

# Act 2

## SCENE VIII

We hear a cacophony of voices resounding from the depths of Pip's mind in his feverish condition.

Collector one (V.O.)  
One hundred and thirty three pounds  
fifteen six - Jewelers' account.

PIP  
Who are you? I don't know you.

MRS. JOE (V.O.)  
Why this boy's fortune may be made  
there.

COLLECTOR TWO (V.O.)  
  
Outstanding balance, House of  
Lloyd's...

PIP  
What is the debt?

COLLECTOR TWO (V.O.)  
. . .forty seven pounds, twenty.

Jaggers (V.O.)  
Of course you'll go wrong somehow,  
but that's no fault of mine.

WEMMICK (V.O.)  
One must always be sensible when it  
comes to portable property.

COLLECTOR ONE (V.O.)  
You are under arrest for non-  
payment of debt.

PIP  
You can see my state. I fear you  
will have to carry me.

MISS HAVISHAM (V.O.)  
 Is there nothing I can do for you?  
 Can I only serve you, Pip, by  
 serving your friend?

As the hallucinations dissipate, the lights rise. Pip awakens to find Joe sitting by his bed.

PIP  
 Joe? Is that you there?

JOE  
 Which it is, Pip, old chap.

PIP  
 Oh, Joe. You break my heart. Be  
 angry at me. Walk away from me.  
 You mustn't be so kind.

Pip turns his face away and sobs. Joe only pats Pip's shoulder, having only joy in his heart that his dear friend has awakened.

JOE  
 There, there, Pip. Ever the best  
 of friends.

PIP  
 (realizing)  
 How long, dear Joe?

Joe  
 Which you meanstersay, Pip, how  
 long have your illness lasted, dear  
 old chap?

PIP  
 Yes, Joe.

JOE  
 Tomorrow is the first of June.

PIP  
 And have you been here all the  
 time?

JOE  
 Pretty nigh, Pip, old chap. When  
 news you were ill came, I says to  
 Biddy as how you may be among  
 strangers and, a wisit might not be  
 unacceptable. Biddy's words were  
 "Go to him without delay".

PIP  
 (ashamed)  
 Have you heard, Joe, who my patron  
 was?

JOE  
 Well, I heerd it were not Miss  
 Havisham.

PIP  
 Did you hear that he had died?

JOE  
 Yes.

PIP  
 He was a good man who acted  
 gratefully, and generously towards  
 me with devout constancy - a much  
 better man than I have been to you,  
 Joe.

JOE  
 Why go into subjects which is  
 betwixt us unnecessary?

Pip embraces Joe.

PIP  
 If ever you want to know, I will  
 tell you.

Biddy enters the apartment. She is carrying a basket of  
 food.

BIDDY  
 Pip! Oh what a happy day!

PIP  
 Dear Biddy! You're here as well?

Biddy and Pip grasp each other's hands.

BIDDY  
 Yes, Pip. How wonderful to see you  
 awake and talking! We've been so  
 worried these past weeks.

Biddy signals to Joe to give her and Pip a minute alone.

JOE

Brrr. Well, now that you come back  
I best get some more wood for the  
fire.

Joe grabs his coat and exits.

BIDDY

May we speak for a moment, Pip?  
From the heart.

PIP

By all means, Biddy. There is so  
much to tell you...about me being  
such a fool...

Pip rises from the bed.

BIDDY

Pip, are you well enough.....

PIP

With your help, sweet Biddy.

Biddy gets a robe and slippers for Pip and helps him to his  
chair by the fireplace.

BIDDY

We are all fools, Pip, at one time  
or another. It is one of life's  
necessary evils shaping us and  
ultimately clarifying where we  
should be and with whom and -

PIP

Dear sweet Biddy, all this time,  
always taking for granted your  
kindness and wisdom. (pause) I  
think you once liked me very well.

BIDDY

But Pip, I need to -

PIP

If you can like me only half as  
well once more and tell me that you  
will go through the world with me,  
I will try hard to make it a better  
world for you. We will not have a  
fancy life, but will have all we  
need.

BIDDY

You have already made my world a better place dear Pip. And pray you will continue to do so even after knowing the profound sorrow and joy I feel in telling you of my marriage to Joe.

Pip slumps back.

BIDDY

We'd have told you, but we knew of your troubles and didn't want to be a bother to you. Pip, you are happy for us?

PIP

(coming to his senses)  
Dear Biddy, you have the best husband in the whole world, and, you couldn't love him better than you do.

BIDDY

No, I couldn't indeed.

PIP

And you will make Joe as happy as ever that gentle loving man deserves to be. You both receive my humble thanks for all you have done for me. . . (noticing the pile of paid bills in front of him)...and all I have so ill repaid.

Biddy goes to Pip and takes the paid bills from him.

BIDDY

There is nothing to be repaid. Please Pip, say no more. Joe would never allow it.

Joe returns carrying a stack of wood.

PIP

What news Joe! Congratulations! Biddy just told me the wonderful news of your marriage.

JOE

I'm a luckiest of men Pip, old chap.

PIP

A most deserving man, Joe.

As Pip continues, he rises, the lights fade on his apartment an rise in the Gargery kitchen where Pip's suitcase stands by the door. Pip is dressed for travel. Underscore EVER THE BEST OF FRIENDS.

PIP

I hope you and Biddy will have children to love, and that some little fellow will sit in this chimney corner of a winter night, who may remind you of another little fellow gone out of it forever. Don't tell him that I was thankless; that I was ungenerous and unjust; only tell him that I honoured you both and that it would only be natural to grow up a much better man than I did.

JOE

There's no -

PIP

(interrupting)

Pray tell me that you forgive me and can think better of me in the time to come.

JOE

God knows I forgive you, if I have anything to forgive.

BIDDY

And God knows I do, too.

They embrace one last time, saying goodbye. Pip exits, with suit case as the light fades in the kitchen. He is alone in a pool of light.