JAVERT. You'd have been better off if you had gone to prison. *(Stage lighting begins to dim. As this happens, JAVERT steps C, faces audience, speaking as if he meant the world to hear.)* I will find you, Jean Valjean. You will not escape Inspector Javert. I know how your mind works. You lived inside a prison -- *(Bitterly.)* But I was *born* in one. We both stink of the gutter, but I am washing away that stink. You will never be free. Justice will not be mocked. No matter how long it takes -- a year, two. Ten! I will hound you to death. I will sink in my teeth and never let go! *(Music. Lights fade to darkness, leaving JAVERT in the eerie afterglow. END ACT ONE.)*

FANTINE. Ah, what am I thinking of? I'm getting better. I'm sure there's nothing seriously wrong with me. Cosette won't recognize me. She'll have forgotten her mother after all this time. Children have such short memories. Do you think she'll be pretty? *(Coughs badly.)* Oh, Monsieur. *(Clings to him, delirious.)* My Cosette! I can hear her! You have brought her to me. Bless you. We're going to be so happy. I'll have a little garden where she can play... *(Coughs, lies back on the cot, still holding VALJEAN's hand.)* I'll watch while she skips across the grass...