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We see a figure approaching from a long way off - a young woman

And such fine clothes! Why don't
you come and sit down, take the
weight off your feet?

MADAME THENARDIER

That's right, dear. Thénardier's the name. See the sign there? That's my husband, he was a hero of Waterloo, he saved a colonel's life, carried him on his back, he did, through a hail of bullets. Was your husband a military man at all?

FANTINE

No. A poet.

MADAME THENARDIER

That's very nice though I don't suppose there's a lot of money in it. - Oh, will you look at that!

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A

JEAN VALJEAN
It's hard work. Are you strong?

FANT

Yes,

FANTINE

FABIENNE (CONT'D)
Not bad! And again.

FANTINE tries again

JEAN VALJEAN (CONT' D

But also BEGGARS, drunken SOLDIERS roaming the streets, and



I can't find anything

JAVERT

I am told that you have restored the prosperity of the town, by giving employment to all who are willing to work; consequently there is very little crime here, because there is no need for people to resort to such desperate means of getting their bread.

JEAN VALJEAN

I like to think that that is so.

JAVERT

But you and I both know that a thief does not steal because he is poor.

Perhaps. JAVERT

Why me?

FANTINE

SOPH



MADAME VICTURNIEN

You are not here to amuse yourself.
When you finish your quota you ask
for more work.

FANTINE

I'm sorry, madame.

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LETTER WRITER

Do you want

JE

MADAME VI C

Would you care to examine it,
madame?

MADAME VICTURNIEN rises.

MADAME VICTURNIEN
No, thank you. And thank you for
your time. Good day to you.

And s

MARIUS steps

NICOLETTE

If you don't, you might be sorry
all your life. It's all right -
I'll go with you.

GILLENORMAND

Ha! Women! You have to love them,
don't you?

JEAN VALJEAN rushes

Not now!

JEAN VALJEAN

MADAME VI

JEAN VALJEAN
When you first came he

FANTINE

They said you were a good kind man.
I thought you were. But you are
not. You are a monster!

MME VICTURNIEN has had enough.

MME VICTURNIEN

That's enough! How dare you insult
our good Pere Madelaine? Out! Now!
This minute!

Then MADAME VICTURNIEN recovers herself and hustles FANTINE
back out the door.

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FANTINE goes, head held high, face tear stained, past all her
former FRIENDS, who don't look sympathetic at all, apart from
FABIENNE.

BONG! A big bell tolling.

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2/33

JEAN VALJEAN at his desk. He looks stricken, as well he
might.

BONG!

PONTMERCY (CONT' D)

There's a man... called Thénardier.
He saved my life. If you ever meet
him... do the best... you can... for
him.

He closes his eyes. MARIUS'S eyes wide, as if in terror. He
turns to NICOLETTE and whispers:

MARIUS

Is he dead?

NICOLETTE

Not yet. Not quite. Very soon
though. He was waiting till you
came, I think.

They all stand there. The PRIEST continues to mutter his
prayers.

JAVERT
Has this man confessed to

Perhaps we see a letter slip

FANTINE walking through the streets with the letter in her hand. She puts on a brave fa

FANTINE pulls out her hairpin and her lovely hair falls to
below her waist



LETTER WRITER

You've gone about it the wrong way round, my dear. You should have gone on the game before you sold your pretty hair and your lovely white teeth. Who's going to take you looking like that?

All the fight goes out

JA

JAVERT

A common whore? This woman is the lowest of the low, would you risk your good name to help a creature like that? Monsieur le Maire, you astonish me.

JEAN VALJEAN

She is one of God's creatures, Inspector. She has suffered grievously and through no fault of her own. I have injured her myself, and now I want to make amends if I can. Now stand out of my way!

FANTINE faints and collapses in JV's arms, and h

JEAN VALJEAN

For what reason?

JAVERT

I denounced you to police
headquar

JV doesn't answer. He's wrestling w

He goes over to the panelled wall. Fumbles in his pocket, produces a penknife. He eases this into the panelling, and a section of it com

MADAME VICTURNIEN

Indeed I do!

JEAN VALJEAN

She's in the hospital, very ill. I want you to go to Montfermeil and fetch her little girl. I'd go myself, but there is somewhere else I have to be.

B