

## Miserables, Les

### "Prologue"

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#### CHORUS

Look down, look down  
Don't look 'em in the eye  
Look down, look down  
You're here until you die

#### 1ST CONVICT

The sun is strong  
It's hot as hell below

#### CHORUS

Look down, look down  
there's twenty years to go.

#### 2ND CONVICT

I've done no wrong  
Sweet Jesus, here my prayer

#### CHORUS

Look down, look down  
Sweet Jesus doesn't care

#### 3RD CONVICT

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

#### CHORUS

Look down, look down  
They've all forgotten you

#### 4TH CONVICT

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

#### CHORUS

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

#### 5TH CONVICT

How long, O Lord

Before you let me die?

CHORUS

Look down, look down  
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  
You are a thief.

VALJEAN

I stole a loaf of bread.

JAVERT

You robbed a house.

VALJEAN

I broke a window pane.  
My sisters child was close to death  
And we were starving.

JAVERT

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

VALJEAN

I know the meaning of those 19 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 am Javert

Do not forget my name  
Do not forget me  
24601

CHORUS

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

VALJEAN

Freedom is mine. The earth is still.  
I feel the wind. I breathe again.  
And the skies clear.  
The earth is waking.  
Drink from the pool. How clean the taste.  
Never forget the years, the waste.  
Nor forgive them  
For what they've done.  
They are the guilty- everyone.  
The day begins...  
And now let's see  
What this new world,  
Will do for me!

FARMER

You'll have to go  
I'll pay you off for the day  
Collect your bits and pieces there  
And be on your way.

VALJEAN

You have given me half  
What the other men get  
This handful of tin  
Wouldn't buy my sweat!

LABOURER

You broke the law  
It's there for people to see  
Why should you get the same  
As honest men like me?

VALJEAN

Now every door is closed to me  
Another jail. Another key. Another Chain.  
For when I come to any town  
They check my papers  
And they find the mark of Cain.  
In their eyes  
I see their fear

"We do not want you here."

INNKEEPERS WIFE

My rooms are full  
And I've no supper to spare  
I'd like to help a stranger  
All we want is to be fair.

VALJEAN

I will pay in advance  
I will sleep in a barn  
You see how dark it is  
I'm not some kind of dog.

INNKEEPER

You leave my house!  
Or feel the weight of my rod.  
We're law-abiding people here  
Thanks be to God.

VALJEAN

And now I know how freedom feels  
The jailer always at your heels  
It is the law!  
This piece of paper in my hand  
It makes me cursed throughout the land  
It is the law!  
Like a curse  
I walk the street,  
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 'til morning.  
Rest from pain, and rest from wrong.

VALJEAN

He let me eat my fill.  
I had the lion's share.  
This silver in my hand  
Costs twice what I had earned  
In all those nineteen years-  
That lifetime of despair  
And yet he trusted me-  
The old fool trusted me-  
He'd done his bit of good

I played the greatful serf  
And thanked him like I should.  
But when the house was still,  
I got up in the night  
Took the silver,  
Took my flight!

CONSTABLE 1

Tell his reverence your story.

CONSTABLE 2

Let us see if he's impressed.

CONSTABLE 1

You were lodging here last night.

CONSTABLE 2

You were the honest Bishop's guest.  
And than out of Christian goodness.  
When he learned about your plight

CONSTABLE 1

You mantain he made a present of this  
sliver

BISHOP

That is right.  
But my friend you left so early  
Surley something slipped your mind.  
You forgot I gave these also.  
Would you leave the best behind?  
So, Messieurs, you may release him  
For this man has spoken true.  
I commend you for your duty  
And God's blessing go with you.  
(to VALJEAN) 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  
By the Passion and the Blood  
God has raised you out of darkness  
I have bought your soul for God!

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