

I dreamed a dream

Les Miserables

- MUSIC LYRICS: Boubil and Schoernberg
- WRITER: Victor Hugo
- STYLE: Modern Musical Theatre
- YEAR: 1985
- CHARACTER: Fantine

Synopsis

Set during the French Revolution, the story tells of Jean Valjean, whose theft of a loaf of bread condemns him to an unjust prison sentence and subsequent life on the run from policeman Javert. But an act of forgiveness on the part of a Roman Catholic Bishop changes the course of his life forever.

Valjean becomes the mayor of a small town. One of his workers, Fantine, has a secret illegitimate child. When the other women discover this, they demand her dismissal. The foreman, whose advances she has rejected, throws her out. **Desperate for money to pay for medicines for her daughter, Fantine sells her locket, her hair, and then joins the whores in selling herself. She sings 'I dreamed a dream'.**

Valjean falls in love with the beautiful, poverty-stricken Fantine. He devotes himself to caring for her and at Fantine's untimely death he promises to raise her daughter Cosette. Still hunted by Javert he has to escape for a while.

Young Cosette has been lodged for five years with the Thernardiers who run an inn, horribly abusing the little girl whom they use as a skivvy while indulging their own daughter, Eponine. Valjean finds Cosette fetching water in the dark. He pays the Thernardiers to let him take Cosette away and takes her to Paris.

He raises Fantine's daughter, Cosette, who he desperately attempts to shield from the world and all its dangers. As she matures, she falls passionately in love with Marius, a charismatic young Parisian revolutionary.

Nine years later there is a great unrest in the city because of the likely demise of the popular leader General Lamarque, the only man left in the Government who shows any feeling for the poor. The Thernardiers' daughter Eponine, who is secretly in love with the student Marius, reluctantly agrees to help him find Cosette. She can only look on and see the love between Marius and Cosette and wish that Marius would love her instead. She sings 'On my own'.

All the while, Javert, a policeman whose lifelong search for Valjean has become an obsession, hunts Valjean. The film culminates in a final, fated confrontation between Valjean and Javert on the banks of the Seine at the explosive height of the July Revolution in 1832.