

## JOE AUDITION PIECES

### P 15(BOTTOM)16 17

JOE What are you telling me, Pip? You don't mean to say it's all untrue?

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PIP All of it.

JOE But not all of it, Pip. Not all of it.

PIP Every word, Joe. I'm sorry.

JOE You mean to say there was no black welwet coach? NO flags? No veal cutlets) Oh, come on, Pip, if there weren't any veal cutlets at least there was dogs?

PIP No, Joe.

JOE A dog?

A puppy? That's terrible, Pip. That's awful. What possessed you?

PIP I wish you'd taught me to dance.

JOE What's that got to do with anything, Pip, old son?

PIP And I wish my boots weren't so thick and my hands so coarse.

JOE What's come over you, Pip, old chap?

PIP Joe, there was a beautiful young lady there and she said I was common.

JOE But you are not common, Pip. You're uncommon on some things. I mean, you're uncommon small.

PIP Joe, that's no comfort.

She told me I was common and I looked at myself and knew.

I am common. And that's where the lies come from, somehow.

JOE Lookee here, Pip at what I said to you by a true friend. And this true friend, Pip, this true friend do say: if you can't get to be uncommon through going straight, you'll never get to do it through being crooked. So don't tell any more on 'em lies, Pip, and live well

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and die happy. And what larks, eh, Pip. When you're my regular "prentice. What larks.

### P 18 19

(JOE comes forward to comfort PIP. They are back in the forge.)

JOE What's wrong, Pip?

PIP I'm ignorant, Joe.

JOE Are you, Pip?

PIP Joe. Why weren't you educated?

JOE What's that?

PIP Why didn't you go to school?

JOE See here, Pip, my father he was given over to drink and when he was overtook by drink, he hammered away at my mother most unmerciful. That was about the only hammering he ever did, Pip, when he weren't a-hammering at me. He was a blacksmith too, see, Pip, right here in this forge.

Only he never hammered at the forge. He hammered at my mother instead. Consequence, Pip, my mother and me we ran away from home. And then my mother said, 'Joe,' she'd say, 'Now, please God you shall have some

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schooling,' and she'd put me to school. But my father were that good in his heart that he couldn't bear to be without us. So he'd come along with the most tremendous crowd and make such a row at the houses where we was that they used to have no more to do with us and give us up to him. And then he took us

home and he hammered us. And that, Pip, were a drawback on my learning.  
But he was that good at heart he had no objection to my working, Pip. So I set to work and I kep' him too after a while.  
Until he took a purple leptic fit and died.  
And my mother followed soon after. She was in poor 'elth and quite broke. But she got her share of peace at last.  
And then I was lonely, Pip. All alone out here on the forge.  
Out here on the edge of the lonesome marshes. And I met your sister.  
And your sister, Pip, is a fine figure of a woman. A little sick and weak maybe, Pip, but a fine figure of a woman. You have to admit that. I mean, Pip, a little redness, or a little manner of bone, what does it signify?

PIP Well —

JOE Nothing at all, you're right, Pip. Right there. Nothing at all. And another thing. When I got acquainted with her, Pip, she had this miserable little creatur with her, and that were you, Pip.

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Enter JOE, timidly. PIP's first impulse is to greet him warmly.

PIP Joe!

HERBERT You can tell a gentleman by his acquaintances. The acquaintances that befit a labouring boy do not befit a gentleman. Good day.

(Exit HERBERT. PIP takes his advice to heart, and is formal towards JOE.)

PIP Joseph. Mr Gargery. How are you?

JOE How air you, Pip?

PIP I am glad to see you, Joe. Give me your hat.

(JOE won't give up his hat. He puts it in an insecure place. It keeps falling down.)

JOE Well well. Well well well well well. WELL WELL.

PIP Well, Joe.

JOE You have growed and that swelled and that gentlefolked.

PIP Yes, Joe. I have improved, I hope.

JOE I think you're an honour to king and country. And I hope as that you get your \*elth in this close spot.

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PIP I think London suits me.

JOE I wouldn't keep a pig in it myself.

PIP Wouldn't you, Joe?

JOE No, sir. Not if I wished him to fatten wholesome and have a meller flavour on him.

PIP Have you seen much of London, Joe?

JOE Yes, sir. Some of it. And very architectooralooral it is, sir.

PIP Joe, how can you call me sir?

JOE Me having the intentions and abilities to stay not many minutes more, sir. I will now conclude. Or leastways begin to mention what have led to my having had the present honour.

PIP Joe!

JOE See, Pip, I got a message from Miss Havisham. To say she wanted to see me.  
So I clean myself up, and off I goes to see her. Miss A, sir.

PIP Miss A, Joe? .

JOE Miss A, sir, or otherwise 'Avisham. Her expression then air as following 'Mr Gargery. You air in correspondence with Mr Pip?' 'I am,' I said. 'Would you tell him then,' said she, 'that which Estella is come home and would be glad to see him.'

So here I am, sir. I have now concluded. I wish you well and ever prospering.

PIP But you' re not going, Joe?

JOE Yes I am.

PIP But won't you stay and have something to eat?

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JOE        Pip, old chap, don't think bad of me. Yoy and me is not figures to be together in London. You won't see me again here, and not in these clothes. It ain't that I'm proud, Pip, but I want to be right. I'm wrong in these clothes. I'm wrong out of the forge, the kitchen, and off the meshes, Think of me, Pip, in the forge, with me hammer in my hand, or even my pipe. You won't find fault in me then, Pip. Think of me, there at the old anvil, in the old burnt apron, sticking to the old work. Think of me there. And now God bless, Pip. God bless.

Exit JOE.