

MAGWITCH AUDITION PIECE
P5 AND 6

His words conjure up PIP, as a young boy.

MAGWITCH the convict suddenly appears as if from a dark pit and grabs PIP.)

MAGWITCH What's your name, boy?

Quick. Give it mouth.

PIP Pip, sir.

M Where's your mother?
(PIP points to gravestone).

PIP There, sir.

M Where do you say?

PIP There, sir. 'Also Georgiana." My mother. And there's my father. 'Late o f this parish.' And my brothers. Twelve brothers, sir.

M So where do you live? Supposing I lets you live. Which I ain't decided yet.

PIP With my sister, sir. Mrs Joe Gargery. Wife of the blacksmith, sir.

M Blacksmith?

PIP Yes, sir.

M You know what a file is?

You know what wittles is?

Then you bring me a file and you bring me wittles or I'll have your heart and liver out.

And see here, boy. I ain't alone. There's a young man with me, boy, and in comparison with that young man I am an angel. This young man has a secret way pecooliar to himself of getting at a young boy, and at his heart, and his liver. A boy may lock his door, and he may be warm in bed, may draw the clothes over his head and think himself safe, but this young man

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will creep his way to him and tear him open. Now what do you say?

PIP I'll bring you what you want sir.

M: And what's that?

Pip: That's a file, sir. And wittles.

M And you'll be secret?

PIP: Very secret.

M Say 'The Lord strike me dead if I don't'

PIP The Lord strike me dead if I don't.

M And you'll remember?

PIP If you'd let me stay upright, sir, perhaps I wouldn't be sick, and I could remember better. Please let me go.

M Bring it in the morning then, boy. In the morning!

Enter MAGWITCH.

M Mr Pip.
PIP: There is nothing the matter?
M Nothing the matter.
PIP Who are you? What do you want? Have you business with me?
M Yes, Mr Pip. You could say I had business,
PIP The convict!
M My boy. My dear boy. It was noble what you did for me. Nobk. I ain't never forgotten it.
PIP Things have changed for me since then. I do not wish to renew an acquaintance I made so long ago.
M It's disappointing to a man arter having looked for'ard so distant, and come so far.
PIP I am sorry.
M You're not to blame for that — neither of us is to blame for that.
PIP I did not mean to speak harshly. I wish you well, and happy.
M I'm glad to hear you say so, boy.
PIP Do you want some money? I have plenty to spare. As you see, I have done well.
M You have done well. Might I ask how you have done well?
How it's come about, since you and me was out there all alone on the shivering marshes?
PIP I've come into property.

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M Might a mere warmint ask what property?
PIP I don't know.
M Might a mere warmint ask whose property?
PIP I don't know,
M Might a mere warmint ask who administered that property?
Someone must have. You must have had a guardian, or suchlike.
Might a mere warmint guess his name? Did it start with a J?
Might a mere warmint guess his name to be Jagers?
Yes, my boy, it's me wot's done it. It's me wot's made a gentleman of you.
I've worked and I've prospered and I've done it.
Dear boy, I've done it!
(He stretches out his hands. PIP is revolted by his touch.)
You never thought it might be me?
PIP Never! Never!
M Well, it was me, and single-handed.
PIP There was no one else?
M Who else could there be?
There's no one else, dear boy. No one else at all.
And I'm your second father.
And as your second father, boy, I'm proud. See, Pip. Look at this, dear boy. Look.
(He takes out a pocketbook full of money.)
There's money worth spending in this, dear boy, and there's more. More where that came from.
I've come from the old country to see my gentleman

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M I been a warmint, dear boy. That's all I've been. That's what I was born. Born a warmint.
First thing I remember is thieving turnips down in Essex.
There was a man had been with me, but he'd run off. He'd taken the fire with him, and I was cold.
I had a kind of face on me that scared folk. They'd look at me and say, he's a hard 'un. Awfully hardened, that 'un.
Lives in jails. And they looked at me through the bars. And some of 'em talked at me and some of them preached at me and some of 'em measured my head. Some of 'em gave me Bibles I couldn't read and made speeches at

me I couldn't understand. But they never gave me a thing to eat. And what was I to do? I must eat, mustn't I? I'm a-getting low, Pip. I'm sorry. Don't you be feared of me getting low. I'll tell you as it was. Not that there's much to tell, Pip, but in jail and out of jail and then in jail again.

Then I met this man, Compeyson. A talker. A smooth talker.

And we done things together. He did the talking and I did the stealing. And the fighting and the necessary. It wasn't much.

We swindled folk and passed on false money. We done small stuff mostly. Once we done this lady in a house. He said he'd marry her, and he could have too. She Jaughed at me. It were nothing much, She gave him jewels, and he took a load of money.

Then we ran off. And we was took soon after that. I had Jagers.

I'd have hung otherwise.

As it was I got life, Pip. Transported for life.

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I 'ad a little girl then, newborn. Just a tiny

little thing she was, Pip, but big enough to look at me and smile. And I lost her.

Lost her for good. I won't be low, don't be frightened.

I won't be low.