

ESTELLA AUDITION PIECES

PIP I wonder how you can bear him. He is a brute. A rich ugly brute.
ESTELLA Moths and all kinds of ugly creatures hover a lighted flame.
Can the flame help it?
PIP Cannot Estella help it?
ESTELLA Well. Perhaps. Anything you like.
PIP Then why do you look at him so?
ESTELLA Am I not to use my eyes?
PIP You give him such looks and smiles, Such as you never gave me.
ESTELLA Do you want me then to deceive and entrap you?
PIP Do you deceive and entrap him, Estella?
ESTELLA Yes, him and many others. As I was taught. I deceive and entrap them all.
Pip, you foolish boy, have I not warned you?
PIP Love is blind.

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ESTELLA Love is a fancy, Pip. I know nothing of it.
PIP You are sad.
ESTELLA Do you think it is a pleasure to be brought up to be admired?
Do you think that in itself is sufficient?
Pip, you are so taken up with yourself,
Have you noticed nothing?
Do you not know her story? Did you never take the trouble to enquire?
You think she is away, Pip, and safely locked up
There in her dark room in the cobwebs and the dust.
But I cannot leave her. Nor can she leave me.
She walks through the halls in her shroud like a ghost.
I have to write to her each night,
A long letter, Pip, telling her of my conquests.
And you don't know why. Pip, Pip. You are blind.

(MISS HAVISHAM starts to dance.)

ESTELLA She had everything. Her father loved her.
But she was orphaned, Pip, while she was still young.
She was rich, Pip, and very lovely, and all alone,
Satis House was a grand place then, she told me,
Full of laughter and sunlight

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E: You reproach me for being cold? You?
I am what you made me.
MISS H: Thankless. Hard and thankless.
E: What would you have me thank you for?
You have brought me up to be sure.
But what would you have?
You have given me everything. But I did
not ask you to give me everything.
What would you have?
MISS H: Love.
E: You have it.
MISS H: I have not.

E: Mother by adoption, I have said I owe everything to you.
All I possess is freely yours. All you have given me,
Is at your command to have again. Beyond that, I have nothing.

MISS H: So proud. So proud!

E: Who taught me to be proud? Who praised me when I learnt the lesson?

MISS H: So hard. So hard!

E: Who taught me to be hard? Who praised me when I learnt the lesson?

MISS H: But to be proud and hard to me!

To be proud and hard to me!

Did I never give you love?

Did I never give you love that burned like fire?

And can you not return it?

ESTELLA I begin to think I almost understand how this comes about.

You have brought up your adopted daughter to live only in these darkened rooms.

You have taught her that there is no such thing as daylight.

And now, for reasons of your own, you want her to understand there is daylight after all.

Is it so surprising she should find that hard?

Oh, adopted mother, you talk to me of love. But you have always taught me, from the first dawn of my understanding, always taught me with your utmost energy and might, that love is an enemy, love a destroyer. That I must always turn against it, for it has blighted you, and will as surely blight me.

And now you want me to take to it, as if it were daylight. And because I cannot, you feel disappointed and angry. But understand this, adopted mother, I am what you made me!

Nothing more and nothing less. I am what you made me.

(PIP steps forward.)

MISS H Oh, Pip, Pip.

PIP You sent for me, Miss Havisham, and I came. I understand you had news for me.

ESTELLA I will tell you the news, since, it seems, she cannot.

'The marriage is announced between Miss Estella Havisham of Satis House and Mr Bentley Drummle of Gloucestershire.'

That was the announcement, was it not?

PIP That is not the news I expected to hear.

ESTELLA Does Miss Estella's marriage surprise you?

PIP How can you speak of yourself like that? As if you were another person?

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ESTELLA How else can I live?

PIP Are you doing it for her?

ESTELLA No, Pip. She would have me stay. But I am weary of this life. .

Who would not be? I would willingly change it.

Don't argue with me, Pip. Don't remonstrate.

I know you will talk to me of love. There is no use in talking of that. It is only a form of words, a noise that other people make, and may mean something to them.

But not to me, Pip, not to me. Will you not believe me?

Oh, Pip, believe me. Sometimes I may wish it were not so, sometimes I may wish I was as other people are.

And, if I were, Pip...

And if I could...

But it cannot be.

Do not fear I will be a blessing to him, Pip.

There is no chance of that.