

# Les Miserables, The Confrontation

Javert

Valjean, at last,  
We see each other plain  
'M'sieur le Mayor',  
You'll wear a different chain.

Valjean

Before you say another word, Javert  
Before you chain me up like a slave again  
Listen to me! There is something I must do.  
This woman leaves behind a suffering child.  
There is none but me who can intercede,  
In Mercy's name, three days are all I need.  
Then I'll return, I pledge my word.  
Then I'll return...

Javert

You must think me mad!  
I've hunted you across the years  
A man like you can never change  
A man... such as you...

Javert (in counterpoint)

Men like you can never change  
Men like me can never change  
No, 24601,  
My duty's to the law  
You have no rights  
Come with me 24601  
Now the wheel has turned around  
ne Jean Valjean is nothing now  
Dare you talk to me of crime  
And the price you had to pay  
Every man is born in sin  
Every man must choose his way  
You know nothing of Javert  
I was born inside a jail  
I was born with scum like you  
I am from the gutter too!

Valjean (in counterpoint)

Believe of me what you will  
There is a duty that I'm sworn to do  
You know nothing of my life  
All I did was steal some bread  
You know nothing of the world  
You would rather see me dead  
But not before I see this justice done

I am warning you Javert  
I'm a stronger man by far  
There is power in me yet  
My race is not yet run  
I am warning you Javert  
There is nothing I won't dare  
If I have to kill you here  
I'll do what must be done!

(Valjean breaks chair and threatens Javert with the broken piece. Turns to Fantine.)

Valjean

And this I swear to you tonight

Javert  
There is no place for you to hide

Valjean  
Your child will live within my care

Javert  
Wherever you may hide away

Valjean  
And I will raise her to the light.

Valjean & Javert  
I swear to you, I will be there!

(They fight, Javert is knocked out. Valjean escapes.)