARS' CHORUS

At the end of the day there's
another day dawning
And the sun in the morning is
waiting to rise
Like the waves crash on the sand
Like a storm that'll break any
second
There's a hunger in the land
There's a reckoning still to be
reckoned
And there's gonna be hell to pay
At the end of the day!

Javert looks round at the factory buildings, the boats in the harbour, the poor clamouring behind him, and rides on.

18 **SCENE OMITTED**

18

19 **EXT. FACTORY YARD, MONTREUIL - DAY**

19

Heavy carts wait to be loaded with wooden crates of goods. Workmen carry the crates out of the factory as the FOREMAN strides in through the doors, gesturing to a cart driver, FAUCHELEVENT, who's taking a quick rest on a crate.

19A **INT. FACTORY, MONTREUIL - MEN'S SECTION - DAY**

19A

The foreman passes men packing boxes on tables and loading boxes onto crates. He passes through a door under a first

floor office.

20-22 INT. FACTORY, MONTREUIL - WOMEN'S SECTION - DAY

20-22

The long work space is full of tables at which conservatively dressed women are working, making jewelry out of shellac, a black resin which looks like jet. An impressive sight: obviously a very successful business. A wooden staircase climbs one wall to a glass-windowed business office. The figure of a man within.

FOREMAN

(flirtatiously, to women)
At the end of the day you get
nothing for nothing!
Sitting flat on your bum doesn't
buy any bread!

FACTORY WOMAN 4

There are children back at home -

FACTORY WOMAN 2

And the children have got to be
fed.

15.

FACTORY WOMAN 7

And you're lucky to be in a job -

The Foreman has stopped beside FANTINE, a pretty young woman. As he leans over to whisper in her ear Fantine, surprised, pricks her finger with her needle.

FOREMAN

(quietly, to Fantine)
And in a bed!

FACTORY WOMAN 8

(to Fantine, as a warning)
And we're counting our blessings!

The Foreman continues his rounds, encouraging the women to speed up their work.

FOREMAN

At the end of the day just be glad
to be working
For a master who cares for the
lives of the poor.

FACTORY WOMAN 7

He's a riddle..

FACTORY WOMAN 4

He's no fool..

FACTORY WOMAN 6

He's the answer to anyone's prayer

FACTORY WOMAN 8

And he paid for the brand new
school

FACTORY WOMAN 4

It's no wonder they made him the
mayor!

FACTORY WOMEN

Bless the man who leads the way!
At the end of the day!

They get on with their tasks, all glancing up at the boss in
the office above.

The Foreman returns to Fantine, trying to help her.

MAIN FACTORY WOMAN

Have you seen how the foreman is
fuming today
With his terrible breath and his
wandering hands?

16.

FACTORY WOMAN 3

It's because little Fantine won't
give him his way.

FACTORY WOMAN 5

Take a look at his trousers,
you'll see where he stands!

FACTORY WOMAN 2

And the boss, he never knows
That the foreman is always on
heat.

MAIN FACTORY WOMAN

If Fantine doesn't look out,
Watch how she goes,
She'll be out on the street!

The Foreman rings a bell, announcing the end of the work day.

The women start to take off their overalls and pack up their tools for the day.

FACTORY WOMEN/FOREMAN

At the end of the day its another
day over
With enough in your pocket to last
for a week
Pay the landlord, pay the shop
Keep on working as long as you're
able
Keep on working till you drop
Or it's back to the crumbs off the
table
Well, you've got to pay your way
At the end of the day!

The women queue up to be paid by the Foreman at the door.

Fantine has taken out a letter. The main factory woman snatches the letter away from Fantine.

MAIN FACTORY WOMAN

And what have we here, little
innocent sister?

The letter is passed surreptitiously down the line of women workers.

MAIN FACTORY WOMAN

Come on, Fantine, let's have all
the news.
(reading)
'Dear Fantine, you must send us
more money,
Your child needs a doctor,
There's no time to lose.'

17.

FANTINE

Give that letter to me
It is none of your business.
With a husband at home
And a bit on the side!
Is there anyone here
Who can swear before God
She has nothing to fear?
She has nothing to hide?

The main factory woman starts to take Fantine's letter over to the Foreman.

Fantine tries to get the letter back. The women scuffle.

The owner enters the factory floor. We see him only from behind: a well-dressed prosperous man.

VALJEAN

What is this fighting all about?
Will someone tear these two
apart?
This is a factory, not a circus.

As he sings, the CAMERA MOVES ROUND to discover him. Clean-shaven, well-fed, transformed: it's Valjean.

VALJEAN

Now come on, ladies, settle down.
I run a business of repute.

Suddenly Valjean sees Javert appear on the first floor balcony of his office. His world drops away.

VALJEAN

(to the foreman)
Deal with this, Foreman.
Be as patient as you can.

He walks back to the stairs up to his office.

On the factory floor -

FOREMAN

Now someone say how this began!

The factory women all turn on Fantine.

FANTINE/FACTORY WOMAN 5

At the end of the day she's the
one who began it!

MAIN FACTORY WOMAN

There's a kid that she's hiding
in some little town.

FACTORY WOMAN 5

There's a man she has to pay

MAIN FACTORY WOMAN

You can guess how she picks up
the extra -
You can bet she's earning her
keep
Sleeping around!
And the boss wouldn't like it.

FANTINE

Yes, it's true there's a child
And the child is my daughter
And her father abandoned us,
Leaving us flat.
Now she lives with an innkeeper
man and his wife
And I pay for the child.
What's the matter with that?

Fantine continues to defend herself to the Foreman, as the
women sing -

FACTORY WOMEN

At the end of the day she'll be
nothing but trouble
And there's trouble for all when
there's trouble for one!
While we're earning our daily
bread
She's the one with her hands in
the butter -
You must send the slut away
Or we're all going to end in the
gutter
And it's us who'll have to pay
At the end of the day!

The Foreman pulls Fantine away.

FOREMAN

I might have known the bitch
could bite!
I might have known the cat had
claws!
I might have guessed your little
secret!
Ah yes, the virtuous Fantine
Who keeps herself so pure and
clean -
You'd be the cause, I had no
doubt
Of any trouble hereabout.
You play a virgin in the light
But need no urging in the night!

MAIN FACTORY WOMAN

She's been laughing at you
While she's having her men!

19.

FACTORY WOMEN

She'll be nothing but trouble
again and again!

FACTORY WOMAN 5

You must sack her today!

FACTORY WOMEN

Sack the girl today!

FOREMAN

Right, my girl! On your way!

Below, Fantine turns and calls to Valjean in his office
above with a pitiful cry.

FANTINE

M'sieur Mayor, help me! I have a
child!

Valjean hears the cry, but he has other concerns. He turns
round to face Javert.

Javert stares at him.

On the factory floor below, the Foreman hustles Fantine
out, as she struggles against him.

23 **INT. FACTORY OFFICE - DAY**

23

Javert bows.

JAVERT

I introduce myself,
Inspector of Police.
I've come to take the watch
I'm here to keep the peace.
Please know me as Javert.

I'm here at your command
With honour due to each.
With justice in our hands
No man's beyond our reach.
Let all beware.

VALJEAN

Welcome, sir
Come guard our laws
I'm sure we're here
In common cause.

Javert turns to look through the high window onto the men's factory floor below. The last men are leaving for the day.

JAVERT

You've done the city proud,
You've raised their banner high.
(more)

20.

JAVERT (cont'd)

You manufacture gems
That anyone can buy
Your people thrive.

Valjean shows some demonstration samples of their work.

VALJEAN

The dignity of toil
To stay alive.

Javert is puzzled. He's sure he recognises Valjean, but from where?

JAVERT

It seems to me
We may have met.

Valjean throws him a sharp glance.

VALJEAN

Your face is not a face
I would forget.

A CRASH from outside in the yard - shouts -

24 **EXT. TRACK LEADING TO FACTORY, MONTREUIL - DAY**

24

Valjean and Javert hurry out across the factory yard and down the muddy track beyond to discover -

A heavily laden cart has toppled onto the cart driver - Fauchelevent, the worker seen before taking a rest on a crate.

The cart driver and the Foreman are trying to lift the cart off the crushed man, but it's too heavy, and the ground is too soft. Fauchelevent screams as the cart slowly sinks in the mud.

Valjean, Javert and Javert's assistant all hurry to help, but they can't get a proper purchase in the spongy ground. All the time the cart is sinking further, pushing Fauchelevent deeper into the mud that will soon bury him. Then Valjean sees a way. At one end the wheels of the cart have stopped sinking - the ground is harder here. He throws himself under the cart at this higher end, and braces himself to lift it from beneath.

VALJEAN

Get back! It may fall!

FOREMAN

No, Monsieur le Mayor!

CROWD

It'll kill you as well!

21.

Javert stands back and looks on. As he looks, we see a memory stirring in him.

JAVERT'S POV - Valjean's posture beneath the cart is exactly the same as the convict beneath the fallen mast. The same crouching power. The same almost-suicidal determination.

Valjean sees Javert looking at him, and knows exactly what he's thinking. For a moment he hesitates. Then he hears Fauchelevent's choking scream as the mud gags his mouth. Valjean strains every muscle, and slowly one end of the cart begins to rise. As soon as it clears the crushed and gasping man, the others pull him clear.

Valjean lets the cart down again, and climbs out. As he brushes himself down he finds Javert staring at him.

JAVERT

Can this be true?
I don't believe what I see!
A man your age
To be as strong as you are!
A memory stirs...
You make me think of a man
From years ago
A man who broke his parole..

He disappeared.

He shakes his head, realising how absurd his suspicions are.

JAVERT

Forgive me, sir.
I would not dare -

VALJEAN

Say what you must.
Don't leave it there.

Valjean holds Javert's gaze, challenging him to say more.
Javert is not yet confident enough to continue.

Valjean goes to help Fauchelevent.

VALJEAN

Let me help you up.

Fauchelevent groans as he rises.

FAUCHELEVENT

Monsieur le Mayor, you come from
God!
You are a saint!

VALJEAN

No more cart driving for you!

22.

Javert stares. He can't rid himself of his suspicion.

JAVERT

Monsieur le Mayor.

He draws himself up and gives a bow. As he walks away, he discusses something with his assistant.

25 **EXT. HARBOUR, MONTREUIL - NIGHT**

25

Fantine makes her way to the harbour wall. Beggars shelter in the tunnels under the red brick buildings.

26 **EXT. RED LIGHT DISTRICT, MONTREUIL - NIGHT**

26

Fantine makes her way down wet slimy steps. This leads to an alleyway that runs down to the harbour and three ships lying

on the mud at low tide. At the far end, the largest is the rotting hulk of a vast old warship. A single whore sits in a doorway.

FANTINE

Excuse me, is this where the Pawnbrokers is?

WHORE 1

(pointing)
It's just there.

FANTINE

Thank you.

Drunken sailors spill out into the alleyway below. The first sailor is trying to find the whorehouse.

SAILOR 1

I smell women!
Smell'em in the air!
Think I'll drop my anchor
In that harbour over there!

They spot Fantine, mistaking her for a whore. Fantine presses on down the steps, trying to ignore the sailors.

SAILOR 2

Lovely ladies!
Love `em till your broke!
Seven months at sea can make you
Hungry for a poke!

The sailors then see whores start to appear from the shadows of warehouse doorways.

SAILOR 3

Even stokers need a little stoke!

23.

A man with no legs, reacting to the sailors, cranks up an organ-grinder and from doorways and overhead windows harbour whores appear and tout for business.

A man selling dentures stands by his cart and we hear fragments of his sales pitch.

WHORES

Lovely ladies
Waiting for a bite!
Waiting for the customers

TOOTH MAN

Lovely dentures
Guaranteed to bite
They clean up real easy

Who only come at night.
Lovely ladies
Ready for the call,
Standing up or lying down
Or any way at all -

You can take them out at
night
Sell your teeth here make a
pretty sum
Best Tooth Man in the harbour

Bargain prices up against the
wall!

Guaranteed no painful gums
Bargain prices up against the
wall!

During the above chorus, Fantine sells a locket containing a
cutting of Cosette's hair to the pawnbroker.

PAWNBROKER

Hello sweetheart, I'll give you
four francs.

FANTINE

It's worth at least ten.

The pawnbroker goes back in his shop and Fantine watches the
whores.

FANTINE

Alright, five.

The pawnbroker takes the locket in exchange for the money.

An old woman leers at Fantine from the shadows, beckoning.
She approaches Fantine, reaching out to stroke her hair.

HAIR CRONE

What pretty hair!
What pretty locks you've got
there!
What luck you got.
It's worth a centime, my dear!
I'll take the lot!

FANTINE

Don't touch me! Leave me alone!

HAIR CRONE

Let's make a price.
I'll give you all of ten francs.
Just think of that!

24.

FANTINE

It pays a debt...

HAIR CRONE

Just think of that.

FANTINE

What can I do? It pays a debt.
Ten francs may save my poor
Cosette.

The hair crone leads Fantine down to her shop at the base of the stairs.

Fantine is sat on a low stool. She bows her head before the hair crone, who at once whips out a razor blade and cuts off her hair at the roots.

26A EXT. RED LIGHT DISTRICT MONTREUIL - END OF DAY

26A

Fantine walks down the steps with short hair, mocked by the voices of the whores on either side.

A PIMP and the HEAD WHORE watch her progress as the organ-grinder grinds out the music.

Whores sing from the warehouse doorways, from on top of the spars of the ships, writhing around figureheads and from the rotting ship.

The few men in the street choose their whores and disappear by the end of the chorus.

WHORES

Lovely ladies
Waiting in the dark.
Ready for a thick one
Or a quick one in the park.

HEAD WHORE

Long time, short time
Anytime my dear!
Cost a little extra
If you want to take all year

TOOTH MAN

Lovely dentures guaranteed to
bite
They clean up real easy
You can take them out at
night
Lovely teeth dear shining
like the stars
I'll whip em out quite
quickly
And I won't leave any scars.

WHORES

Quick and cheap is underneath
the pier

Fantine reaches the hair crone.

FANTINE

Please, you wouldn't have any work
for me would you? Please, I sold

you my hair. I could do anything.

The hair crone points at the head whore and the tooth man.

25.

HAIR CRONE

Go and see them.

Fantine looks towards the tooth man and the head whore.

TOOTH MAN

Come over here,

I pay ten francs for a tooth.

Fantine heads to the tooth man.

HEAD WHORE

Come here my dear.

I'll pay well for your youth.

TOOTH MAN

You have, my dear,
The clear advantage of youth.

HEAD WHORE

(whispers)

Just the back ones.

TOOTH MAN

The pain won't last,
You'll still be able to bite.

She grabs Fantine's cheeks and forces open her mouth to inspect her teeth.

TOOTH MAN

I do it fast,
I know my business all right.
It's worth a go.

The pimp pushes her down.

FANTINE

You'll pay me first
What I am due.

TOOTH MAN

You'll get twice
If I take two!

She opens her mouth, and the pincers go in, as everyone gathers round to watch. Fantine screams as the first tooth is removed.

The pimp is passing among the whores, checking that they're all fit for business.

WHORES

God, we're weary,
Sick enough to drop!

LOVELY LADY 1

Belly burns like fire,
Will the bleeding ever stop!

26.

PIMP

Cheer up, deary!
Show a happy face!
Plenty more like you here
If you can't keep up the pace.

LOVELY LADY 1

Only joking!
Deary knows her place!

The pimp gestures at Fantine, now slumped in a doorway, her crooked head in her hands.

A shy captain watches Fantine. The pimp notices.

PIMP

Gimme the dirt -
Who's that bit over there?

WHORE 1

A bit of skirt,
She's the one sold her hair.

HEAD WHORE

She's got a kid,
Sends her all that she can.

PIMP

I might've known
There is always some man.

He moves in on Fantine.

PIMP

Lovely lady, come along and join
us!

Lovely lady!

Fantine looks up, a trickle of blood in one corner of her mouth. The whores cluster round her, hands reaching out to draw her in to their world. On the rotting warship, more whores appear out of the gaps of the hull to sing the chorus.

WHORE 1

Come on, dearie, why all the
fuss?

WHORES

... why all the fuss.

WHORE 2

You're no grander than the rest
of us.

WHORES

... than the rest of us.

27.

WHORE 3

Life has dropped you at the
bottom of the heap.

WHORES

...at the bottom of the heap.

Whore 3 bites her fingertip and applies her blood to rouge Fantine's cheeks.

HEAD WHORE

Join your sisters -

WHORE 1

Make money in your sleep!

WHORES

... make money in your sleep.

WHORE 2

That's right, dearie,
Show him what you've got!

WHORES

... show him what you've got.

WHORE 3

That's right, dearie,

Let him have the lot!

WHORES

...let him have the lot.

The whores perform for the benefit of Fantine on the orders of the head whore, as the head whore leads her towards the hulk.

WHORES

Old men, young men, take'em as
they come!
Harbour rats and alley cats
And every kind of scum!
Poor men, rich men, leaders of
the land -
See them with their trousers off,
They're never quite as grand!
All it takes is money in your
hand!

The pimp leads the captain down the middle of the whores to Fantine who wears a filthy white dress. The pimp joins the captain and Fantine's hands as the head whore officiates - like a twisted wedding ceremony.

WHORES

Lovely ladies
Going for a song,
(more)

28.

WHORES (cont'd)

Got a lot of callers
But they never stay for long...

Fantine puts on a show of courage as she leads the captain into the ship's hulk, which is a brothel.

FANTINE

Come on, Captain, you can wear your
shoes.
Don't it make a change to have a
girl who can't refuse?

27 INT. ROTTING SHIP'S HULK, MONTREUIL - NIGHT

27

Fantine, pale and frail, her bodice loosened, leads the captain down to the damp dregs of the ship.

We see the rotting straw mattress within as they enter,

then Fantine lays down.

FANTINE

Easy money lying on a bed.
Just as well they never see
The hate that's in your head!
Don't they know they're making love
To one already dead?

28 INT. ROTTING SHIP'S HULK, MONTREUIL - NIGHT

28

CLOSE ON a man's hand leaving money. We hear him exit. MOVE TO FIND Fantine lying alone on the mattress.

She pulls herself into a sitting position against the head of the mattress. She draws her legs up and wraps her arms round her knees, huddling against the misery of the world.

FANTINE

There was a time when men were
kind,
When their voices were soft
And their words inviting.
There was a time when love was
blind
And the world was a song
And the song was exciting.
There was a time...
Then it all went wrong.

I dreamed a dream in time gone
by,
When hope was high
And life worth living.
I dreamed that love would never
die.
I dreamed that God would be
forgiving.

(more)

29.

FANTINE (cont'd)

Then I was young and unafraid
And dreams were made and used and
wasted.
There was no ransom to be paid,
No song unsung, no wine untasted.

But the tigers come at night
With their voices soft as thunder

As they tear your hope apart
As they turn your dream to shame.

He slept a summer by my side,
He filled my days with endless
wonder.
He took my childhood in his
stride
But he was gone when autumn came.

And still I dream he'll come to
me!
That we will live the years
together...
But there are dreams that cannot
be
And there are storms we cannot
weather...

I had a dream my life would be
So different from this hell I'm
living -
So different now from what it
seemed!
Now life has killed the dream I
dreamed.

As she ends her song, her next customer is waiting. The head
whore beyond.

29 EXT. RED LIGHT DISTRICT, MONTREUIL - NIGHT

29

Fantine is out on the snow and ice-covered quayside,
shivering, waiting for trade. She looks pale and sickly,
but still attempts an alluring smile.

She moves past the anchored ships, beneath the bowsprits,
trying pathetically to attract custom. Then she comes to a
stop, staring. She has seen and recognised Valjean, some
way off. He's out in the harbour district. He is talking to
a beggar. Before he moves on, he hands over some money.

As Fantine watches Valjean on his mission of mercy, a well-
dressed young man, **BAMATABOIS**, comes up to her. He arrives
with two friends and a valet.

30.

BAMATABOIS

Here's something new. I think
I'll give it a try.

Come closer, you! I like to see
what I buy.
The usual price
For just one slice of your pie.

FANTINE

I don't want you! No! No,
M'sieur! Let me go!

BAMATABOIS

Is this a trick? I won't pay
more!

FANTINE

No, not at all!

BAMATABOIS

You've got some nerve, you little
slut!
You've got some gall!
It's the same with a tart as it is
with a grocer
The customer sees what he gets in
advance
It's not for the whore to say "yes
sir" or "no sir"
It's not for the harlot to pick and
to choose or to lead me a dance!

He pulls her clothing open and laughingly stuffs snow down
her cleavage. Fantine reacts with fury. They fall over in the
snow and Bamatabois laughs.

FANTINE

I'll kill you, you bastard!
Try any of that!
Even a whore who has gone to the
bad
Won't be had by a rat!

Fantine scratches Bamatabois across the face. Bamatabois
touches his face and sees the blood on his fingers. His
friends drag Fantine against the harbour wall.

BAMATABOIS

(furious but aroused)
By Christ you'll pay for what
you've done!
This rat will make you bleed,
you'll see!
I guarantee I'll make you suffer!
For this disturbance of the peace

For this insult to life and
property!

31.

Bamatabois suddenly sees that police have arrived.

FANTINE

I beg you, don't report me, sir.
I'll do whatever you may want.

BAMATABOIS

Make your excuse to the police!

Bamatabois' friend drags Fantine towards the police. It's
Javert.

JAVERT

Tell me quickly what's the story.
Who saw what and why and where?
Let him give a full description,
Let him answer to Javert!
In this nest of whores and vipers
Let one speak who saw it all.
Who laid hands on this good man
here?
What's the substance of this
brawl?

BAMATABOIS

Javert, would you believe it?
I was walking, it was dark
When this prostitute attacked me
You can see she's left her mark!

He shows the blood. Javert turns to Fantine.

JAVERT

She will answer for her actions
When you make a full report.
You may rest assured, M'sieur,
That she will answer to the
court.

Fantine is almost fainting with fear, still racked with
occasional spasms of coughing. Unseen by her, Valjean is
approaching from behind. Javert's assistants pick Fantine
up. Javert covers his mouth with a handkerchief as he
approaches Fantine.

FANTINE

There's a child who sorely needs

me,
Please, m'sieur, she's but that
high.
Holy God, is there no mercy?
If I go to jail she'll die.

JAVERT

I have heard such protestations
Every day for twenty years.
Let's have no more explanations,
(more)

32.

JAVERT (cont'd)

Save your breath and save your
tears.

Javert indicates to the two policemen to drag Fantine away.

Valjean steps out of the shadows.

VALJEAN

A moment of your time, Javert.
I do believe this woman's tale.

JAVERT

Monsieur le Mayor!

VALJEAN

You've done your duty. Let her
be.
She needs a doctor, not a jail.

JAVERT

Monsieur le Mayor!

Javert looks on, containing his anger, as Valjean reaches
out a hand to Fantine. To Fantine, it's as if he's come to
her in a dream -

FANTINE

Can this be?

VALJEAN

Where will she end -
This child without a friend?

He holds Fantine's hands, looking into her face.

VALJEAN

I've seen your face before.
Show me some way to help you.

How have you come to grief
In such a place as this?

FANTINE

M'sieur, don't mock me now, I
pray
It's hard enough I've lost my
pride.
You let your foreman send me
away.
Yes, you were there
And turned aside.
I never did no wrong.

VALJEAN

Is it true what I've done -

FANTINE

My daughter's close to dying.

33.

VALJEAN

- to an innocent soul?

FANTINE

If there's a God above -

VALJEAN

Had I only known then!

FANTINE

He'd let me die instead.

VALJEAN

In His name my task has just begun.
I will her to the hospital.

Valjean picks Fantine up in his arms.

Javert is quietly coldly furious.

JAVERT

Monsieur le Mayor!

FANTINE

Bring Cosette back to me.

VALJEAN

Where is she?

FANTINE

At an inn in Montfermeil...

JAVERT

Monsieur le Mayor!

VALJEAN

I will see it done! I will send
for her immediately!

As Valjean and Fantine move away, Javert stares after them,
then turns and quietly instructs his assistant to follow
after them.

30 EXT. POLICE STATION, MONTREUIL - DAY

30

As Javert walks up the steps to his police station his
assistant stops him with an urgent letter.

JAVERT'S ASSISTANT

From Paris, Monsieur.

Javert seizes it, opens it, and reads. As he reads, his
expression changes. Appalled, he realizes he's made a
terrible mistake.

34.

31 INT. FACTORY, MONTREUIL - NIGHT

31

Valjean is at his desk in his office, going through his
papers once everyone else has gone, when Javert enters and
stands before him. He looks up.

JAVERT

Monsieur le Mayor
I have a crime to declare!
I have disgraced
The uniform that I wear.
I've done you wrong,
Let no forgiveness be shown.
I've been as hard
On every rogue I have known.
I'll bear the blame,
I must be treated
Just the same.

VALJEAN

I don't understand.
What is this crime, Javert?

JAVERT

I mistook you for a convict,
I have made a false report.
Now I learn they've caught the
culprit -
He's about to face the court.

Valjean conceals his shock.

JAVERT

And of course the thief denies
it,
You'd expect that from a con.
But he couldn't run for ever,
No, not even Jean Valjean.

VALJEAN

You say this man denies it all,
And gives no sign of
understanding or repentance?
You say this man is going to
trial,
And that he's sure to be returned
to serve his sentence?

JAVERT

He will pay, and so must I.
Press charges against me, sir!

VALJEAN

You have only done your duty
It's a minor sin at most.
All of us have been mistaken
You'll return, sir, to your post.

35.

JAVERT

Must I do as you say?

VALJEAN

It's your duty to obey!

Javert is about to protest again, but Valjean raises one
commanding hand, to indicate his decision is made. Javert
gives an abrupt bow, and departs.

Left alone, Valjean paces his office, deeply disturbed.

VALJEAN

They think that man is me -
Without a second glance.
This stranger they have found -

This man could be my chance!

Why should I save his hide?
Why should I right this wrong?
When I have come so far
And struggled for so long?

If I speak I am condemned.
If I stay silent, I am damned!

He goes out onto the balcony that looks down on the empty factory.

VALJEAN

I am the master of hundreds of
workers -
They all look to me.
Can I abandon them?
How would they live
If I am not free?

If I speak they are condemned.
If I stay silent, I am damned!

31A INT. VALJEAN'S HOUSE, MONTREUIL - NIGHT

31A

Valjean is sitting staring at the Bishop's candlesticks.

Who am I?
Can I condemn this man to
slavery?
Pretend I do not feel his agony?
This innocent who bears my face,
Who goes to judgement in my
place...
Who am I?

31B INT. VALJEAN'S HOUSE, MONTREUIL - NIGHT

31B

Valjean is furiously packing stuff up.

36.

VALJEAN

Can I conceal myself for ever
more?
Pretend I'm not the man I was
before?
And must my name until I die
Be no more than an alibi?

31C EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT.

31C

Close on two horses panting. A stopped carriage in a wide night landscape. The driver is Valjean, hesitating.

Must I lie?
How can I ever face my fellow
men?
How can I ever face myself again?

31D INT/EXT. COURTROOM - NIGHT

31D

Valjean hesitates outside the courtroom and in the lobby of the courtroom, pacing back and forth.

VALJEAN

My soul belongs to God, I know,
I made that bargain long ago.
He gave me hope when hope was
gone!
He gave me strength to journey
on!
Who am I?
Who am I?
I'm Jean Valjean!

Valjean pushes through the crowds at the back of the courtroom.

32 INT. COURTROOM - NIGHT

32

The man accused of being Jean Valjean, a wretched down-and-out, stands before the JUDGE. He looks uncannily like the real Valjean. Before the judge has a chance to speak, the doors open and Valjean bursts in. Sensation in the court.

VALJEAN

And so, your honour, you see it's
true
That man bears no more guilt than
you!
Who am I?
24601!

37.

The judge is too stunned to respond. The others in the

court can't believe what they've just heard. The Mayor of Montreuil-sur-Mer, a convict!

VALJEAN

If you don't believe me ask
Inspector Javert. He knows where to
find me.

The judge goes over to Valjean and gently leads him out.

JUDGE

Monsieur le Mayor, you are not
well, you must come with me, do you
have a carriage outside? Monsieur
le Mayor, we must get you home to
bed immediately!!

33 INT. HOSPITAL, MONTREUIL - NIGHT

33

The hospital is in the long attic of Valjean's factory.

Valjean hurries into the hospital, breathless. He sees a nursing sister outside Fantine's room.

VALJEAN

Is her daughter with her?

NURSE

No, monsieur. Her guardian sent
this.

She gives Valjean a note. He reads it with mounting anger.

VALJEAN

`Money not enough. Send more.
Thenardier.' What sort of man is
this?

34 INT. HOSPITAL, MONTREUIL - NIGHT

34

Fantine lies in bed, delirious. She is dressed in pure white. Her eyes are closed.

FANTINE

Cosette, it's turned so cold!
Cosette, it's past your bedtime!
You've played the day away
And soon it will be night.

Fantine's eyes open and she sees Cosette, playing in the room. She looks healthy and is dressed prettily.

Come to me, Cosette, the light is fading.

(more)

38.

FANTINE (cont'd)

Don't you see, the evening star appearing?
Come to me, and rest against my shoulder,
How fast the minutes fly away and every minute colder?

Valjean enters, and sees at once that Fantine is close to the end. He drops to his knees by her bed.

VALJEAN

Dear Fantine, Cosette will be here soon!
Dear Fantine, she will be by your side

FANTINE

(trying to get out of bed)
Come Cosette, the night has grown so cold!

VALJEAN

(putting her back in bed)
Be at peace! Be at peace ever more.

FANTINE

My Cosette -

VALJEAN

- shall live in my protection.

FANTINE

Take her now!

She pushes into his hand a scrap of paper on which she's written her wishes.

VALJEAN

Your child will want for nothing.

FANTINE

Good m'sieur, you come from God

in heaven.

VALJEAN

And none shall ever harm Cosette
as long as I am living.

Fantine has stopped looking towards the window. All her fading strength is now directed towards Valjean. She tries to reach up to him.

FANTINE

Take my hand...
The night grows ever colder.

39.

VALJEAN

Then I will keep you warm.

He wraps her in his arms.

FANTINE

Take my child
I give her to your keeping.

VALJEAN

Take shelter from the storm.

FANTINE

For God's sake, please stay till
I am sleeping...
And tell Cosette I love her
And I'll see her when I wake...

Fantine starts to spasm. She sees something over Valjean's shoulder. Valjean doesn't realise. Her eyes go glassy as she passes away. Valjean then hears the unforgettable voice of Javert behind him.

JAVERT

Valjean, at last
We see each other plain!
'M'sieur le Mayor'
You'll wear a different chain!

Valjean stands to face Javert.

VALJEAN

Before you say another word,
Javert,
Before you chain me up like a
slave again,

Listen to me! There is something
I must do.
This woman leaves behind a
suffering child.
There is none but me who can
intercede -
In mercy's name, three days are
all I need,
Then I'll return, I pledge my
word!
Then I'll return...

Javert draws his sword and aims it at Valjean.

JAVERT

You must think me mad!
I've hunted you across the years.
Men like you can never change -
A man such as you!

Valjean breaks a section of timber beam from the roof.
40.

The men start to circle each other.

They sing at the same time, duelling in song.

VALJEAN

Believe of me what you will
There is a duty that I'm sworn to
do.
You know nothing of my life -
All I did was steal some bread.
You know nothing of the world -
You would sooner see me dead.
But not before I see this justice
done!

JAVERT

Men like me can never change.
Men like you can never change.
No, 24601!
My duty is to the law.
You have no rights.
Come with me, 24601!

The two men fight.

VALJEAN

I am warning you, Javert,
I'm a stronger man by far!

There is power in me yet!
My race is not yet run!

JAVERT

Now the wheel has turned around -
Jean Valjean is nothing now.
Dare you talk to me of crime
And the price you had to pay.
Every man is born in sin
Every man must choose his way.

Javert disarms Valjean and drives him backwards towards an attic door.

You know nothing of Javert!
I was born inside a jail.
I was born with scum like you.
I am from the gutter too.

Valjean is pushed through the doors out onto a wooden loading platform beneath a hoist. Below, the walls of the factory lead straight down to the black sea at high tide. Javert is triumphant.

Valjean glances down and pushes back, dropping into the darkness of the ocean.

Javert goes to jump after him and cannot bring himself to do it.

41.

Javert stares into the black sea - there is no sign of Valjean.

34A EXT. HARBOUR, MONTREUIL - NIGHT
34A

Javert and various police search the harbourside with lanterns.

Valjean, dripping wet, watches from a tunnel under a factory, as Fantine's body wrapped in a shroud is dumped on a cart.

They sing to themselves, continuing their duet without knowing.

VALJEAN

And this I swear to you tonight -

JAVERT

There is no place for you to
hide.

VALJEAN

Your child will live within my
care -

JAVERT

Wherever you may hide away -

VALJEAN

And I will raise her to the
light.

JAVERT/VALJEAN

I swear to you, I will be there!

35 EXT. MONTFERMEIL - DUSK

35

The village street is bright with booths set up for a Frost Fair. Families and visitors are out buying baubles, or laughing at the antics of travelling players. Small girls cluster round a stall that displays prettily-dressed dolls. Amongst them is a prettily-dressed girl of 8 or 9 years:
EPONINE.

Across the road from this stall stands a shabby inn. A sign lashed to an old cart swinging in the wind reveals the inn to be 'The Sergeant of Waterloo'. The inn is still closed despite the small crowd at the fair.

MOVE IN on the frosted window of the inn, through which we see a little girl, COSETTE, gazing out at the display of dolls.

42.

36 INT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - END OF DAY

36

Cosette is in the process of sweeping the floor. She's come to a stop, gazing out of the window, mesmerized by the sight of the most beautiful doll in the display, and jealous that Eponine can see it and touch it up close.

COSETTE

There is a castle on a cloud
I like to go there in my sleep.
Aren't any floors for me to
sweep,
Not in my castle on a cloud.

Cosette gets out from a hiding place in the wall a knotted grimy rag - this is her "doll", the knot is the doll's head.

There is a lady all in white
Holds me and sings a lullaby.
She's nice to see and she's soft to
touch

(holding doll to her ear
and whispering)
She says, Cosette, I love you
very much.

I know a place where no one's
lost
I know a place where no one
cries.
Crying at all is not allowed,
Not in my castle on a cloud.

Madame Thenardier comes bustling down the stairs in a bad mood. She glowers at little Cosette and changes the closed sign from "closed" to "open".

MADAME THENARDIER

Now look who's here!
The little madam herself,
Pretending once again
She's been so awfully good!
Better not let me catch you
slacking!
Better not catch my eye!
Ten rotten francs your mother
sends me -
What is that going to buy?
Now take that pail,
My little Mademoiselle,
And go and draw some water from
the well.
We should never have taken you in
In the first place -
How stupid the things that we do!
Like mother, like daughter, the
scum of the street.

43.

Cosette goes to put the broom away.

Eponine comes in from outside.

MADAME THENARDIER

Eponine, come my dear.

Eponine, let me see you.
You look very well in that little
blue hat!
There's some little girls who
know how to behave
And they know what to wear
And I'm saying thank heaven for
that!

Madame Thenardier sees that Cosette far from going is
hiding behind the far wall. We see Cosette's frightened
eyes peering out from a tiny gap in this wall.

MADAME THENARDIER

Still there, Cosette?
Your tears will do you no good!
I told you to fetch some water
from the well in the wood.

COSETTE

(singing through the gap)
Please do not send me out alone.
Not in the darkness on my own.

Madame Thenardier imitates Cosette as she sings.

MADAME THENARDIER

(singing through the gap)
Enough of that, or I'll forget to
be nice!
You heard me ask for something,
And I never ask twice!

The innkeeper's gang posing as customers who have been
loitering outside come in, explaining to a fifth man who is a
newer recruit a story from Monsieur Thenardier's past. Madame
Thenardier goes outside to open up the rather pathetic frost
fair stall on the porch of the inn.

CUSTOMER 1

Mine host Thenardier
He was there, so they say,
At the field of Waterloo.

CUSTOMER 2

Got there, it's true,
When the fight was all through
But he knew just what to do.

CUSTOMER 3

Crawling through the mud,
So I've heard it said,

(more)

44.

CUSTOMER 3 (cont'd)
Picking through the pockets of
the English dead.

CUSTOMER 4

He made a tidy score from the
spoils of war.

We suddenly hear the voice of the landlord, Thenardier. He
has been there all the time, asleep on a bench. He wakes
from his drunken slumbers and roars out:

THENARDIER

My band of soaks,
My den of dissolutes,
My dirty jokes, my always pissed
as newts,
My sons of whores,
Spend their lives in my inn!
Homing pigeons homing in -
They fly through my doors,
And their money's as good as
yours!

36A EXT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - DUSK

36A

Madame Thenardier is trying to sell something unappealing
from her stall to a portly looking man when slushy snow
from the stall's roof falls on the man's head. Madame
Thenardier ushers him inside.

37 INT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - DUSK

37

THENARDIER

Welcome, m'sieur!
Sit yourself down
And meet the best
Innkeeper in town!

Madame Thenardier pretends to accidentally drop a comb from
her hair and the customer helpfully picks it up, allowing
Madame Thenardier to pick his wallet from a back pocket as
he stands up. Monsieur Thenardier takes his coat which
allows the couple to see the customer transfer a pocket
watch from coat to jacket pocket.

THENARDIER

As for the rest -
All of them crooks
Rooking the guests
And cooking the books.
Seldom do you see
Honest men like me
A gent of good intent
Who's content to be -

He pours a strong drink for the new customer -

45.

THENARDIER

Master of the house!
Doling out the charm
Ready with a handshake
And an open palm

Thenardier has thieved the pocket watch using his handshake as a distraction. He passes this off to Madame Thenardier.

THENARDIER

Tells a saucy tale
Makes a little stir
Customers appreciate a bon-viveur
Glad to do a friend a favour
Doesn't cost me to be nice
But nothing gets you nothing
Everything has got a little
price!

THENARDIER

Master of the house!
Keeper of the zoo!
Ready to relieve'em
Of a sou or two -
(serving wine)
Watering the wine

37A INT. KITCHEN, INN, MONTFERMEIL - FLASHBACK - DAY 37A

Thenardier is pissing into the very wine bottle he's using to serve the customer.

37B INT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - DUSK 37B

THENARDIER

Making up the weight
Picking up their knick-knacks

When they can't see straight
Everybody loves a landlord
Everybody's bosom friend!
I do whatever pleases -
Jesus! Won't I bleed'em in the
end!

37C EXT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - DUSK

37C

At Madame Thenardier's stall, a frost fair customer is covered by snow, only this time we realise Madame Thenardier is responsible for pushing the snow off the awning with a stick.

THENARDIER/CUSTOMERS

Master of the house!
Quick to catch your eye
(more)

46.

THENARDIER/CUSTOMERS (cont'd)

Never wants a passer-by
To pass him by!

Madame Thenardier ushers the customer inside.

37D INT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - DUSK
37D

Again Madame Thenardier drops her comb in front of the new customer but this time the thieving is foiled by little Cosette who helpfully picks it up. Over the chorus she shouts at little Cosette to get out.

THENARDIER/CUSTOMERS

Servant to the poor
Butler to the great
Comforter, philosopher and
lifelong mate
Everybody's boon companion
Everybody's chaperone -

THENARDIER

But lock up your valises -
Jesus! Won't I skin you to the
bone!

A FAMILY enters the inn. Thenardier fusses over them.

THENARDIER

Enter, messieurs!
Lay down yer load
Unlace yer boots
And rest from the road.
This weighs a ton
Travel's a curse
But here we strive
To lighten your purse.

He's got the father's purse out, and is removing notes.

THENARDIER

Here the goose is cooked
Here the fat is fried
And nothing's overlooked
Till I'm satisfied -
Food beyond compare
Food beyond belief

38 INT. KITCHEN, INN, MONTFERMEIL - FLASHBACK - DAY

38

Thenardier shows off the secrets of the squalid kitchen - every possible animal being used to make mince meat.

THENARDIER V/O

Mix it in a mincer
And pretend it's beef
Kidney of a horse
(more)

47.

THENARDIER V/O (cont'd)

Liver of a cat
Filling up the sausages
With this and that!

38A INT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - DUSK

38A

Thenardier serves the disgusting food that we've seen him create in the flashback to the family.

THENARDIER

Residents are more than welcome
Bridal suite is occupied

38B INT. BRIDAL SUITE - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

38B

A groom and bride consummate their union.

Thenardier is going through the groom's trousers.

THENARDIER V/O

Reasonable charges
Plus some little extras on the
side.

38C INT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - NIGHT

38C

THENARDIER

Charge'em for the lice
Extra for the mice
Two percent for looking in the
mirror twice.
Here a little slice
There a little cut
Three percent for sleeping with
the window shut.
When it comes to fixing prices
There are lots of tricks he knows
How it all increases
All those bits and pieces -
Jesus! It's amazing how it grows.

39 EXT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - NIGHT

39

Thenardier comes out of the inn, backed by a posse of his
gang of loyal customers, and takes control of a brass band to
sing to the Frost Fair.

THENARDIER/CUSTOMERS

Master of the house!
Quick to catch your eye
Never wants a passer-by
To pass him by!

48.

Further down the street, carrying her empty buckets, Cosette
turns to look sadly back at the cheery sight.

THENARDIER

Servant to the poor
Butler to the great
Comforter, philosopher and
lifelong mate
Everybody's boon companion
Gives'em everything he's got -

The Portly Customer has discovered he's been robbed. He

comes out to protest, holding out his emptied wallet. At once two of Thenardier's thugs grab him and hustle him off.

THENARDIER

Dirty bunch of geezers
Jesus! What a sorry little lot!

39A INT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - NIGHT

39A

Madame Thenardier approaches a handsome soldier who is drinking at a table by the fire in the inn. She sits on his lap and gets him to look back at Thenardier, so allowing her to see inside his coat and spot his wallet.

MADAME THENARDIER

I used to dream
That I would meet a prince
But God almighty
Have you seen what's happened
since?
'Master of the house'
Isn't worth my spit!
Comforter, philosopher
And lifelong shit!
Cunning little brain
Regular Voltaire
Thinks he's quite a lover
But there's not much there.

As Madame Thenardier reaches for the man's groin, she lifts his wallet skillfully and hands it off to Monsieur Thenardier.

THENARDIER

What a cruel trick of nature
Landed me with such a louse.
God knows how I've lasted
Living with this bastard in the
house!

She pulls the young man into a dance, enabling her to steal everything else of value he has. Father Christmas has also been lured from the frost fair and the Thenardiers slit his presents sack and exchange it for a sack containing snow.

49.

THENARDIER/CUSTOMERS

Master of the house!

MADAME THENARDIER

Master and a half!

THENARDIER/CUSTOMERS

Comforter, philosopher -

MADAME THENARDIER

Don't make me laugh!

THENARDIER/CUSTOMERS

Servant to the poor
Butler to the great -

MADAME THENARDIER

Hypocrite and toady
And inebriate!

THENARDIER/CUSTOMERS

Everybody bless the landlord!
Everybody bless his spouse!

THENARDIER

Everybody raise a glass!

MADAME THENARDIER

Raise it up the master's arse!

THENARDIER/CUSTOMERS

Everybody raise a glass to the
master of the house!

40/41 **SCENES OMITTED**

40/41

42 **EXT. WOOD BY THE INN - NIGHT**

42

Cosette has filled her buckets at the well in the wood, and is now heading back. Through the dark trees ahead we glimpse the cheerful lights of the Frost Fair and the distant inn. She goes slowly, because the buckets are heavy. She hums to herself to keep her spirits up, a wordless verse of 'Castle on a Cloud'.

After a few steps she pauses to rest the weight of the buckets.

Strong arms reach for the buckets and lift them out of her hands. She looks up, amazed. There's Valjean.

VALJEAN

Hush now, do not be afraid of me.
Don't cry. Show me where you live.
(more)

50.

VALJEAN (cont'd)
Tell me, my child, what is your
name?

COSETTE
I'm called Cosette.

VALJEAN
Cosette?

She gazes up at him. Hardly knowing why, the little girl trusts this stranger. Valjean picks up the heavy buckets, and they head back towards the inn. As they go, they hum 'Castle on a Cloud' together.

43 **INT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - NIGHT**

43

Valjean enters with Cosette. Madame Thenardier hurries over. Madame and Monsieur Thenardier try to thief from Valjean using the same tricks established earlier, but he evades every attempt. Eponine watches silently from a corner.

VALJEAN
I found her wandering in the wood
This little child, I found her
trembling in the shadows.
And I am here to help Cosette,
And I will settle any debt you
may think proper.
I will pay what I must pay
To take Cosette away.

This is a duty I must heed.
There is a promise I have made.
For I was blind to one in need,
I did not see what stood before
me.
Now your mother is with God.
Her suffering is over,
And I speak here with her voice,
And I stand here in her place,
and from this day, and ever more -

MADAME THENARDIER
Let me take your coat, m'sieur!

VALJEAN

Cosette shall live in my
protection.

THENARDIER

You are very welcome here!

VALJEAN

I will not forget my vow.

51.

THENARDIER

Take a glass!

MADAME THENARDIER

Take a chair!

VALJEAN

Cosette shall have a father now.

Thenardier turns to his wife.

THENARDIER

What to do? What to say
Shall you carry our treasure
away?
What a gem! What a pearl!
Beyond rubies is our little girl!
How can we speak of debt?
Let's not haggle for darling
Colette!

MADAME THENARDIER

Cosette!

THENARDIER

Cosette -
Dear Fantine - gone to rest -
Have we done for her child what
is best?
Shared our bread - shared each
bone -
Treated her like she's one of our
own!
Like our own, m'sieur!

VALJEAN

Your feelings do you credit, sir.
And I will ease the parting blow.
Let us not talk of bargains and

bones and greed.

He gives Thenardier money.

VALJEAN

Now may I say we are agreed?

MADAME THENARDIER

That would quite fit the bill
If she hadn't so often been ill.
Little dear, cost us dear!
Medicines are expensive, m'sieur.
Not that we begrudged a sou -
It's no more than we Christians
must do.

Valjean gives more money.

52.

THENARDIERS

One thing more! One small doubt!
There are treacherous people
about!
No offence! Please reflect!
Your intentions may not be
correct!

Valjean hands over more money.

VALJEAN

No more! Here's your price!
Fifteen hundred for your
sacrifice.
Come, Cosette, say goodbye.
Let's seek out some friendlier
sky.
Thank you both for Cosette -
It won't take you too long to
forget.

He leads Cosette to the door.

44 EXT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - NIGHT

44

Valjean lifts Cosette into the waiting cab.

VALJEAN

Where I go, you will be.

COSETTE

Will you be like a Papa to me?

VALJEAN

Yes, Cosette!
This is true!
I'll be father and mother to you!

The cab sets off down the road.

45 INT. INN, MONTFERMEIL - NIGHT

45

Madame Thenardier takes the bunch of notes from her husband's hand and inspects them.

THENARDIER

Not bad!

MADAME THENARDIER

Not enough!

Through the open door Thenardier sees a man on horseback rattling up to the inn.

53.

MADAME THENARDIER

There's a copper at the door!
What the devil have you done?

Javert strides into the inn.

JAVERT

Where's the child Cosette?

MADAME THENARDIER

She's gone with a gent,
Didn't tell us where they went,
Didn't leave his home address.

JAVERT

Did you catch the fellow's name?

Both Thenardiers shake their heads.

Javert stares once, contemptuously, round the seedy inn, and departs without a further word. Thenardier goes to the doorway to watch him leave.

MADAME THENARDIER

You're a bloody fool
Look at what we got.

THENARDIER

Should have struck the iron,
Struck it while it's hot.

THENARDIER/MADAME THENARDIER

Next time round we'll be here
And we're gonna get the lot.

46 EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF PARIS - NIGHT

46

Valjean's cab, moving fast, passes down the road into the city.

IN CAB - Valjean has one arm round Cosette to protect her from the jolting of the cab. He gazes at her as she slips into a fitful sleep.

VALJEAN

Suddenly I see
Suddenly it starts
When two anxious hearts
Beat as one.
Yesterday I was alone
Today you walk beside me
Something still unclear
Something not yet here
Has begun.
Suddenly the world
Seems a different place
Somehow full of grace
(more)

54.

VALJEAN (cont'd)

And delight.

How was I to know
That so much love
Was held inside me?
Something fresh and young
Something still unsung
Fills the night.

How was I to know at last
That happiness can come so fast?
Trusting me the way you do
I'm so afraid of failing you
Just a child who cannot know
That danger follows where I go
There are shadows everywhere

And memories I cannot share

Nevermore alone
Nevermore apart
You have warmed my heart
Like the sun.
You have brought the gift of life
And love so long denied me.

Suddenly I see
What I could not see
Something suddenly
Has begun.

He brushes the hair from her face, and satisfies himself that she's comfortable. Then he puts his head out of the window. At the gate into Paris, soldiers are checking documents of occupants of carriages.

Valjean slips out of the carriage with Cosette and makes his way along the wall, away from the gate.

46A EXT. PARIS BROKEN WALL - NIGHT 46A

Valjean finds a section of tumble down wall and climbs over.

46B EXT. PARIS SLUM STREET - NIGHT 46B

Valjean and Cosette make their way down a darkened street.

46C EXT. PARIS - RIVER SEINE - NIGHT 46C

Valjean and Cosette turn down a narrow street, no longer hurrying.

The narrow street turns, and opens out onto the river. Valjean stops. There, on the other side of the river, in the light of a lamp, stands Javert.

55.

47 SCENE OMITTED 47

48 EXT. MAZE OF OLD STREETS - NIGHT 48

Now Valjean and Cosette are running - down narrow alleys, into small dark courtyards, not knowing which way to turn. Whenever Valjean thinks they've thrown their pursuer, there

he is, not far behind. And he's no longer alone. With him are a detachment of soldiers.

Javert and his team never seem to run. But he's always there.

49 EXT. DEAD END - NIGHT

49

Valjean and Cosette turn into a street that is walled in by high windowless houses. They follow it round a corner to find - a dead end. A high wall before them. They're trapped.

Valjean looks round. No way out. Then he sees a nearby lamp bracket. Hanging from it is the rope that is used to lower the oil lamp for lighting. He tears off the rope and ties one end round Cosette, beneath her armpits. Then holding the other end, he scales the wall, using the corner to brace himself as he rises. Once on the top, he hauls Cosette up by the rope. Only then does he turn to look down onto the other side.

A cloister. A building in the middle, windows glowing. Grave stones black against the white snow. The sound of women's voices, singing a psalm.

NUNS

Te lucis ante terminum
Rerum Creator poscimus
Ut pro tua clementia
Sis praesul et custodia...

Valjean lowers Cosette down into the garden, and drops down after her.

Javert and his men enter the dead end to find them gone.

50 INT. CONVENT CLOISTER - NIGHT

50

Valjean crouched low, with Cosette in his arms, holding her still and quiet until Javert is gone.

Then he straightens up and looks round. He takes in the sound of singing.

NUNS

Procul recedant somnia
Et noctium phantasmata
(more)

NUNS (cont'd)
Hostemque nostrum comprime
Ne polluantur corpora...

He goes closer to the windows of the building. Through the blurry glass he can make out a chapel, and a line of nuns singing.

Valjean continues and sees a man filling in a new grave. The man starts as he sees Valjean.

FAUCHELEVENT

Who's that?

Valjean jumps, takes Cosette protectively into his arms. Turns to answer.

FAUCHELEVENT

Why, it's Monsieur Mayor!

It's Fauchelevent, now a gardener, still limping from his injury.

VALJEAN

Who are you?

FAUCHELEVENT

Don't you remember? The cart fell on me!

VALJEAN

Monsieur Fauchelevent!

FAUCHELEVENT

You saved my life! You got me this job as a gardener!

Valjean gazes at him, and remembers.

VALJEAN

Now you can do the same for me.
We need a place of sanctuary.
This child and I, we need to disappear.

FAUCHELEVENT

In this place of Holy Orders
You are brought to God's domain
May the sisters grant you shelter
May their prayers ease your pain.

Valjean and Cosette follow him to the convent.

VALJEAN

We'll give thanks for what is
granted
What the sisters may ordain
Here we pray for new beginnings -
Here our lives can start again.

57.

Valjean looks to the heavens. The camera soars into the air and heads east as dawn breaks over Paris. We rush low over Paris as the sun comes up, towards the Place de la Bastille.

51 **EXT. PLACE DE LA BASTILLE, PARIS - DAY**

51

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION:

Nine years later

The dawn light glows on a massive ELEPHANT. The monument, made of wood and plaster, now ruined and crumbling, stands on a plinth on one side of the wide open square. On the far side, the remains of the great fortress that was the Bastille. In the middle, scaffolding surrounds a half-built triumphal column, which is being erected to celebrate the new regime.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION:

Paris, 1832.

The streets that run from the square lead in one direction to the Paris of power and wealth; in the other direction into the slums.

The camera sweeps in and down to meet the elephant.

A head pops out of one of the elephant's many holes - GAVROCHE, a street urchin. He gives a shrill whistle. At once a dozen more street urchins show themselves, from every crack in the monument's skin. Agile as a monkey, Gavroche drops to the ground, followed by his band.

52 **EXT. PARIS BOULEVARD - DAY**

52

FOLLOW GAVROCHE in as he races down a grand boulevard, dodging the crowds of strolling bourgeoisie and beggars, weaving in and out of the lines of carriages attempting to

make their way in either direction. These are the conveyances of the rich, fine gilded coaches with matched horses and footmen on the back. Virtually at a standstill, they lend Gavroche a platform as he leaps from coach to coach, a street urchin dancing on the heads of the elite.

As he goes, the poor on the pavements sing to the stony-faced rich in their golden high-sprung glory -

BEGGARS CHORUS

Look down and see the beggars at
your feet!
Look down and show some mercy if
you can!
Look down and see the sweepings
of the street!
(more)

58.

BEGGARS CHORUS (cont'd)

Look down, look down,
Upon your fellow man!

The fine ladies and grand gentlemen in the carriages avert their eyes, or raise the blinds of their carriage windows to shut out the sight of the losers of their world.

Gavroche, bounding over their heads, evading the swipes of liveried footmen, lands on the running board of one particularly grand carriage and begs/taunts the RICH
OCCUPANT.

GAVROCHE

`Ow do you do? My name's
Gavroche!
These are my people, here's my
patch.
Not much to look at - nothing
posh!
Nothing that you'd call up to
scratch.
This is my school, my high
society!
Here in the slums of St Michel.
We live on crumbs of humble piety
Tough on the teeth - but what the
hell!
Think you're poor? Think you're
free?
Follow me! Follow me!

BEGGARS CHORUS

Look down and show some mercy if
you can!
Look down, look down, upon your
fellow man!

STILL RUNNING WITH Gavroche as he hops onto the back of
another very grand carriage, the traffic now moving at
last, hitching a ride on the back - one or two of his gang
hop on back of carriage with him, the others run panting
after to hear his political lecture.

GAVROCHE

There was a time we killed the
King
We tried to change the world too
fast.
Now we have got another King,
He is no better than the last.
This is the land that fought for
liberty -
Now when we fight we fight for
bread!
Here is the thing about equality -
Everyone's equal when they're
dead.
Take your place!
(more)

59.

GAVROCHE (cont'd)

Take your chance!
Vive la France! Vive la France!

53 EXT. LAMARQUE'S HOUSE, PARIS - DAY

53

The carriage has reached an arch into a courtyard where a
crowd of a couple of hundred is gathered outside a house of
sickness. The carriage stops as its occupant wants to watch
what is going on. The street is padded with straw. Many eyes
gaze up at the draped windows. People cross themselves. A
priest is seen hurrying into the house, accompanied by two
altar boys.

Gavroche jumps off as the carriage stops and joins the crowd.
The crowd is made up of citizens of Paris, student
revolutionaries, the poor and beggars. The students hand out
printed leaflets and try to excite the crowd.

STUDENTS/BEGGARS CHORUS

Look down and show some mercy if
you can!

Look down, look down, upon your
fellow man!

COURFEYRAC

When's it gonna end?

BEGGAR 1

When we gonna live?

JOLY

Something's gotta happen now!

BEGGAR 2

Something's gotta give!

STUDENTS AND BEGGARS

It'll come, it'll come, it'll
come...
It'll come, it'll come, it'll
come...

A student, ENJOLRAS, stands on a raised step, making an impassioned speech with fellow student MARIUS. The occupant of the stopped carriage is MONSIEUR GILLENORMAND, Marius' Grandfather. He is clearly deeply unhappy to see his grandson engaged in such an activity.

In the crowd a young street girl, EPONINE, has her eyes fixed longingly on the handsome Marius.

ENJOLRAS

Where are the leaders of the
land?
Where are the swells who run this
show?

60.

MARIUS

Only one man, General Lamarque
Speaks for the people here below!

Marius looks towards Lamarque's house behind him.

ENJOLRAS

Lamarque is ill and fading fast -
Won't last a week out, so they
say.

MARIUS

With all the anger in the land,
How long before the Judgement

Day?

ENJOLRAS

Before we cut the fat ones down
to size?

STUDENTS

Before the barricades arise?

Mounted Police ride in to break up the crowd.

POLICE

Look down, look down, don't look us
in the eye!
Look down, look down, stay here and
you die!

The crowd breaks up. The students shout to the crowd:

ENJOLRAS

Tomorrow we will return!

MARIUS

Tell everyone you know

COURFEYRAC

We will show them!

COMBEFERRE

Lamarque is the only leader on our
side!

COURFEYRAC

We have a right to pray for
Lamarque!

JOLY

We need more people, then the
police will not dare ride against
us!

MARIUS

Vive le General Lamarque!

61.

Marius turns to see his Grandfather staring him down,
furious.

GILLENORMAND

Do you have any idea of the shame
you bring on your family! You're

behaving like a child.

Gillenormand spies a gun poking out of his jacket.

Gillenormand turns to get back in his carriage.

54 INT. GORBEAU TENEMENT

54

Through a crack in a door, we see Marius sitting on a tatty mattress in a tiny hovel of a room. He is taking out a hunting rifle from under the mattress, wrapped in a rag. His eye is caught by the ring on his finger.

CLOSE ON a signet ring, a family crest.

Marius stares at the ring then takes it off his finger.

We reveal EPONINE staring at him through the door.

EPONINE

Hey there Monsieur what's new
with you?
Haven't seen much of you of late.
Planning no doubt to change the
world?
Plotting to overthrow the state?
Still living here in this old sewer
Might as well doss down in a ditch
You still pretending to be poor
Everyone knows your Grandpa's rich

Marius rushes down the stairs of the slum, Eponine following.
We see glimpses of misery off the stairwell.

MARIUS

How did you...?

EPONINE

There's lots of things I know

MARIUS

Won't take a franc that I've not
earned
All of those bridges have been
burned.

EPONINE

I like the way you talk Monsieur!

MARIUS

I like the way you always tease.

Eponine comes to a stop, looking wistfully after Marius.

EPONINE

Little he knows -
Little he sees.

55 EXT. RUE DE LA CHANVRERIE - END OF DAY

55

Marius is stopped as he exits the front door of the Gorbeau Tenement by a passing carriage. Once it passes Marius sees two people in the street outside. One is an old gentleman, Valjean. The other is a beautiful young girl, Cosette. The two are giving alms to beggars as they walk back from evening church service.

Marius can't take his eyes off Cosette. He's never seen anyone so lovely in his life. We hear the instrumental foreshadowing of 'A Heart Full of Love'.

As if drawn by Marius's gaze, Cosette looks up and meets his eyes. She too is amazed: he's looking at her as if he already knows her. A second carriage breaks their held gaze.

Marius continues on down the street and when he looks back, at that precise moment Cosette looks at him again.

Valjean instinctively puts his arm round her, guarding her jealously from this distant boy's gaze.

We cut further down the street to an alleyway where the Thenardiers, heavily disguised, are waiting for Valjean's approach with their gang of crooks, Babet, Brujon, Clacquesous, Montparnasse.

THENARDIER

Everyone here, you know your
place -
Brujon, Babet, Clacquesous -
You, Montparnasse, watch for the
law -
With Eponine - take care.
(Montparnasse hurries over
to the doorway where
Eponine was watching
Marius)
You turn on the tears!
(to Madame Thenardier who

is holding a baby)
No mistakes, my dears!

Thenardier approaches Valjean and lures him into the mouth of the alleyway where Madame Thenardier is sat on the ground holding the crying infant. Cosette is a few steps behind, still entranced by the sight of Marius.

63.

THENARDIER

Please, M'sieur, come this way.
Here's a child that ain't eaten
today.
Save a life, spare a sou!
God rewards all the good that you
do.

As Valjean bends down to look at Madame Thenardier she recognizes him.

MADAME THENARDIER

Wait a bit! Know that face!
(to Monsieur Thenardier)
Ain't the world a remarkable
place!

THENARDIER

Men like me don't forget -
You're the bastard who borrowed
Cosette!

VALJEAN

What is this? Are you mad?
No, Monsieur, you don't know what
you say!

Thenardier pulls off his disguise. Valjean recognises him.

THENARDIER

You know me! I know you!
And you'll pay what I'm due.

He signals to his gang. A door opens in the alleyway revealing the huge Brujon. The gang move in on Valjean menacingly.

EPONINE

(shouts from up the
street)
It's the police! Disappear!
Run for it! It's Javert!

The gang spill out into the street to find themselves confronted by Javert now with his men. Marius watches, as does Gavroche, drawn by the rumpus.

JAVERT

Another brawl in the square!
Another stink in the air!
Was there a witness to this?
Well, let him speak to Javert!

He sees man with his arm protectively round a girl but does not recognize Valjean as Valjean has averted his face.

64.

JAVERT

Monsieur, these streets are not
safe.
But let these vermin beware,
We'll see that justice is done!

He turns back on the Thenardier gang in the passage.

JAVERT

Look upon this fine collection
Crawled from underneath a stone.
This swarm of worms and maggots
Could have picked you to the
bone!
I know this man over here,
I know his name and his trade.
And on your witness, m'sieur,
I'll see him suitably paid.

He turns back to find Valjean and Cosette gone.

JAVERT

But where's the gentlemen gone?
And why on earth did he run?

THENARDIER

You will have a job to find him!
He's not all he seems to be -
And that girl he trails behind
him
She's the child he stole from me!

Marius, equally baffled, goes off in search of them.

JAVERT

Could it be he's that old

jailbird
That the tide now washes in?
Heard my name and started
running...
All the omens point to him.

Thenardier, listening, hears this all with great interest.
So Valjean is a crook like him.

JAVERT

And the girl who stood beside
him,
When I turned they both had gone.
Could he be the man I've hunted?
Could it be he's Jean Valjean?

THENARDIER

In the absence of a victim,
Dear Inspector, may I go?
And remember when you've nicked
him
It was me what told you so.

65.

JAVERT

(to himself)
Let the old man keep on running
I will run him off his feet!
(to the crowd)
Everyone about your business!

(to Gavroche)
Clear this garbage off the
street!

Gavroche is sitting on a horse trough and falls back into it
when Javert surprises him.

He is furious. He sings to Javert's departing back, and to
Marius who is close by.

GAVROCHE

That inspector thinks he's
something
But it's me who runs this town!
And my theatre never closes
And the curtain's never down!
Trust Gavroche! Have no fear!
You can always find me here!

EPONINE

Cosette! Now I remember...
Cosette! How can it be?
We were children together.
Look what's become of me.

She turns back to find Marius gazing down the street.

MARIUS

Eponine! Who was that girl?

EPONINE

That bourgeois two-a-penny thing!

MARIUS

Eponine, find her for me!

EPONINE

What will you give me?

MARIUS

Anything!

EPONINE

Got you all excited now,
But God knows what you see in
her.
Aren't you all delighted now?
No, I don't want your money, sir.

66.

MARIUS

Eponine, do this for me,
Discover where she lives.
But careful how you go -
Don't let your father know.
Eponine! I'm lost until she's
found.

EPONINE

You see? I told you so!
There's lots of things I know!
Eponine, she knows her way
around.

56-61 SCENES OMITTED

56-61

62 EXT. PARIS POLICE HQ - NIGHT
62

WIDE of the Police Headquarters on the Isle de la Cite: a

huge bureaucracy. The camera finds Javert standing inside looking out of a door leading onto the roof. As he sings he walks out onto the roof and stands by the symbol of the HQ, a monumental stone eagle. He looks down at the lights reflected in the river below. Then up at the great city. Javert too has a God, and this is his prayer.

JAVERT

There, out in the darkness
A fugitive running
Running from God
Fallen from grace -
God be my witness
I never shall yield
Till we come face to face -
Till we come face to face...

He knows his way in the dark
Mine is the way of the Lord
Those who follow the path of the
righteous
Shall have their reward
And if they fall
As Lucifer fell -
The flame!

The sword!
Stars in your multitudes!
Scarce to be counted
Filling the darkness
With order and light -
You are the sentinels
Silent and sure
Keeping watch in the night -
Keeping watch in the night...

You know your place in the sky
You hold your course
(more)

67.

JAVERT (cont'd)

And your aim
And each in your season
Returns and returns
And is always the same
And if you fall
As Lucifer fell
You fall
In flame!

And so it must be, and so it is

written
On the doorway to paradise
That those who falter
And those who fall
Must pay the price!

Lord, let me find him
That I may see him
Safe behind bars!
I will never rest till then!
This I swear
This I swear by the stars!

Javert stands silhouetted against the stars, his arms raised up to the night sky.

63 EXT. RUE DE LA CHANVRERIE - NIGHT

63

Marius comes down the street, his mind full of thoughts of Cosette.

64 INT. CAFÉ MUSAIN - NIGHT

64

Marius arrives at the first floor front room. Here a group of students are cleaning rifles and sharing their excitement at the coming revolution: ENJOLRAS, COMBEFERRE, COURFEYRAC, JOLY, GRANTAIRE, FEUILLY, PROUVAIRE and others.

ENJOLRAS

Well, Courfeyrac! Do we have all the guns?
Joly, Prouvaire! Our time is running short!

COURFEYRAC

Students, workers, everyone!
There's a river on the run!
Like the flowing of the tide,
Paris is coming to our side!

COMBEFERRE

Enjolras! At Notre Dame
The sections are prepared!

68.

FEUILLY

At Rue du Bac
They're straining at the leash!

ENJOLRAS

Grantaire, put the bottle down!
Did we get the guns we need?

GRANTAIRE

Give me brandy on my breath
And I'll breathe them all to death!

ENJOLRAS

The time is near...
So near it's stirring the blood
in their veins.
And yet beware!
Don't let the wine go to your
brains.
For the army we fight is a
dangerous foe
With the men and the arms that we
never can match.
It is easy to sit here and swat
them like flies
But the National Guard will be
harder to catch.
We need a sign
To rally the people
To call them to arms
To bring them in line!

Joly turns goes over to Marius at the back, a faraway look
on his face.

JOLY

Marius, wake up!
What's wrong today?
You look as if you've seen a
ghost.

GRANTAIRE

Some wine, and say what's going
on!

They sit.

MARIUS

A ghost, you say? A ghost maybe!
She was like a ghost to me -
One minute there - then she was
gone!

GRANTAIRE

I am agog! I am aghast!
Is Marius in love at last?

I've never heard him Ooh and Aah.
You talk of battles to be won
(more)

69.

GRANTAIRE (cont'd)
And here he comes like Don Juan!
It is better than an opera!

They burst into laughter. But Enjolras isn't smiling.

ENJOLRAS

It is time for us all
To decide who we are.
Do we fight for the right
To a night at the opera now?
Have you asked yourselves
What's the price you might pay?
Is this simply a game
For rich young boys to play?
The colours of the world
Are changing day by day -

Red - the blood of angry men!
Black - the dark of ages past!
Red - a world about to dawn!
Black - the night that ends at
last!

MARIUS

Had you seen her today
You might know how it feels
To be struck to the bone
By a moment of breathless delight!

Had you been there today
You might also have known
How the world may be changed
In just one burst of light
And what was right seems wrong
And what was wrong seems right!

GRANTAIRE

Red!

MARIUS

I feel my soul on fire!

GRANTAIRE

Black!

MARIUS

My world if she's not there!

STUDENTS

Red!

MARIUS

The colour of desire!

STUDENTS

Black!

70.

MARIUS

The colour of despair!

ENJOLRAS

Marius, you're no longer a child -
I do not doubt you mean it well
But now there is a higher call!
Who cares about your lonely soul?
We strive towards a larger goal -
Our little lives don't count at
all!

ENJOLRAS

Red!

STUDENTS

The blood of angry men!

ENJOLRAS

Black!

STUDENTS

The dark of ages past!
Red - a world about to dawn!
Black - the night that ends at
last!

A scuffle at the door - Gavroche struggling with the
barman. Courfeyrac lets him through.

GAVROCHE

Listen! Listen to me!

COURFEYRAC

Listen, everybody!

GAVROCHE

General Lamarque is dead!

Enjolras turns to his companions.

ENJOLRAS

Lamarque is dead...
Lamarque... His death is the hour
of fate.
The people's man...
His death is the sign we await!
On his funeral day they will
honour his name
With the light of rebellion
ablaze in their eyes.
From their candles of grief we
will kindle our flame.
On the tomb of Lamarque shall our
barricades rise!

The time is here!
(more)

71.

ENJOLRAS (cont'd)

Let us welcome it gladly with
courage and cheer!

STUDENT

Let us take to the street with no
doubt in our hearts

COURFEYRAC

But a jubilant shout!

LESGLES

They will come one and all!

STUDENTS

They will come when we call!

As the students sing, Eponine enters wanting to talk to
Marius. Marius sees her.

65 INT. VALJEAN'S HOUSE, RUE PLUMET - NIGHT

65

Cosette is pacing in her bedroom. It's a pretty room, the
best room in this small summer house. Her shutters are
open, giving a view of a wild unkempt garden. She looks at
herself in a mirror, aware of her looks perhaps for the
first time.

COSETTE

How strange -

This feeling that my life's begun
at last!
This change -
Can people really fall in love so
fast?
What's the matter with you,
Cosette?
Have you been too much on your
own?
So many things unclear -
So many things unknown...

In my life
There are so many questions and
answers
That somehow seem wrong.
In my life
There are times when I catch in
the silence
The sigh of a faraway song
And it sings
Of a world that I long to see -
Out of reach
Just a whisper away
Waiting for me!

Does he know I'm alive?
Do I know if he's real?
(more)

72.

COSETTE (cont'd)

Does he see what I see?
Does he feel what I feel?

In my life
I'm no longer alone -
Now the love in my life
Is so near...
Find me now! Find me here!

Valjean knocks and opens her door. He closes her shutters.

VALJEAN

Dear Cosette,
You're such a lonely child.
How pensive, how sad you seem to
me.
Believe me, were it within my
power
I'd fill each passing hour.
How quiet it must be, I can see,

With only me for company.

COSETTE

There's so little I know
That I'm longing to know
Of the man that you were
In a time long ago...
There's so little you say
Of the life you have known,
Why you keep to yourself,
Why we're always alone.
So dark! So dark and deep,
The secrets that you keep!
In my life
Please forgive what I say
You are loving and gentle and
good.
But papa, dear papa,
In your eyes I am still like that
child
Who was lost in a wood.

VALJEAN

No more words -
No more words.
It's a time that is dead.
There are words
That are better unheard,
Better unsaid.

COSETTE

In my life
I'm no longer a child and I yearn
For the truth that you know
Of the years... Years ago!

73.

Valjean leaves and goes into his own bedroom. A simple wooden shack at the back of the summerhouse, Valjean himself lives with spartan simplicity - he has given the best room to Cosette.

Cosette follows. Valjean sits on his bed, his back to Cosette.

VALJEAN

You will learn.
Truth is given by God
To us all in our time,
In our turn.

Marius rushes down the street, Eponine following. At the far end is the walled garden behind which lies Valjean's house.

MARIUS

In my life
She has burst like the music of
angels
The light of the sun!
And my life seems to stop
As if something is over
And something has scarcely begun!
Eponine, you're the friend
Who has brought me here.
Thanks to you I am one with the
Gods
And heaven is near!
And I soar through a world that
is new,
That is free!

EPONINE

Every word that he says
Is a dagger in me!
In my life
There's been no one like him
anywhere,
Anywhere, where he is
If he asked... I'd be his!

MARIUS/EPONINE

In my life
There is someone who touches my
life -

MARIUS

(sees Cosette in the
garden)
Waiting near!

74.

EPONINE

Waiting here!

MARIUS

A heart full of love!

Cosette sees Marius. She comes up the garden path towards

him. She sees Eponine by Marius's side.

MARIUS

A heart full of song!
I'm doing everything all wrong -
Oh God, for shame -
I do not even know your name.
Dear Mad'moiselle,
Won't you say?
Will you tell?

Cosette holds the wrought-ironwork of the gate with both hands, eyes on Marius. Eponine looks on and suffers. Marius wraps his hands round Cosette's.

COSETTE

A heart full of love!
No fear, no regret!

MARIUS

My name is Marius Pontmercy.

COSETTE

And mine's Cosette.

MARIUS

Cosette... I don't know what to
say -

COSETTE

Then make no sound.

MARIUS

I am lost -

COSETTE

I am found!

MARIUS

A heart full of light -

COSETTE/MARIUS

A night bright as day -

MARIUS

And you must never go away,
Cosette - Cosette!

COSETTE

This is a chain we'll never
break.

MARIUS

Do I dream?

COSETTE

I'm awake.

MARIUS

A heart full of love -

EPONINE

He was never mine to lose
Why regret
What could not be?

COSETTE

A heart full of you -

EPONINE

These are words he'll never say
Not to me, not to me
Not for me!

MARIUS

A single look and then I knew!

COSETTE

I knew it too!

EPONINE

His heart full of love...

MARIUS

From today -

EPONINE

He will never feel this way.

COSETTE

Every day...

MARIUS/COSETTE

For it isn't a dream -
Not a dream
After all!

Valjean comes to the door.

VALJEAN

Cosette! Cosette!

Cosette turns and runs in to the house.

Valjean walks down the overgrown garden path to the gate.

Marius moves quickly away, instinctively nervous of discovery, and hides behind the wall.

76.

Valjean peers into the shadows. He senses that perhaps Cosette has been talking to someone. He looks pensive.

Valjean returns inside.

Cosette has dropped a keepsake through the gate. Marius picks it up.

Marius makes his way back down the street, filled with thoughts of his love. Completely forgetting Eponine is there.

Shadows move up the street from the other direction. It's Thenardier and his gang. They gather at the wrought-iron gate.

MONT'PARNASSE

This is his lair!
I've seen the old fox around.

BABET

He keeps himself to himself
He's staying close to the ground.

THENARDIER

I smell profit here!
Ten years ago
He came and paid for Cosette.
I let her go for a song.
It's time we settled the debt.
This'll cost him dear.

BRUJON

What do I care
Who you should rob?
Gimme my share!
Finish the job!

THENARDIER

You shut your mouth!
You'll get what's yours!

Brujon starts working on the gate lock. He finds Eponine lurking in the shadows.

BRUJON

What have we here?

THENARDIER

Who is this hussy?

BABET

It's your brat Eponine!
Don't you know your own kid?
Why's she hanging about here?

77.

THENARDIER

Eponine, get on home!
You're not needed in this.
We're enough here without you.

EPONINE

I know this house, I tell you!
There's nothing here for you!
Just the old man and the girl.
They live ordinary lives.

THENARDIER

Don't interfere!
You've got some gall!
Take care, young miss,
You've got a lot to say!

BRUJON

She's going soft!

CLACQUESOUS

Happens to all!

MONTPARNASSE

Go home, Eponine!
Go home, you're in the way!

They huddle round the garden gate, which is now broken open.

EPONINE

I'm gonna scream! I'm gonna warn
them here!

THENARDIER

One little scream and you'll
regret it for a year!

He goes to the gate and opens it.

Eponine screams.

67 SCENE OMITTED 67

68 INT. RUE PLUMET, PARIS - NIGHT 68

Valjean, now in his own bedroom, hears the scream and turns to the window.

69 EXT. RUE PLUMET - NIGHT 69

Thenardier and his gang shrink into the shadows, as Eponine's scream ends at last.

78.

THENARDIER

Make for the sewers!
Get underground!
Leave her to me,
Don't wait around!

He turns on Eponine and slaps her hard across the face.

THENARDIER

You wait, my girl!
You'll rue this night!
I'll make you scream!
You'll scream all right!

His men have levered up a grating, and now Thenardier and the gang disappear down into the sewers.

70 INT. VALJEAN'S HOUSE - RUE PLUMET, PARIS - NIGHT 70

Valjean comes running into Cosette's room. Valjean takes her in his arms.

VALJEAN

My God, Cosette!
I heard a cry in the dark.
I heard the shout of angry voices
in the street.

COSETTE

Three men I saw beyond the
wall...
Three men in shadow moving fast!

VALJEAN

This is a warning to us all!
These are the shadows of the
past!

He moves away to his own bedroom.

VALJEAN

Must be Javert.
He's found my cover at last.
I've got to get Cosette away
Before he returns.

He comes back to Cosette.

VALJEAN

We must get away from shadows
That will never let us be.
Tonight we leave Cosette!

COSETTE

To where?

79.

VALJEAN

Rue de L'Homme Armee.

COSETTE

No! No!

VALJEAN

And then a ship across the sea.

VALJEAN

Hurry, Cosette! Prepare to leave,
And say no more.
Tonight we'll away!

COSETTE

(overlapping)
No! Please no! We can't go!

VALJEAN

Hurry, Cosette!
It's time to close another door
And live another day!

Valjean leaves to start packing.

Feverishly, Cosette scribbles a letter.

71 **SCENE OMITTED** 71

72 **EXT. GARDEN, RUE PLUMET - NIGHT** 72

Cosette hurries down the garden to the gate, and goes to
put the folded letter in the grill where her and Marius'
hands entwined. Then she sees Eponine. Eponine steps
forward. She thrusts her letter into her hand.

COSETTE

Please give this to Marius! He
must know where to find me.

She runs back inside.

73 **EXT. RUE PLUMET/BRIDGE/RUE DE LA CHANVRERIE - NIGHT** 73

Eponine crumples up the letter.

She walks sadly away down the street.

Rain is just starting to fall.

EPONINE

And now I'm all alone again -
Nowhere to turn, no one to go to.
Without a home, without a friend,
(more)

80.

EPONINE (cont'd)

Without a face to say hello to.
The city goes to bed
And I can live inside my head.

On my own
Pretending he's beside me
All alone
I walk with him till morning
Without him
I feel his arms around me
And when I lose my way I close my
eyes
And he has found me.

She crosses a bridge over the river.

EPONINE

In the rain
The pavement shines like silver
All the lights
Are misty in the river
In the darkness the trees are
full of starlight
And all I see is him and me
forever and forever!

And I know it's only in my mind -
That I'm talking to myself and
not to him.
And although I know that he is
blind,
Still I say there's a way for us.

I love him
But when the night is over
He is gone - the river's just a
river.
Without him the world around me
changes -
The trees are bare and everywhere
The streets are full of
strangers.

I love him
But every day I'm learning
All my life I've only been
pretending.
Without me, his world will go on
turning
A world that's full of happiness
That I have never know.

I love him
I love him
I love him
But only on my own.

81.

Her solitary journey has brought her to the Gorbeau slum.
She goes inside.

73A INT. GORBEAU TENEMENT - NIGHT
73A

Eponine stands outside Marius' door. She opens the letter, reads it, then hides it in her pocket. She pushes open Marius' door. Marius looks up.

EPONINE

I came to tell you she's gone.

MARIUS

Gone? What do you mean?

EPONINE

She's gone to England.

Marius sets off at a run towards the Rue Plumet.

74 EXT. RUE PLUMET - NIGHT

74

Marius finds the gate broken open, sees the house beyond dark and deserted. He pushes in to the garden, up to the house windows, sees the rooms empty within. He stands staring, in shock.

Eponine has followed him, and watches him in silence.

75 SCENE OMITTED

75

76 INT. CARRIAGE - NIGHT.

76

Valjean and Cosette sit on either side of the carriage, apart, staring out of their respective windows. A stark contrast to the carriage scene when Valjean sang to Cosette as a little girl.

VALJEAN

One day more!
Another day, another destiny.
This never-ending road to
Calvary.
These men who seem to know my
crime
Will surely come a second time -
One day more!

77 EXT. RUE PLUMET - NIGHT

77

Marius by the empty house.

MARIUS

I did not live until today -
How can I live when we are parted?

78 INT. CARRIAGE - NIGHT

78

VALJEAN

One day more!

COSETTE

Tomorrow you'll be worlds away
And yet with you my world has
started!

79 EXT/INT. RUE PLUMET/CARRIAGE - NIGHT

79

INTERCUT between Eponine at the gate, Cosette and Valjean
in the carriage, and Marius in the dark garden.

EPONINE

One more day all on my own...

MARIUS/COSETTE

Will we ever meet again?

EPONINE

One more day with him not
caring...

MARIUS/COSETTE

I was born to be with you!

EPONINE

What a life I might have known...

MARIUS/COSETTE

And I swear I will be true!

EPONINE

But he never saw me there.

80 INT. CAFÉ MUSAIN GROUND & 1ST FLOOR/EXT. RUE DE LA
CHANVRERIE - NIGHT

80

Enjolras and the students have a production line under way
for making bullets. The rifles are now stacked and ready

for the uprising. Grantaire is downstairs flirting with a BARMAID. MADAME HUCHELOUP the proprietress of the Cafe Musain is sewing a red revolutionary flag to help the students.

ENJOLRAS

One more day before the storm!

83.

INTERCUT WITH Marius walking back sadly through the Rue de la Chanvrerie. Eponine follows him at a distance.

MARIUS

Do I follow where she goes?

ENJOLRAS

At the barricades of freedom!

MARIUS

Shall I join my brothers there?

ENJOLRAS

When our ranks begin to form -

MARIUS

Do I stay and do I dare?

ENJOLRAS

(from top of stairs, for
Grantaire's benefit)
Will you take your place with me?

Grantaire rather reluctantly goes upstairs.

ALL

The time is now!
The day is here!
One day more!

81 INT. PARIS POLICE HQ - NIGHT

81

Javert is briefing a hundred uniformed police about the coming day in a grand ornate old room at Police Headquarters.

JAVERT

One day more to revolution.
We will nip it in the bud.
We'll be ready for these
schoolboys.

They will wet themselves with
blood!

82 INT. CARRIAGE - NIGHT

82

VALJEAN

One day more!

83 INT. CAFÉ MUSAIN - GROUND & 1ST FLOOR - NIGHT

83

Monsieur and Madame Thenardier are in the ground-floor bar,
slyly watching a student smuggling some rifles up the
stairs disguised in a piece of cloth.

84.

Joly takes a tray and collects empty tankards. As he
ascends the stairs, Madame Hucheloup tries to get him to
give the tankards back.

THENARDIERS

Watch'em run amuck!
Catch'em as they fall!
Never know your luck
When there's a free-for-all.
Here a little dip,
There a little touch -
Most of them are goners
So they won't miss much!

The drinkers in the bar raise their glasses to the students
with their rifles. The students appeal to them. Grantaire
is drunk already. Joly starts to melt the tankards in a pot
to make more bullets. Marius enters the ground floor and
takes the red flag from Madame Hucheloup that she has just
finished. The citizens on the ground floor join the
students.

STUDENTS/CROWD

One day to a new beginning!
Raise the flag of freedom high!
Every man will be a king!
Every man will be a king!
There's a new world for the
winning!
There's a new world to be won!
Do you hear the people sing?

Marius enters the first floor to join them at last.

MARIUS

My place is here!
I fight with you!

84 **INT/EXT. RUE DE L'HOMME ARMEE/RUE DE LA CHANVRERIE/CAFÉ** 84
MUSAIN GROUND & 1ST FLOOR/POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Valjean and Cosette arrive at their new hideout -

Marius ties the red flag onto a flagpole -

VALJEAN

One day more!

COSETTE/MARIUS

I did not live until today
How can I live when we are
parted?

Eponine outside the café, gazing longingly towards Marius -

EPONINE

One more day on my own...

85.

Javert in the police station to his men -

JAVERT

I will join these people's heroes
I will follow where they go.
I will learn their little
secrets,
I will know the things they know.

VALJEAN/JAVERT

One day more!

MARIUS/COSETTE

Tomorrow you'll be worlds away
And yet with you my world has
started.

JAVERT

One more day to revolution
We will nip it in the bud
We'll be ready for these
schoolboys -

THENARDIERS

Watch'em run amuck

Catch'em as they fall
Never know your luck
When there's a free-for-all!

VALJEAN

Tomorrow we'll be far away.

VALJEAN/JAVERT

Tomorrow is the judgement day.

ALL

Tomorrow we'll discover
What our God in heaven has in
store -
One more dawn!
One more day!
One day more!

We pull back from Enjolras and Marius holding their flag at the first floor window with the students beyond them to see that citizens have spilled out of the Cafe Musain into the street and have all joined in the final chorus.

85 EXT. PARIS STREETS - DAY

85

All is still. Then comes the soft beating of draped drums.
The tramp of feet.

All down the streets, waiting, the silent faces of the poor. Among them we see Enjolras, Marius, and the radical students.

86.

Police and national guardsmen control the growing crowds.

Now into view come the leaders of a great FUNERAL PROCESSION. An entire battalion of infantry, marching with weapons reversed. A column of black-suited dignitaries carrying branches of laurel. A division of Cavalry rides in front, behind a section of military drummers who drum a military tattoo.

INTO FRAME comes a team of black horses stepping slowly, black plumes nodding, drawing behind them a gun carriage draped in the tricolour flag. On the carriage stands a **COFFIN.**

Softly, in time with the drums, the watching people begin to sing.

CROWD

Do you hear the people sing
Singing the song of angry men?
It is the music of a people
Who will not be slaves again!

The police and guardsmen look round to see who is singing so subversively, but they can't be sure where it's coming from. The singing grows stronger.

CROWD

When the beating of your heart
Echoes the beating of the drums
There is a life about to start
When tomorrow comes!

The dignitaries become aware of the singing, and glance uneasily from side to side.

CROWD

Will you join in our crusade?
Who will be strong and stand with
me?
Beyond the barricade
Is there a world you long to see?

As the coffin on its carriage draws level with the students, Enjolras suddenly steps out in front of the horses drawing the carriage and waves the red flag, stopping the horses and the procession.

ENJOLRAS

Then join in the fight
That will give you the right
To be free!

The students break the ranks of the crowd and surround the coffin carriage.

87.

STUDENTS/CROWD

Do you hear the people sing
Singing the song of angry men?
It is the music of a people
Who will not be slaves again!
When the beating of your heart
Echoes the beating of the drums
There is a life about to start
When tomorrow comes!

Enjolras, Marius and Courfeyrac and other students climb

onto the top of the carriage as the horses and led by Combeferre.

ENJOLRAS

Will you give all you can give
So that our banner may advance?

COURFEYRAC

Some will fall and some will live
Will you stand up and take your
chance?

ENJOLRAS/MARIUS/COURFEYRAC

The blood of the martyrs
Will water the meadows of France!

The crowd supports them and surround the coffin carriage, blocking the attempts of the police to intervene, singing with passion.

STUDENTS/CROWD

Do you hear the people sing
Singing the song of angry men?
It is the music of a people
Who will not be slaves again!

When the beating of your heart
Echoes the beating of the drums
There is a life about to start
When tomorrow comes!

Enjolras, the students, and the impassioned crowd have now become the procession. They turn off the main street away from the expected course of the funeral procession. Gavroche's elephant looms over this side street. Gavroche and his gang jump down from the elephant to join in.

As the procession turns off, the calvary division gallop ahead and disappear round a corner.

STUDENTS/CROWD

Will you join in our crusade?
Who will be strong and stand with
me?
Somewhere beyond the barricade
Is there a world you long to see?
Do you hear the people sing?
(more)

88.

STUDENTS/CROWD (cont'd)
Say, do you hear the distant

drums?
It is the future that we bring
When tomorrow comes!

The students and crowd come face to face with the calvary. On one side, muskets of the infantry poke through the broken down fence surrounding the elephant. Other infantry have taken up position in a cafe opposite, upending tables to provide cover.

There is a tense, prolonged silence. Then suddenly one nervous SOLDIER lets off a round. It hits a middle aged kindly looking WOMAN CITIZEN in the crowd around the coffin carriage. The crowd is furious. Students charge the soldier, grab his musket and knock him down with the hilt of the gun.

More shots ring out. The cavalry charges. The funeral explodes into a riot. The people of Paris turn on the dragoons, the National Guards, the police. More squadrons of dragoons charge into the crowd, sabres unsheathed. Women run screaming in terror.

ENJOLRAS

To the barricades!

STUDENTS/CROWD

To the barricades! To arms! To arms!

Some students fire weapons into the air, some into the cavalry and at the infantry. Enjolras knocks a calvary officer off his horse and Marius jumps on the horse.

The students break away and race off through the cafe into a side street where citizens begin to erect a barricade. A cavalry rider gives chase and is shot by one of the students and falls through the window of an upended carriage. The students, with Marius on horseback, race to the slums.

86 EXT. RUE DE LA CHANVRERIE/INT. CAFE MUSAIN - DAY

86

FOLLOW the students as they burst into their home street. They have been joined by a motley collection of citizens including burghers and an old eccentric man FATHER MABEUF who works as hard as anyone. They raid a fencing shop and a gun shop for weapons, they force wives to give up their husbands' muskets and chalk up the debt to the revolution on their front doors, they encourage homeowners to contribute furniture sometimes appearing at high windows to help overcome any reluctance. Soon the street is raining

tables, chairs, mattresses, sofas. They smash streetlamps. They set to work to build their barricade. Students commandeer an omnibus which is overturned to form the barricade's heart. Three students arrive in the street hauling an uprooted tree.

89.

They pull up paving stones, rip boards, timbers and front doors from house and shop-fronts, pull down buttresses, and raid the Cafe Musain, systematically stripping it of every item of furniture despite the lamentations and protestations of Madame Hucheloup and her barmaid.

As the barricade rises they bring down from the first floor of the cafe the rifles and ammunition they've gathered, to prepare to defend their chosen ground. A student stands on a stone post distributing weapons. They line the first and second floor front rooms with paving stones to create protected shooting positions. The inside of the barricade is built neatly with steps up made from paving stones. The outside is a crazy knarled mess.

ENJOLRAS

Here upon these stones
We will build our barricade.
In the heart of the city
We claim as our own
Each man to his duty
And don't be afraid.

A man in worker's clothing is helping build the growing barricade,. He wears the insignia of the rebels, and keeps his head down.

ENJOLRAS

Wait!
I will need a report
On the strength of the foe.

The man who's just arrived looks up. It's Javert.

JAVERT

I can find out the truth!
I know their ways,
Fought their wars,
Served my time
In the days
Of my youth.

He slips away through the barricade, which is still rising.

PROUVAIRE

See! The people unite!

GRANTAIRE

Pray your right

COMBEFERRE

Dogs will bark!

GAVROCHE

Fleas will bite!

LESGLES

They will do what is right.

90.

87 **EXT. BARRICADE - DUSK**

87

The barricade is now complete: an impressive wall up to twelve feet high, with one heavily guarded section that can be wheeled open to allow access. Two smaller barricades protect the left and right side of the cafe. Enjolras climbs halfway up the main barricade and turns to his little army. Grantaire prizes the final piece of Madame Hucheloup's furniture from her arms - her favourite sewing armchair - and adds it to the barricade. As the men sing she steals it back defiantly.

ENJOLRAS

Red, the blood of angry men!

ALL

Black, the dark of ages past!
Red, a world about to dawn!
Black, the night that ends at
last!

87A **EXT. BARRICADE - NIGHT**

87A

It is night. The students have been waiting for hours.

A single flaming torch atop the barricade caged in by cobbles underlights a fluttering red flag.

There is no sign yet of any opposition.

A boy climbs down from sentry duty on the barricade. Marius realizes its Eponine. She sits down with her back to him.

MARIUS

Hey, little boy, what's this I see?
God Eponine the things you do!

EPONINE

I know this is no place for me,
Still I would rather be with you!

MARIUS

Get out before the trouble
starts!
Get out, `Ponine, you might get
shot!

EPONINE

I've got you worried now, I have!
That shows you like me quite a
lot...

MARIUS

Get Out!

Joly, sentry on the main barricade, sees a figure approach.

91.

JOLY

He's back!

Javert, still in his disguise as a rebel, is let back
through the guarded `gate' into the barricaded street.

JAVERT

Listen, my friends,
I have done as I said.
I have been to their lines,
I have counted each man.
I will tell what I can.
Better be warned
They have armies to spare
And our danger is real -
We will need all our cunning
To bring them to heel.

ENJOLRAS

Have faith!
If you know what their movements
are
We'll spoil their game.
There are ways that a people can
fight -
We shall overcome their power!

JAVERT

I have overheard their plans.
There will be no attack tonight.
They intend to starve you out
Before they start a proper fight -
Concentrate their force,
Hit us when it's light -

GAVROCHE

Liar!

They all look up. There's Gavroche, on the top of the
barricade.

GAVROCHE

Good evening, dear Inspector.
Lovely evening, my dear!
I know this man, my friends.
His name's Inspector Javert!
So don't believe a word he says
Cause none of it's true.
This only goes to show
What little people can do.

Guns swing round to aim at Javert. He stares back in
defiance.

Gavroche comes dancing down the barricade to Courfeyrac's
delighted embrace.

92.

COURFEYRAC

Bravo, little Gavroche!
You're the top of the class!

Gavroche grabs Grantaire's red cap and puts it on his own
head, mimicking the students.

PROUVAIRE

So what are we going to do
With this snake in the grass?

Enjolras faces Javert.

ENJOLRAS

Tie this man and take him
To the tavern in there!
The people will decide your fate,
Inspector Javert!

JAVERT

Shoot me now or shoot me later -
Every schoolboy to his sport!
Death to each and every traitor!
I renounce your people's court!

ENJOLRAS

Take this man. Bring him through.
There is work we have to do.

Javert is led into the cafe. As they pass through the front door only one student is holding Javert. Seizing his opportunity, Javert breaks free and the students have to subdue him by force. Javert is on his knees and is being tied to the staircase.

ENJOLRAS

When are they coming!?

Silence.

Suddenly, out of the darkness, the students and citizens at the barricade here an ominous distant sound. The sound of marching feet, hundreds of men, marching in unison. First soft, then building louder and louder, closer and closer. Boots on cobbles. The sound comes right into the end of the street.

Enjolras and all the students man the main barricade.

Silence.

They peer over the barricade. In the pitch blackness, all they can make out is hundreds of gossamer thin slivers. These are bayonets and musket barrels dimly lit by the reflection from the torch.

A voice shouts out from the darkness.

93.

ARMY OFFICER

Who's there?

At the same time we hear the clatter of guns being levelled.

ENJOLRAS

French Revolution.

ARMY OFFICER

Fire!

A flash turns all the facades of the street bright crimson as though the door of a furnace has suddenly open and shut.

A dreadful explosion bursts over the barricade. The red flag falls, the pole sliced through. Bullets ricochet off the cornices of the houses, bore into the barricade and wound several men.

ENJOLRAS

(as students return fire)

Comrades, do not fire back! Do not waste powder!

In the darkness, the clang of ramrods in muskets - the troop reloading weapons.

Enjolras picks up the fallen flag and is about to take it up when the old man Father Mabeuf who has seen many insurrections before this takes the flag and runs up onto the top of the barricade.

ARMY OFFICER

Who's there? Get down!

MABEUF

Vive la France!

ARMY OFFICER

Fire!

A second volley.

Father Mabeuf falls down dead. While everyone is reacting to the dead old man and the wounded, the men are distracted from noticing that some French soldiers have used the cover of darkness to creep down the street.

All at once the FIRST FULL ATTACK begins. Shouts and the rattle of gunfire as SOLDIERS throw themselves up and over the barricade. The students run for their guns and return fire. They are taken by surprise. All could be lost in the first instant. Some soldiers make it up to the top of the barricade, where they're driven back by the fierce resistance of the defenders. Eponine sees one soldier aiming his rifle at Marius - she throws herself in front of Marius just as the rifle fires - and Marius is safe.

94.

They are being overrun. Panic ensues. The gun battle is fierce. Marius in a flash of inspiration realises all is lost unless they do something. He drags a barrel of gunpowder to

the top of the barricade, grabs the torch and with a face of deadly resolve he tips the torch towards the barrel.

MARIUS

Clear out or I'll blow up the barricade!

Everyone freezes.

ARMY OFFICER

Blow it up then and take yourself with it!

MARIUS

And myself with it!

Marius brings the torch closer to the powder keg.

But already the soldiers have cleared out.

Marius comes down from the barricade.

FEUILLY

(to Marius)

Thank you!

LESGLES

What were you thinking!

As everyone surrounds Marius in amazement he spots Eponine lying propped against the barricade.

MARIUS

Eponine! What have you done?

He kneels by her side. Eponine is dying.

EPONINE

Here... It's from Cosette...
I kept it from you...

With a struggle she pulls the letter out of her pocket, and pushes it into his hand.

EPONINE

Don't be too hard on me...

Marius is shocked to find blood pouring from her wound.

MARIUS

Eponine, you're hurt!
You need some help!

Rain begins to fall.

95.

EPONINE

Don't you fret, M'sieur Marius -
I don't feel any pain.
A little fall of rain
Can hardly hurt me now.
You're here - that's all I need
to know
And you will keep me safe
And you will keep me close
And rain will make the flowers
grow...

MARIUS

But you will live, Eponine - Dear
God above!
If I could close your wounds with
words of love -

EPONINE

Just hold me now, and let it be.
Shelter me... Comfort me...

MARIUS

You will live a hundred years
If I could show you how...
I won't desert you now...

EPONINE

The rain can't hurt me now...
This rain will wash away what's
past
And you will keep me safe
And you will keep me close
I'll sleep in your embrace at
last.

Marius tries to comfort Eponine in his arms.

MARIUS

Hush-a-bye, dear Eponine
You won't feel any pain
A little fall of rain
Can hardly hurt you now
I'm here.

EPONINE

So don't you fret, M'sieur Marius

I don't feel any pain
A little fall of rain
Can hardly hurt me now...

MARIUS

I will stay with you
Till you are sleeping.

EPONINE

That's all I need to know
And you will keep me safe
(more)

96.

EPONINE (cont'd)

And you will keep me close
And rain..
Will make the flowers...
Grow...

Eponine dies in Marius's arms.

Marius looks up at the others, his eyes full of tears.

ENJOLRAS

They were the first to fall.
The first to fall upon this
barricade.

MARIUS

Her name was Eponine!
Her life was cold and dark, yet
she was unafraid!

COMBEFERRE

We fight here in her name...

PROUVAIRE

She will not die in vain...

LESGLES

She will not be betrayed...

They pick up Eponine's body and carry her into the tavern.

COURFEYRAC

(to Gavroche)
Are you alright?

GAV ROCHE

That was my sister.

Marius reads the letter Eponine has given him. He takes out pencil and paper and writes a note. Looking round, he sees Gavroche.

MARIUS

Gavroche! Do you know the Rue de l'Homme Armé?

GAVROCHE

Course I do!

MARIUS

Will you take this for me?

He holds out his note.

97.

The LANDLADY climbs the stairs, followed by Gavroche. The landlady indicates the door, and Gavroche knocks boldly. The door opens a crack to reveal a cautious Valjean.

GAVROCHE

Letter for Cosette.

VALJEAN

I'll take it.

Gavroche holds out the letter with one hand, not quite giving it, the other hand open for a tip.

Valjean gives him a coin, which he pockets as he hands over the letter.

GAVROCHE

Something for you, something for me. Who needs charity?

ON VALJEAN - As he reads the note.

VALJEAN

`Dearest Cosette, you have entered my soul
And soon you will be gone.

Can it be only a day since we met
And the world was reborn?
If I should fall in the battle to
come
Let this be my goodbye.
Now that I know you love me as
well
It is harder to die.
I pray that God will bring me
home
To be with you.
Pray for your Marius.
He prays for you.'

He looks up, deeply distressed. He can't bear the thought
of losing Cosette.

VALJEAN

They haven't got a chance, these
boys
They almost certainly will die
She'll be alone
And she will need me all the more
And we will go on as before
When he is gone
I dare not think like this
I must find this boy

98.

91 EXT. PARIS STREETS - NIGHT

91

Valjean walks the streets, not caring where he goes,
struggling with his tormented thoughts. He sees a barricade
being dismantled. And bodies.

Suddenly he knows what he's going to do. He sees a dead
soldier. He takes his jacket and swiftly pulls it on.

He continues on his way in the dark.

Looking up he sees that he's been walking all the time
towards the very barricade where Marius waits.

Now looking like a soldier, he passes unchallenged through
their lines, and into the shadows.

As he passes, he notices two soldiers climbing up onto the
rooftops.

92 EXT. BARRICADE - NIGHT

92

Glimpses through the barricade of a lone figure approaching from the far end of the narrow street.

The figure comes into lamp light. It's Valjean, in the soldier's jacket. The student sentries level their guns. Gavroche jumps up.

VALJEAN

Don't shoot!

JOLY

Here comes a man in uniform!
What brings you to this place?

VALJEAN

I come here as a volunteer.

JOLY

Approach and show your face!

PROUVAIRE

You wear an army uniform.

VALJEAN

That's why they let me through.

The student sentries open the slot in the barricade to let Valjean enter.

JOLY

You've got some years behind you,
sir.

VALJEAN

There's much that I can do.

99.

JOLY

You see that prisoner over there?

He points to Javert, in a dark corner, his hands tied.

GRANTAIRE

A volunteer like you!

COMBEFERRE

A spy who calls himself Javert!

GRANTAIRE

He's going to get it too!

Javert looks up and meets Valjean's eyes. A steady shared look.

GAVROCHE

Don't shoot! I know him! He's no soldier!

Suddenly Valjean spots a couple of snipers creeping over the roofs to gain an angle of attack on them. They are aiming at Enjolras. Swiftly Valjean grabs a gun and shoots up at them sending them scattering. Quickly other students join in and the snipers are driven back.

There is a burst of gunfire from both ends of the street as a brief fire fight ensues.

The snipers have disappeared.

Enjolras turns to Valjean.

ENJOLRAS

For your presence of mind,
For the deed you have done,
I will thank you, M'sieur,
When our battle is won.

MARIUS

Thank you, M'sieur.

VALJEAN

Give me no thanks, M'sieur.
There's something you can do.

ENJOLRAS

If it is in my power.

VALJEAN

Give me the spy Javert!
Let me take care of him.

Javert hears this with grim satisfaction.

100.

JAVERT

The law is inside out.
The world is upside down.

ENJOLRAS

Do what you have to do -
The man belongs to you.

He turns to his little army.

ENJOLRAS

The enemy may be regrouping!
Hold yourselves in readiness!
Come, my friends, back to your
positions!
The dawn is breaking fast.

Valjean takes Javert out the back of the Cafe Musain. He carries a knife.

VALJEAN

We meet again...

JAVERT

You've hungered for this all your
life.
Take your revenge.
How right you should kill with a
knife.

Valjean uses the knife to cut Javert free.

VALJEAN

You talk too much.
Your life is safe in my hands.

JAVERT

Don't understand...

VALJEAN

Get out of here.

JAVERT

Valjean, take care!
I'm warning you.

VALJEAN

Clear out of here!

JAVERT

Once a thief, forever a thief.
What you want, you always steal.
You would trade your life for
mine.
Yes, Valjean, you want a deal!
Shoot me now for all I care -
If you let me go, beware!
You'll still answer to Javert!

VALJEAN

You are wrong, and always have
been wrong.
I'm a man no worse than any man.
You are free, and there are no
conditions -
No bargains or petitions.
There's nothing that I blame you
for.
You've done your duty, nothing
more.
No doubt our paths will cross
again.

He raises his gun and points it at Javert.

VALJEAN

Go!

As Javert goes, he raises the gun barrel and fires a single
shot into the air.

ENJOLRAS

Courfeyrac, you take the watch -
They may attack before it's
light.
Everybody keep the faith,
For certain as our banner flies,
We are not alone -
The people too must rise!

Marius is manically working to raise the height of one of the
smaller barricades.

ENJOLRAS

Marius, rest.

Grantaire drunkenly starts singing a drinking song and it is
taken up more seriously by Feuilly. Bottles are passed round.

GRANTAIRE

Drink with me to days gone by!

FEUILLY

Sing with me the songs we knew!

PROUVAIRE

Here's to pretty girls
Who went to our heads!

JOLY

Here's to witty girls
Who went to our beds!

102.

STUDENTS

Here's to them -
 (Marius sings to
 Valjean)
And here's to you!

GRANTAIRE

Drink with me to days gone by!
Can it be you fear to die?
Will the world remember you when
you fall?
Can it be your death
Means nothing at all?
Is your life just one more lie?

Grantaire glares at Enjolras and enters the cafe.

ALL

Drink with me
To days gone by!
To the life
That used to be!
At the shrine of friendship
Never say die...
Let the wine of friendship
Never run dry!
Here's to you
And here's to me!

Valjean is moving through the cafe when he hears Marius through a window. He moves to the window. Marius sits beneath it.

MARIUS

Do I care if I should die
Now she goes across the sea?
Life without Cosette
Means nothing at all..
Please don't weep, Cosette,
Should Marius fall.
Will you weep, Cosette,
For me?

Valjean listens to Marius's song, and he's moved.

Look-outs keep watch at either end of the barricaded street. Many of the rest of the rebels are sleeping.

Valjean paces, unable to sleep, inside the cafe. Dead bodies are lined up on the ground floor. He comes to a stop, and gazes on Marius as he sleeps through the window.

VALJEAN

God on high
Hear my prayer
(more)

103.

VALJEAN (cont'd)

In my need
You have always been there.
He is young
He's afraid
Let him rest
Heaven blessed.
Bring him home
Bring him home
Bring him home!
He's like the son I might have
known
If God had granted me a son.
The summers die
One by one
How soon they fly
On and on
And I am old
And will be gone.
Bring him peace
Bring him joy
He is young
He is only a boy.
You can take
You can give
Let him be
Let him live,
If I die, let me die
Let him live
Bring him home
Bring him home
Bring him home!

Valjean is now kneeling next to the sleeping Marius.

CRANE UP AND UP - Seeing the little world of the barricaded street now surrounded by waiting soldiers - and the streets

round them packed with soldiers in their thousands, so many that we know the little band can never win.

CRANE UP AND UP until the barricade and the army that entraps it has become a small pool of darkness in the centre of the bright lights of Paris.

94 EXT. PARIS - DAWN 94

The sun still below the rooftops. Every house is tightly shuttered.

95 INT. CAFE MUSAIN - DAWN 95

Grantaire is fast asleep in the upstairs room, dead drunk.
104.

96 EXT. BARRICADE - DAWN 96

Enjolras re-enters the barricade through the secret gate. He has been on a reconnaissance. He looks at the street. No one is stirring, but for a single shutter which opens a crack - a face peeps - and it closes again. Below him the students are up and getting ready.

ENJOLRAS

The people have not stirred.

COURFEYRAC

Yet we will not abandon those
Who still live in fear.

ENJOLRAS

The people have not heard,
Yet we will not abandon those who
cannot hear.
Let us not waste lives!
Let all who wish to
Go from here!

There is silence. Uncertainty. Yet no one moves to go.

GAVROCHE

(from top of barricade)
Do you hear the people sing

GAVROCHE/COURFEYRAC

Singing the song of angry men

STUDENTS/CITIZENS

(joining)

It is the music of the people
Who will not be slaves again
When the beating of your heart
Echoes the beating of the drums
There is a life about to start
When tomorrow comes!

Under this:

FEUILLY

Enjolras! Ammunition's short.

MARIUS

I will go into the streets.
There are bodies all around.
Ammunition to be had.
Lots of bullets to be found.

ENJOLRAS

I can't let you go.

105.

VALJEAN

Let me go!
He's no more than a boy.
I am old.
I have nothing to fear.

Gavroche is already climbing the barricade under cover of the smoke.

GAVROCHE

I volunteer!

COURFEYRAC

Come back, Gavroche! Don't you dare!

JOLY

Someone pull him down right now!

GAVROCHE

Look at me, I'm almost there!

GAVROCHE

Little people know
When little people fight
We may look easy pickings

But we've got some bite!
So never kick a dog
When he's just a pup -
We'll fight like twenty armies
And we won't give up!

The rays of the rising sun break through, lighting up Gavroche.

GAVROCHE

So you'd better run for cover
When the pup grows -

Crack! A musket shot. Gavroche falls face down onto the barricade.

COURFEYRAC

No-o!

He runs up the barricade, seizes Gavroche's body in his arms, convulsed with grief, and brings it back through the gate in the barricade.

At the other end of the street Javert has appeared. He sees this gate. And talks to the Army Officer.

As the smoke from the muskets clears horses are revealed drawing field artillery into position. The Army Officer is lining up the big guns carefully.

106.

ARMY OFFICER

You at the barricades listen to
this!
The people of Paris sleep in
their beds!
You have no chance,
No chance at all!
Why throw your lives away?

Enjolras gazes on his pitifully small group.

ENJOLRAS

Let us die facing our foes!
Make them bleed while we can!

COMBEFERRE

Make'em pay through the nose!

COURFEYRAC

Make'em pay for every man!

ENJOLRAS

Let others rise to take our place
Until the earth is free!

The sun now appears above the rooftops of the city.

And the big guns fire - BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The bombardment hits the barricade, rocking it. In its wake
a massive barrage of musket fire.

The big gun has been lined up with the gate and has burst
right through in the first hit.

Bullets fly, and every few moments another cannon ball
smashes into the piled debris. Javert is glimpsed among the
attackers.

Enjolras and the students throw themselves onto the
barricades, firing at the attackers, handing their rifles
down to others to be re-loaded, firing again.

Valjean moves among them, tending to the wounded, lifting
down the dead, regardless of his own safety.

Marius takes a bullet, and crumples and falls. Valjean runs
towards him -

CRASH! The latest cannonade bursts a hole in the barricade
and now the soldiers are storming through. The hard core of
student fighters retreat, firing as they go, into the Café
Musain.

107.

97 INT. CAFÉ MUSAIN - DAY

97

Students and soldiers fight in the café, on the stairs, up
the stairs to the upper room. Students driving back the
pursuing soldiers hack away at the staircase, smashing it
to fragments - the soldiers below fire up at them -
students fall, their bodies caught on the jagged remnants
of the stairs. Grantaire is still unconscious from drink.

98 EXT. BARRICADE - DAY

98

Valjean has Marius in his arms and is hiding him from the
onrush of the soldiers -

99 INT. CAFÉ MUSAIN - DAY

99

The students' ammunition has run out, they're hurling sticks and bottles - but the soldiers have found a way to clamber up, shooting as they come, and one by one the students are falling.

100 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CAFÉ MUSAIN - DAY

100

Valjean carries Marius away from the carnage. A soldier challenges him. One violent blow from Valjean sends the soldier flying -

101 INT. CAFÉ MUSAIN - DAY

101

The soldiers break through at last to the upper room, to find there's only Enjolras still alive. He stands by the window, knowing he will die now, proud and unafraid. Seeing him the soldiers hesitate. The sudden silence wakes Grantaire from his drunken slumber.

GRANTAIRE

Long live the republic!

He sees Enjolras with the muskets raised against him. Grantaire goes and joins him. Enjolras smiles, and raises his now-ragged red flag.

The rifles blaze. Grantaire drops back to the ground. Enjolras falls back -

102 EXT. BARRICADE - DAY

102

Enjolras falling backwards out of the window, until he hangs upside down, the red flag still in his hands, streaming like blood down the wall.

108.

PULL BACK to see the street littered with corpses, and the remains of the barricade, and soldiers scouring the rubble for any last pockets of resistance.

BACK AND BACK to come to a stop looking at the wide scene. INTO FRAME walks Javert, grimly surveying the victory of law over rebellion.

103 EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY

103

Valjean carries Marius down a long narrow alley that runs between the backs of tall houses. The alley turns a corner - and there ahead is a dead end. Behind him, the stamp of soldiers' boots. Ahead, no way out.

Then his searching gaze falls on an iron grating in the ground. A storm drain.

ON THE SOLDIERS - As they come round the corner into the end of the alley. They look round. It's empty.

SOLDIER

Nothing here!

The soldiers depart. A moment of silence.

Then into the alley's end steps Javert. Not so easily fooled. He walks all the way to the end, and looks round. He sees the drain at his feet. He sees the signs that the grating has been lifted.

He stoops, and tries to lift it. It's far too heavy for him.

He straightens up and looks round, calculating. Where does the drain lead?

104 INT. PARIS SEWERS - DAY

104

Valjean is pulling Marius after him down a tight sloping pipe, where dark water races. Suddenly they start to slide, then drop through a vent into a wide sewage tunnel. Faint light reflecting off the slime of curving tunnel walls. The skitter of rats. Sodden forms floating by: dead bodies.

Valjean carries Marius down the tunnel, moving as fast as he can, losing strength all the time. He reaches an intersection where four sewers meet. Light falls through distant gratings. One of the four sewers is dry. Here he lets his burden down, and himself sinks to the slimy ground to rest. He lets his eyes close.

A voice echoes in the shadows.

109.

THENARDIER

Here's a hint of gold
Stuck into a tooth -
Pardon me, m'sieur,

You won't be needing it no more.
Shouldn't be too hard to sell.

A figure coming closer. A sewer thief, robbing corpses. No sign of life in either Valjean or Marius.

THENARDIER

Well, someone's got to clean'em
up, my friends,
Before the little harvest
Disappears into the mud.
Someone's got to collect their
odds and ends
When the gutters run with blood.

Now we see the thief is Thenardier. He finds a ring on Marius's finger and pulls it off.

THENARDIER

Here's a tasty ring
Pretty little thing
Heart's no longer going
And he's lived his little time,
But his watch is ticking yet.

It's a world where the dog eats
the dog.
Where they kill for the bones in
the street.
And God in his heaven,
He don't interfere
Cos he's dead as the stiff at my
feet!
I raise my eyes to see the
heavens
And only the moon looks down.
The harvest moon shines down!

Valjean wakes, rears up, seizes Thenardier by the arm, slams him against the sewer wall.

VALJEAN

How do I get out of here?

THENARDIER

There! That way!

Valjean drops him, picks Marius up once more, and sets off.

Thenardier stares after them, grinning. He's sent them the wrong way.

LATER - Valjean in the sewers, Marius on his back, and they're sinking ever deeper into the slimy water.

110.

As he feels himself sink, Valjean holds Marius up in his arms and forges on, chest deep, lifting the younger man above his head. Still he sinks, until his face is half-submerged and he's gagging in the filth. He stumbles, and suddenly he's sunk beneath the surface, and Marius is dropping -

Then up he bursts again, face black with slime, eyes burning with his refusal to be beaten.

LATER - Valjean staggers down the endless sewers, Marius on his back. But all the time he can hear, closer now, the rushing sound of the river.

Round a bend and at last - moonlight ahead.

He drags himself on through the shallow running water towards the moonlight.

He reaches the exit at last. Before him the river.

105 **EXT. RIVER EMBANKMENT, PARIS - NIGHT**
105

Valjean, crusted with slime, heaves Marius out of the sewer onto the embankment that runs beside the river.

He looks up. There, staring at him, is Javert.

Valjean rises slowly. Heaves Marius up onto his back once more. The strain of the night is showing. He's a man near the end of his strength.

VALJEAN

It's you, Javert!
I knew you wouldn't wait too long.
The faithful servant at his post once more.
This man's done no wrong.
And he needs his family's care.

JAVERT

I warned you I would not give in!
I won't be swayed!

VALJEAN

Another hour yet
And then I'm yours
And all our debts are paid.

JAVERT

The man of mercy comes again
And talks of justice!

111.

VALJEAN

Come, time is running short -
Look down, Javert!
He's standing in his grave!

He starts to move past Javert.

Javert draws his pistol and holds it to Valjean's head.

JAVERT

One more step and you die.

Valjean meets his eyes. That old battle of will against will.

VALJEAN

Then I die.

He starts walking past Javert. Javert's hand trembles as it holds the pistol.

Valjean keeps walking. Javert wills himself to shoot, but he just can't do it. Frustrated, enraged with himself, he lowers the gun.

JAVERT

Take him, Valjean,
Before I change my mind!
I will be waiting...
24601!

He turns away, trembling now all up and down his body. He stares into the river. Valjean is gone now. He's alone.

JAVERT

Who is this man?
What sort of devil is he?
To have caught me in a trap
And choose to let me go free?
It was his hour at last
To put a seal on my fate

Wipe out the past
And wash me clean off the slate!
All it would take
Was a flick of his knife
Vengeance was his
And he gave me back my life!

He begins to move away along the embankment, up steps,
towards a bridge. He's unaware of everything except the
turmoil in his brain.

JAVERT

Damned if I live in the debt of a
thief!
Damned if I yield at the end of
the chase!

(more)

112.

JAVERT (cont'd)

I am the law and the law is not
mocked!
I'll spit his pity right back in
his face!
There is nothing on earth that we
share!
It is either Valjean or Javert!
How can I allow this man
To hold dominion over me?
This desperate man that I have
hunted...
He gave me my life! He gave me
freedom!

I should have perished by his
hand
It was his right...
It was my right to die as well...
Instead I live... But live in
hell!

He moves up from the embankment onto the bridge. Here he
stands, looking down at the dark water of the night river.
The Seine forms a whirlpool here, where violent currents
swirl round the piles of the bridge.

JAVERT

And my thoughts fly apart
Can this man be believed?
Shall his sins be forgiven?
Shall his crimes be reprieved?

And must I now begin to doubt
Who never doubted all those
years?
My heart is stone and still it
trembles...
The world I have known is lost in
shadow
Is he from heaven or from hell?
And does he know
That granting me my life today
This man has killed me even so?

He climbs up onto the parapet, reaching his arms up to the
night sky.

JAVERT

I am reaching but I fall
And the stars are black and cold
As I stare into the void
Of a world that cannot hold...

I'll escape now from that world
From the world of Jean Valjean
This is nowhere I can turn...
There is no way to go on...

113.

He reaches higher, turning his body, twisting, as if he
wants some angel from on high to save him - and so,
turning, he falls into the river. The swirling eddies close
over him. And he's lost.

106 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CAFÉ MUSAIN - DAY
106

Soldiers are dismantling the last of the barricade. Women
move about the street, seeking their dead loved ones among
the bodies that still litter the barricade. These are both
the middle-class mothers of the students - Enjolras's
mother, Grantaire's sister - and the working women of the
slums for whom they died, united now in their grief.

WOMAN 1

Did you see them
Going off to fight?

WOMAN 2

Children of the barricade
Who didn't last the night.

WOMAN 3

Did you see them
Lying where they died?
Someone used to cradle them
And kiss them when they cried.

WOMAN 4

Did you see them lying side by
side?

WOMAN 5

Who will wake them?

WOMAN 6

No one ever will.

WOMAN 2

No one ever told them that
A summer day can kill.

WOMAN 7

They were schoolboys
Never held a gun
Fighting for a new world that
Would rise up like the sun.

WOMAN 3

Where's that new world
Now the fighting's done?

The women move off to go about their day's business.

114.

107 INT. MARIUS'S FAMILY HOUSE, PARIS - DAY
107

CLOSE ON MARIUS - He's waking from the nightmare, finding himself in a fine bed, with clean linen. He looks round: a handsome room.

GILLENORMAND

Marius! You've come back to us!

Marius recognises the old man anxiously watching him: his grandfather, Monsieur GILLENORMAND.

MARIUS

Grandfather...

He struggles to rise, but he lacks the strength. His grandfather's face shows only love and concern.

GILLENORMAND

Rest, Marius. No more harsh words
between us. I just thank God
you're alive.

Timidly the old man comes closer to the bed. Tears form in
Marius's eyes. Encouraged, the old man takes Marius's hand
in his.

GILLENORMAND

You've come home. To all of us.

The distant voices of the mourning women -

WOMEN (O.S.)

Round and round
And back where you began...

108 INT. CAFÉ MUSAIN - DAY
108

Marius makes his way slowly up the stairs to the upper
room. He's still weak from his wounds. He enters the room
where his friends died, and looks round. He sinks into a
chair.

MARIUS

There's a grief that can't be
spoken
There's a pain goes on and on
Empty chairs at empty tables
Now my friends are dead and gone.

He sees the bloodstain on the wall beneath the window sill.
The blood of Enjolras.

MARIUS

Here they talked of revolution
Here it was they lit the flame
Here they sang about tomorrow
(more)

115.

MARIUS (cont'd)

And tomorrow never came...

From the table in the corner
They could see a world reborn
And they rose with voices ringing
And I can hear them now!

The very words that they had sung
Became their last communion
On the lonely barricade at dawn.

He looks out of the window at what's left of the barricade.
He seems to see again the brave doomed defence, the smoke
and the gunfire, the young men falling.

MARIUS

Oh my friends, my friends,
forgive me
That I live and you are gone
There's a grief that can't be
spoken
There's a pain goes on and on...

Phantom faces at the window
Phantom shadows on the floor
Empty chairs at empty tables
Where my friends will meet no
more.

Oh my friends, my friends, don't
ask me
What your sacrifice was for
Empty chairs at empty tables
Where my friends will sing no
more.

Slowly he rises from the chair and turns to the doorway.
There stands Cosette, waiting for him.

109 INT. MARIUS'S FAMILY HOUSE, PARIS - DAY

109

Cosette holds Marius, supporting him, as he enters the
house.

COSETTE

Every day
You walk with stronger step,
You walk with longer step.
The worst is over.

MARIUS

Every day
I wonder every day
Who it was brought me here
From the barricade.

Cosette leads him into the room where Valjean and
Gillenormand wait.

COSETTE

Don't think about it, Marius!
 With all the years ahead of us!
 I will never go away
 And we will be together
 Every day.
 Every day
 We'll remember that night
 And the vow that we made.

As Valjean and Gillenormand look on, Marius and Cosette
 sing their love to each other.

COSETTE

A heart full of love
 A night full of you
 The words are old
 But always true.

VALJEAN

She was never mine to keep
 She is youthful, she is free...

MARIUS

Cosette, Cosette!

COSETTE

I saw you waiting and I knew -

GILLENORMAND

Thank God, thank God you are here!
 Thank God, thank God you are home!

MARIUS

Waiting for you!
 At your feet!

COSETTE

At your call!

VALJEAN/GILLENORMAND

Love is the garden of the young
 Let it be
 Let it be!
 A heart full of love
 This I give you this day.

MARIUS/COSETTE

And it wasn't a dream

Not a dream after all.

110 INT. PARLOUR, MARIUS'S FAMILY HOUSE - DAY

110

Marius stands before Valjean, alone in this more private room.

117.

MARIUS

M'sieur, this is a day
I never can forget.
Is gratitude enough
For giving me Cosette?
Your home shall be with us
And not a day shall pass
But we will prove our love
To you, whom we shall call
A father to us both,
A father to us all.

VALJEAN

Not another word, my son.
There's something now that must
be done...

He's prepared himself to make this confession, but it's still hard.

VALJEAN

There lived a man whose name was
Jean Valjean.
He stole some bread to save his
sister's son
For nineteen winters served his
time
In sweat he washed away his
crime.

Marius hears this with shock.

VALJEAN

Years ago,
He broke parole and lived a life
apart...
How could he tell Cosette and
break her heart?
It's for Cosette this must be
faced:
If he is caught, she is
disgraced...

The time has come to journey on,
And from this day he must be
gone!
Who am I?
Who am I?

MARIUS

You're Jean Valjean!

Marius can't conceal that he's disturbed by this
revelation.

118.

MARIUS

Monsieur, you cannot leave!
Whatever I tell my beloved
Cosette
She will never believe me.

VALJEAN

Make her believe
I have gone on a journey
A long way away.
Tell her my heart was too full
for farewells -
It is better this way.
Promise me, Monsieur, Cosette
will never know...

MARIUS

I give my word.

VALJEAN

...What I have spoken, why I must
go.

MARIUS

For the sake of Cosette, it must
be so.

111 **EXT. MARIUS'S FAMILY HOUSE, PARIS - DAY**

111

A waiting cab. Valjean comes out of the modest lodging
house and gets in. The cab rattles away down the street.

IN THE CAB - Valjean sits gazing far away at nothing. Then
his weary eyes close.

112 INT. MARIUS'S FAMILY HOUSE, PARIS - DAY
112

Cosette gazes at Marius, bewildered by what she has just learned.

COSETTE

Where's he gone without a word
That wouldn't be his way to go

MARIUS

All he asked for me to say
He's on a journey, far away.
Dear Cosette, he loves you so
Perhaps he will return some day.

Cosette comes into Marius's arms, tears in her eyes.

COSETTE

He can't leave us now
What's our wedding day
Without him giving me away?

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119.

112A EXT. MARIUS'S FAMILY HOUSE, PARIS - DAY

112A

Marius and Cosette, newly married, are walking towards
Marius' house through an aisle created by wedding guests.
Carriages line the street.

WEDDING GUESTS

Ring out the bells
Upon this day of days!
May all the angels
Of the Lord above
In jubilation
Sing their songs of praise!
And crown this blessed time
With peace and love!

113 SCENE OMITTED
113

114 INT. MARIUS'S FAMILY HOUSE, PARIS - DAY
114

Waltz music plays as Marius and Cosette lead the dancing at
the wedding reception.

As the dance proceeds, two extraordinary figures enter, and start helping themselves to the drink and the food. They are Thenardier and his wife, dressed up for high society.

MAJORDOMO

The Baron and Baroness du Thenard

They look round as the dance continues, highly satisfied with themselves and see Marius.

Thenardier makes a mock-formal bow.

THENARDIER

I forget where we met...
Was it not at the Chateau Lafarge
Where the Duke did that Puke
Down the Duchess's décolletage?

MARIUS

No, `Baron du Thenard',
The circles I move in are humbler
by far...
Go away, Thenardier!
Do you think I don't know who you
are?

MADAME THENARDIER

He's not fooled!
Told you so!
Show M'Sieur what you've come here
to show.
Tell the boy what you know!

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119A.

THENARDIER

Pity to disturb you at a feast
like this
But 500 francs surely wouldn't
come amiss.

MARIUS

In God's name say what you have
to say.

MADAME THENARDIER

(to Thenardier)
He speaks.
(to Marius)
You pay!

THENARDIER

What I saw, clear as light,
Jean Valjean in the sewers that
night,
Had this corpse on his back
Some boy he'd killed in a viscious
attack.
I was there, never fear!
Even found me this fine souvenir!

He shows off his ring. Marius stares in astonishment.

MARIUS

I know this! This was mine!
This is surely some heavenly sign!

Thenardier steals the ring back.

THENARDIER

And there's more! Mark this well -
It was the night that the
barricades fell.

MARIUS

Then it's true! Then I'm right!
Jean Valjean was my saviour that
night!

Thenardier looks past Marius to where Cosette stands among
their friends. He lowers his voice.

THENARDIER

Jean Valjean - the old con.
You pay up and I'll say where he's
gone.

He takes out money and reluctantly presses it into
Thenardier's hands. Madame Thenardier takes the money before
Thenardier has safely pocketed it.

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120.

MARIUS

Not so loud! Here's for you.
God forgive us the things that we
do.

MADAME THENARDIER

How's about some extra
On a day so glad
Our little orphan girl
She hasn't done so bad.

Raised in a convent
Cash to spare -
We want our share.

Marius hands over yet more money to Madame Thenardier.

THENARDIER

Quite the little nun, ain't she!

CRACK! Thenardier sinks to the ground, felled by a powerful blow from an angered Marius. The band stops playing.

MARIUS

Where is he?

THENARDIER

(cowardly voice)
The convent.

Marius rushes to Cosette and we see him telling her where Valjean is. They hurry away.

Thenardier clammers to his feet, helped by his wife. He gestures to the band to continue. They stand by the tiered wedding cake. As Thenardier recovers his composure, Madame Thenardier steals one then two pillars from the cake so it collapses on the floor. She then pushes it under the table with her foot.

"LES MISERABLES" BLUE REVISIONS 20.5.2012

121.

THENARDIER

Ain't it a laugh?
Ain't it a treat?
Hob-nobbin' here
Among the elite?
Here comes a prince
There goes a Jew
This one's a queer
But what can you do?
 (pulling Madame Thenardier
 onto the dance floor)
Paris at my feet!
Paris in the dust!
And here's me breaking bread
With the upper crust -

As he pivots Madame Thenardier, stolen silver drops out from Madame Thenardier's dress. The music stops dead in the clatter. The Thenardiers look up, as if implying that the

silver dropped from the ceiling. The dance continues.
Monsieur Gillenormand motions to the Majordomo to remove
these unwanted guests.

THENARDIER

Beggar at the feast!
Master of the dance!
Life is easy pickings
If you grab your chance!

MADAME THENARDIER

Everywhere you go
Law-abiding folk
Doing what is decent

THENARDIER

But they're mostly broke!

MADAME THENARDIER

Singing to the Lord on Sundays

THENARDIER

Praying for the gifts he'll send -

THENARDIER/MADAME THENARDIER

But we're the ones who take it -
We're the ones who make it in the
end!

The Thenardiers are carried off, singing as they go.

THENARDIER

Watch the buggers dance

MADAME THENARDIER

Watch'em till they drop!

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121A.

THENARDIER/MADAME THENARDIER

Keep your wits about you
And you stand on top!

THENARDIER

Masters of the land

MADAME THENARDIER

Always get our share

THENARDIER/MADAME THENARDIER

Clear away the barricades

And we're still there!
We know where the wind is blowing
Money is the stuff we smell -
And when we're rich as Croesus,
Jesus! Won't we see you all in
hell!

As they are thrown out, the Thenardiers steal a tiara and a
candlestick.

"LES MISERABLES" BLUE REVISIONS 20.5.2012 122.

115 EXT. CONVENT, PARIS - NIGHT 115

IN ON A WINDOW - Where two candle burn.

116 INT. CONVENT CHAPEL, PARIS - NIGHT 116

Valjean prays in the chapel, on his knees. He's very weak.

Next to the crucifix on the altar are Valjean's two silver
candlesticks, in which two candles burn.

VALJEAN

Alone I wait in the shadows
I count the hours till I can
sleep.
I dreamed a dream Cosette stood
by
It made her weep
To know I die...
Alone at the end of the day
Upon this wedding night I pray
Take these children, my Lord, to
thy embrace
And show them grace...
God on high
Hear my prayer
Take me now
To thy care
Where you are
Let me be
Take me now
Take me there
Bring me home
Bring me home!

VALJEAN is joined by the ghost of Fantine. She takes his hand

as he prays.

FANTINE

M'sieur I bless your name...

VALJEAN

I am ready, Fantine...

FANTINE

M'sieur lay down your burden...

123.

VALJEAN

At the end of my days...

FANTINE

You raised my child in love,

VALJEAN

She's the best of my life...

FANTINE

And you will be with God.

116A EXT. CONVENT CLOISTERS - NIGHT

116A

Cosette and Marius rush round the cloisters and enter the chapel in the middle of the cloisters.

116B INT. CONVENT CHAPEL - NIGHT

116B

The sound of the door opening. Valjean looks round. It's Cosette entering, followed by Marius.

VALJEAN

Cosette?

Tears form in his eyes. Cosette goes to him, kneels before him, takes him in her arms.

COSETTE

Papa, papa, I do not understand -
Are you all right? Why did you go
away?

VALJEAN

Cosette, my child! Am I forgiven
now?
Thank God, thank God, I've lived

to see this day!

Marius comes to him.

MARIUS

It's you who must forgive a
thoughtless fool!
It's you who must forgive a
thankless man!
It's thanks to you that I am
living,
And again I lay down my life at
your feet.
Cosette, your father is a saint!
When they wounded me
He took me from the barricade,
Carried like a babe,
And brought me home to you!

124.

VALJEAN

Now you are here
Again beside me
Now I can die in peace
For now my life is blessed...

COSETTE

You will live, papa
You're going to live
It's too soon
Too soon to say goodbye.

VALJEAN

Yes, Cosette, forbid me now to
die!
I'll obey
I will try...

He holds out a letter for her.

VALJEAN

On this page
I write my last confession.
Read it well
When I at last am sleeping.
It's the story
Of one who turned from hating
A man who only learned to love
When you were in his keeping.

Cosette takes the letter and kisses it.

COSETTE

I know it, papa.

Valjean turns back, face shining, towards the table where the candles burn in the silver candlesticks. There he sees three ghosts waiting for him. The ghost of the Bishop. The ghost of Fantine. And beyond her, watching Marius with love, the ghost of Eponine.

Fantine comes towards him, reaching out her hands.

VALJEAN

I'm ready now, Fantine.

FANTINE

Come with me
Where chains will never bind you
All your grief
At last, at last behind you
Lord in heaven
Look down on him in mercy -

VALJEAN

Forgive me all my trespasses
And take me to your glory!

125.

Cosette embraces Valjean, weeping.

Valjean reaches up his hands, and lets the ghost of Fantine take them.

FANTINE/EPONINE

Take my hand
I'll lead you to salvation
Take my love
For love is everlasting...

VALJEAN/FANTINE/EPONINE/BISHOP

And remember
The truth that once was spoken:
To love another person
Is to see the face of God...

Led by Fantine, Valjean walks out of the Chapel towards the cloister.

What remains is Cosette, her head cradled in the lap of the man who has just died.

The walls of the cloisters are covered in votive candles. The Bishop of Digne waits in front of the candles. Now Valjean's strong and young again. Before they reach the wall of candles, all three are gone.

As they disappear we CRANE UP, high over the cloister, high over the walls of the Convent and we see the Paris streets outside. Fires are burning and debris is scattered in the streets. Dawn is breaking.

From far away, the sound of an approaching crowd -

117 **EXT. PLACE DE LA BASTILLE - DAY**

117

THE CAMERA MOVES over the cobbles as the light of the rising sun reveals the devastation left by a bitter street battle. Past the remains of a barricade.

The distant sound of an approaching march.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTION:

Sixteen years later
Paris, 1848.

From far off, the swelling sounds of the approaching march become the words of a song.

MARCHERS

Do you hear the people sing
Lost in the valley of the night?
It is the music of a people
Who are climbing to the light
For the wretched of the earth
(more)

126.

MARCHERS (cont'd)

There is a flame that never dies
Even the darkest night will end
And the sun will rise.

As THE CAMERA RISES we see we're in the Place de la Bastille. The triumphal column has long been completed, but the great elephant is sadly dilapidated and has become incorporated into an immense barricade - three stories high, seven hundred feet long. Down all the streets that converge on the square we now see the multiple victory marches approaching. They cheer and beat drums as they climb up to the top of the barricade.

SUPERIMPOSE CAPTIONS:

The people of Paris have risen in
their tens of thousands.

The King has fled. A new Republic
is born.

There in the forefront of one column march Marius and
Cosette.

MARCHERS

They will live again in freedom
In the garden of the Lord
They will walk behind the plough-
share
They will put away the sword
The chain will be broken
And all men will have their
reward!

As the marchers come nearer we begin to realise how many
there are: thousand upon thousand. And there marching among
them we see ghosts from the past - Enjolras and the
students who died - and Fantine - and Eponine -

And out of the crumbling elephant peers another ghost: the
grinning face of Gavroche. He climbs out to dance on the
elephant, as the crowd fill the square.

MARCHERS

Will you join in our crusade?
Who will be strong and stand with
me?
Somewhere beyond the barricade
Is there a world you long to see?

As the marchers converge, there watching them are
Thenardier and his wife. Thenardier gives the marchers a
wave of greeting. Survivors to the last.

MARCHERS

Do you hear the people sing?
Say, do you hear the distant
drums?

(more)

127.

MARCHERS (cont'd)

It is the future that they bring
When tomorrow comes!

Now among the marchers we see the ghost of Valjean, singing with the rest atop the barricade, amongst the waving red flags.

MARCHERS

Will you join in our crusade?
Who will be strong and stand with
me?
Somewhere beyond the barricade
Is there a world you long to see?
Do you hear the people sing?
Say, do you hear the distant
drums?
It is the future that they bring
When tomorrow comes...
Tomorrow comes!

END CREDITS