

Les Miserables

// TOC

ACT 1

You'll always be a slave

Look down, look down,

You're standing in your grave.

JAVERT

Now bring me 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

The dirt beneath their feet.

BISHOP

Come in, Sir, for you are weary

And the night is cold out there

Though our lives are very humble

What we have we have to share

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

VALJEAN

He let me eat my fill

I have the lion's share

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.

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?

VALJEAN

What is this fighting all about?

Will someone tear these two apart

This is a factory, not a circus.

Now, come on ladies, settle down

I run a business of repute

I am the Mayor of this town

I dreamed that God would be forgiving.

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

What pretty locks you 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.

CRONE

Let's make a price. I'll give you all of ten francs.

Just think of that!

FANTINE

It pays a debt.

CRONE

Just think of that!

When you make a full report

You may rest assured, M'sieur

That she will answer to the court

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

Save your breath, and save your tears' honest work

From years ago

A man who broke his parole

He disappeared

Forgive me, sir

I would not dare

VALJEAN

Say what you must

Don't leave it there

JAVERT

I have only known one other

Who can do what you have done

He's a convict from the chain gang

He's been ten years on the run

How would they live

If I am not free

If I speak, I am condemned.

If I stay silent, I am damned!

Who am I?

Can I condemn this man to slavery?

Pretend I do not see his agony?

This innocent who bears my face

Who goes to judgment in my place.

Who am I?

Can I conceal myself for evermore?

Pretend I'm not the man I was before?

Look, M'sieur, where all the children play.

VALJEAN

Be at peace, be at peace evermore.

FANTINE

My Cosette ...

VALJEAN

Shall live in my protection.

FANTINE

Take her now

VALJEAN

Your child will want for nothing.

FANTINE

You would sooner see me dead

But not before I see this justice done.

I am warning you, Javert

I'm a stronger man by far

There is power in me yet

My race is not yet run

I am warning you, Javert

There is nothing I won't dare

If I have to kill you here.

I'll do what must be done

JAVERT

Men like me can never change.

Men like you can never change

I know a place where no one cries

Crying at all is not allowed

Not in my castle on a cloud.

Oh help! I think I hear them now, and I'm nowhere near
finished sweeping and scrubbing and polishing the floor.

Oh, it's her! It's Madame!

MADAM THENARDIER

Now look, who's here!

The little madam herself

Pretending once again she's being so awfully good!

Better not let me catch you slacking

Better not catch my eye

Ten rotten francs your mother sends me

Food beyond compare

Food beyond belief

Mix it in a mincer

And pretend it's beef

Kidney of a horse

Liver of a cat

Filling up the sausages

With this and that!

Residents are more than welcome

Bridal suite is occupied!

Reasonable charges

Plus some little extras on the side!

Charge 'em for the lice

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, Monsieur!

VALJEAN

Your feelings do you credit, sir

And I will ease the parting blow

Let us not talk of bargains or bones or greed

Now, may I say, we are agreed?

MADAM THENARDIER

That would quite fit the bill

If she hadn't so often been ill

OLD BEGGAR WOMAN

I know what you give.

Give 'em all the pox!

Spread around your poison

Till they end up in a box

PIMP

Leave the poor old cow.

Move it, Madeleine.

She used to be no better

Till the clap got to her brain

BEGGARS

When's it gonna end?

When we gonna live?

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

And your aim

And each in your season

Returns and returns

Red — a world about to dawn!

Black — the night that ends at last!

MARIUS

Had you been there tonight

You might know how it feels

To be struck to the bone

In a moment of breathless delight!

Had you been there tonight

You might also have known

How your world may be changed

In just one burst of light

And what was right seems wrong

COURFEYRAC

Then join in the fight

That will give you the right to be free...

CHORUS

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!

FFULLY

Do I know if he's real?

Does he see what I saw?

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!

MARIUS

In my life

She has burst like the music of angels

The light of the sun!

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.

Go home. 'Ponine

Go home, you're in the way.

EPONINE

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

THENARDIER

One little scream and you'll regret it

For a year.

CLAQUESOUS

What a palaver

What an absolute treat

To watch a cat and it's father

Pick a bone in the street.

I will join these little schoolboys

They will wet themselves...with blood!

VALJEAN

One day more.

THENARDIER

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

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.

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 for ever and forever.

And I know it's only in my mind

That I'm talking to myself and not to him

And don't be afraid.

GRANTAIRE

Let's give 'em a screwing

They'll never forget!

COMBEFERRE

This is where it begins!

COURFEYRAC

And if I should die in the fight to be free

Where the fighting is hardest

There will I be.

FEUILLY

Let them come if they dare

GAVROUCHE

Liar!

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!

And little people know

When little people fight

We may look easy pickings

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.

The rain that brings you here

Is heaven blessed.

The skies begin to clear

And I'm at rest.

NIGHT OF ANGUISH

ENJOLRAS

She is the first to fall.

The first of us 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 the name.

PROUVAIRE

She will not die in vain.

LESGLES

She will not be betrayed

ENJOLRAS

Take this and use it well!

But if you shoot us in the back

You'll never live to tell.

STUDENT 1

Platoon of sappers advancing towards the barricade.

STUDENT 2

Troops behind them! Fifty men or more!

ENJOLRAS

Fire!

LESGLES

See how they run away!

You've done your duty, nothing more.

If I come out of this alive, you'll find me

At number fifty-five, Rue Plumet

No doubt our paths will cross again.

Go!

FEUILLY

Drink with me to days gone by

Sing with me the songs we knew.

PROUVAIRE

Here's to pretty girls

Who went to our heads.

JOLY

Here's to witty girls

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

The people of Paris sleep in their beds.

You'll have no chance

No chance at all.

Why throw your lives away?

ENJOLRAS

Let us die facing our foe—

Make them bleed while we can

COMBEFERRE

Make 'em pay through the nose.

COURFEYRAC

Make 'em pay for every man.

ENJOLRAS

Law and order upside down

Someone's got to collect their odds and ends

As a service to the town

Here's a tasty ring

Pretty little thing

Wouldn't want to waste it

That would really be a crime.

Thank you sir, I'm in your debt

Here's a little toy

Take it off the boy

His heart's no longer going

And he's lived his little time

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!

Damned if I'll live in the debt of a thief

Damned if I'll yield at the end of the chase

I am the Law and the Law is not mocked

I'll spit his pity right back in his face

Did you see them lying side by side?

Who will wake them?

No one ever will

No one ever told them

That a summer day can kill

They were school boys

Never held a gun

Fighting for a new world

That would rise up like the sun.

Where's that new world now the fighting's done?

Nothing changes. Nothing ever will.

Every year another brat, another mouth to fill

Here they sang about tomorrow

And tomorrow never came.

From the table in the corner

They could see a world reborn

And they rose with voices ringing

I can hear them now

The very words that they had sung

Became their last communion

On the lonely barricade at dawn!

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

We'll remember that night
And the vow that we made.
A heart full of love.
A night full of you.
The words are old
But always true.
Oh, God for shame
You did not even know my name.

MARIUS

Dear Mad'moiselle
I was lost in your spell.
Cosette, Cosette.

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?

Paris at my feet

Paris in the dust

And here's me breaking bread

With the upper crust . .

Beggar at the feast!

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 good-bye!

VALJEAN

Yes, Cosette, forbid me not to die.

I'll obey,

I will try.

On this page

ENCORE 1 - SPEECHES / DO YOU HERE THE PEOPLE SING?

ENCORE 2 - ONE DAY MORE