

AT THE APPOINTED TIME I RETURNED TO MISS HAVISHAM'S. MY RING AT THE GATE BROUGHT ESTELLA, WHO LED ME TO QUITE ANOTHER PART OF THE HOUSE.

VOLUME I
CHAPTER XI

YOU ARE TO COME THIS WAY TODAY.

SHE LED ME ALONG DARK PASSAGES, AND OUT ACROSS A SMALL PAVED COURT-YARD, TO A DETACHED DWELLING-HOUSE. WE ENTERED A GLOOMY ROOM. THERE WAS SOME COMPANY IN THE ROOM, THREE LADIES AND A GENTLEMAN.

MY COMING STOPPED THE CONVERSATION, AND THE OTHER OCCUPANTS LOOKED AT ME.

YOU ARE TO GO AND STAND THERE, BOY, TILL YOU ARE WANTED.

THE THREE LADIES AND GENTLEMAN ALL HAD A LISTLESS AND DREARY AIR OF WAITING SOMEBODY'S PLEASURE.

POOR DEAR SOUL! MATTHEW IS NOBODY'S ENEMY BUT HIS OWN!

WE ARE TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOUR.

POOR SOUL! HE IS SO VERY STRANGE!



NOW, BOY!

AS WE WERE GOING WITH OUR CANDLE ALONG THE DARK PASSAGE, ESTELLA STOPPED ALL OF A SUDDEN, AND FACED ME.

AM I PRETTY?

YES, I THINK YOU ARE VERY PRETTY.

AM I INSULTING?

NOT SO MUCH AS YOU WERE LAST TIME.



NOW, YOU LITTLE COARSE MONSTER, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ME NOW?

I SHALL NOT TELL YOU.

WHY DON'T YOU CRY AGAIN YOU LITTLE WRETCH?

BECAUSE I'LL NEVER CRY FOR YOU AGAIN.

WHICH WAS A FALSE DECLARATION AS EVER WAS MADE, FOR I WAS INWARDLY CRYING FOR HER THEN.

AS WE WERE MAKING OUR WAY UP STAIRS, WE MET A GENTLEMAN GROPING HIS WAY DOWN.

WHOM HAVE WE HERE? BOY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, HEY? HOW DO YOU COME HERE?

MISS HAVISHAM SENT FOR ME, SIR.

WELL! BEHAVE YOURSELF. I HAVE A PRETTY LARGE EXPERIENCE OF BOYS, AND YOU'RE A BAD SET OF FELLOWS. MIND YOU BEHAVE YOURSELF!

WITH THOSE WORDS, HE RELEASED ME. I WAS GLAD, FOR HIS HAND SMELT OF SCENTED SOAP. HE WENT HIS WAY DOWN STAIRS.

WE WERE SOON IN MISS HAVISHAM'S ROOM. ESTELLA LEFT ME STANDING NEAR THE DOOR.


ARE YOU READY TO PLAY?

I DON'T THINK I AM, MA'AM.

THEN ARE YOU WILLING TO WORK?

I AM QUITE WILLING.

THEN GO INTO THAT OPPOSITE ROOM, AND WAIT THERE TILL I COME.



I CROSSED THE LANDING, AND ENTERED THE DARK ROOM SHE INDICATED. IT WAS SPACIOUS, BUT EVERY DISCERNIBLE THING IN IT WAS COVERED WITH DUST AND MOULD, AND DROPPING TO PIECES.

THE MOST PROMINENT OBJECT WAS A LONG TABLE WITH A TABLECLOTH SPREAD ON IT, AS IF A FEAST HAD BEEN IN PREPARATION WHEN THE HOUSE AND THE CLOCKS ALL STOPPED TOGETHER.

A CENTRE-PIECE OF SOME KIND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CLOTH WAS HEAVILY OVERHUNG WITH COBWEBS.

AS I LOOKED, I SAW SPECKLE-LEGGED SPIDERS WITH BLOTCHY BODIES RUNNING HOME TO IT, AND RUNNING OUT FROM IT.

WHAT DO YOU
THINK THAT IS, WHERE
THOSE COBWEBS ARE?
IT'S A GREAT CAKE.
A BRIDE-CAKE.
MINE!

COME, COME,
COME! WALK ME,
WALK ME!

I MADE OUT FROM THIS THAT THE WORK I
HAD TO DO WAS TO WALK MISS HAVISHAM
ROUND AND ROUND THE ROOM.
ACCORDINGLY, I STARTED AT ONCE.

DEAR MISS
HAVISHAM! HOW
WELL YOU
LOOK!

I DO NOT,
SARAH POCKET! I
AM YELLOW SKIN
AND BONE.

MISS HAVISHAM KNEW THAT
ALL THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF
AFFECTION WERE FALSE.
THEY DID NOT DECEIVE HER.

MATTHEW
NEVER COMES
HERE TO SEE HOW
MISS HAVISHAM
IS!

MATTHEW
WILL COME AND SEE ME
AT LAST, WHEN I AM LAID
ON THAT TABLE.

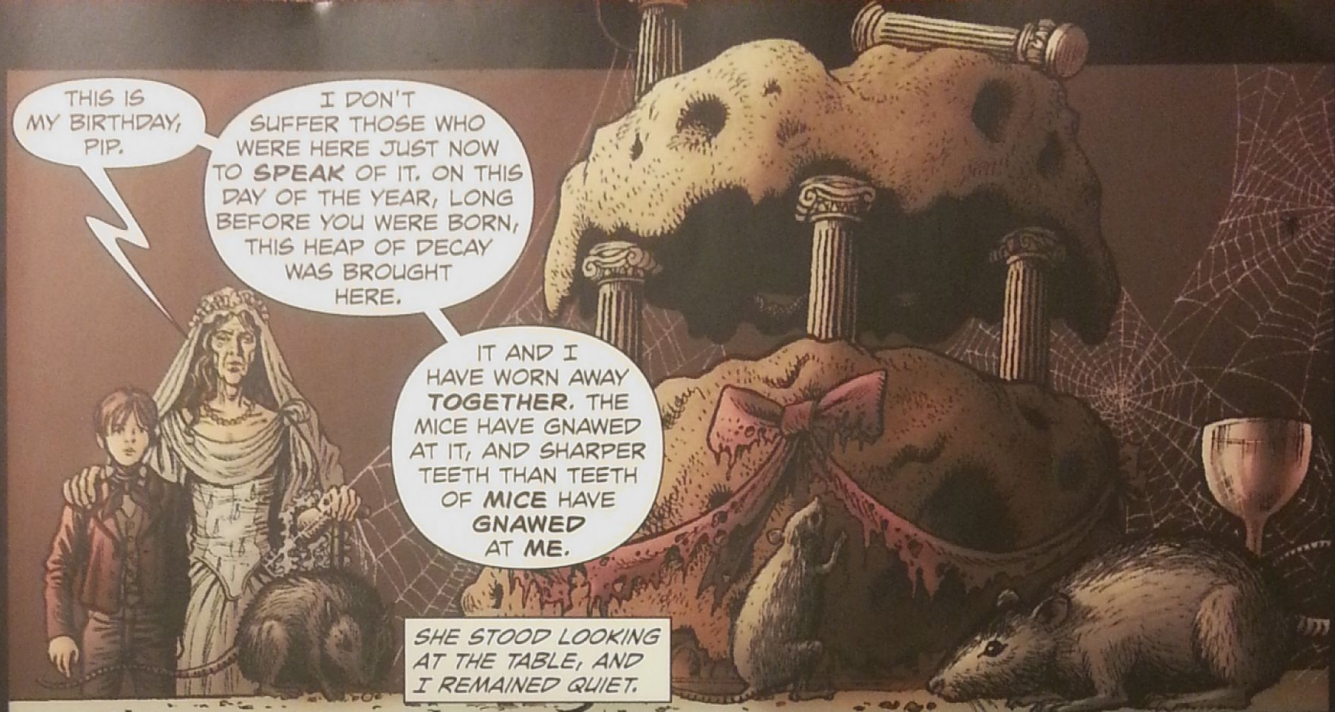
THAT WILL BE
HIS PLACE - THERE
- AT MY HEAD!

YOU ALL KNOW
WHERE TO TAKE YOUR
STATIONS WHEN YOU
COME TO **FEAST**
UPON ME.

AND
NOW
GO!

I SUPPOSE
THERE'S **NOTHING**
TO BE DONE BUT
COMPLY AND
DEPART.

BLESS YOU, MISS
HAVISHAM DEAR!



THIS IS MY BIRTHDAY, PIP.

I DON'T SUFFER THOSE WHO WERE HERE JUST NOW TO **SPEAK** OF IT. ON THIS DAY OF THE YEAR, LONG BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, THIS HEAP OF DECAY WAS BROUGHT HERE.

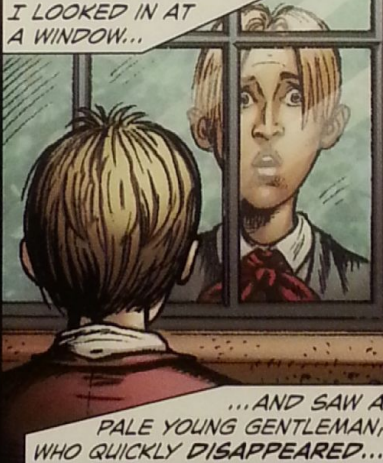
IT AND I HAVE WORN AWAY **TOGETHER**. THE MICE HAVE GNAWED AT IT, AND SHARPER TEETH THAN TEETH OF MICE HAVE **GNAWED** AT ME.

SHE STOOD LOOKING AT THE TABLE, AND I REMAINED QUIET.

AT LENGTH, ESTELLA RETURNED, AND A DAY WAS APPOINTED FOR MY RETURN. THEN I WAS TAKEN DOWN INTO THE YARD TO BE **FED** IN THE FORMER DOG-LIKE MANNER.

THERE, TOO, I WAS AGAIN LEFT TO WANDER ABOUT AS I LIKED.

AFTER A STROLL AROUND THE GARDEN, WHICH WAS QUITE A WILDERNESS, I FOUND MYSELF BACK BY THE DISMAL HOUSE IN WHICH I HAD WAITED EARLIER. BELIEVING THAT THE HOUSE WAS NOW EMPTY, I LOOKED IN AT A WINDOW...



...AND SAW A PALE YOUNG GENTLEMAN, WHO QUICKLY DISAPPEARED...

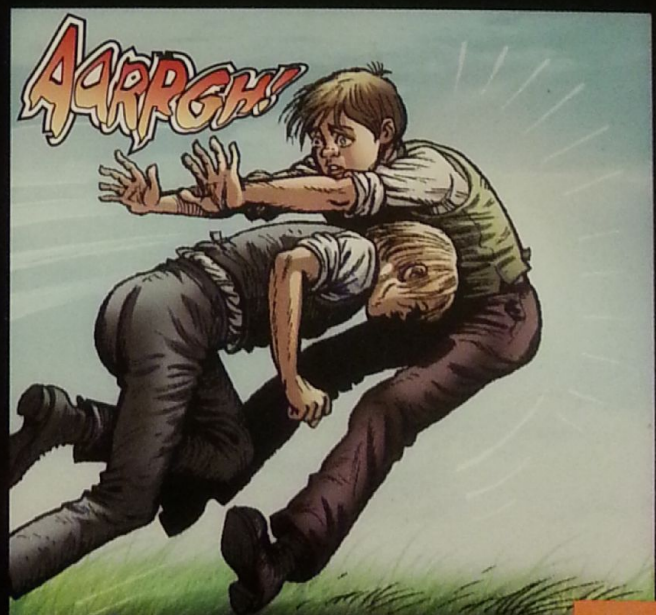
...AND REAPPEARED BESIDE ME. HE HAD BEEN AT HIS BOOKS WHEN HE FOUND ME **STARING** AT HIM.

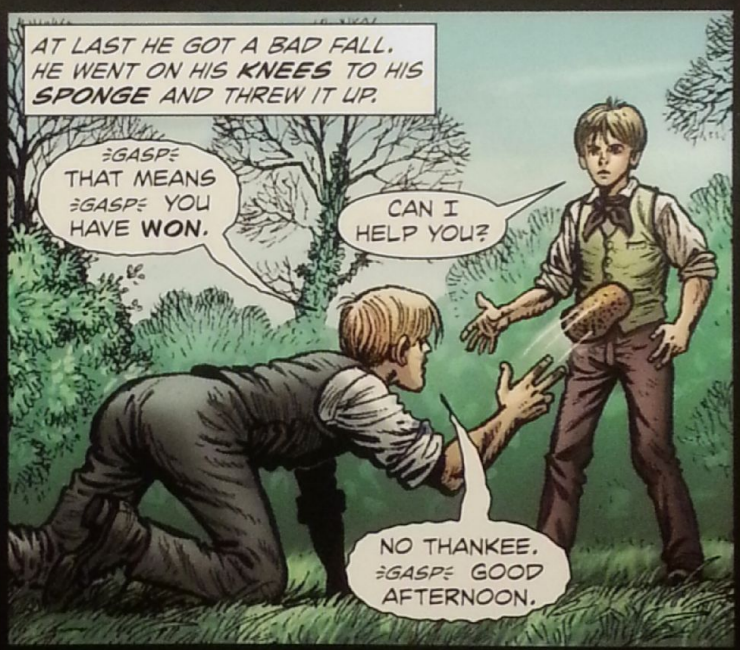
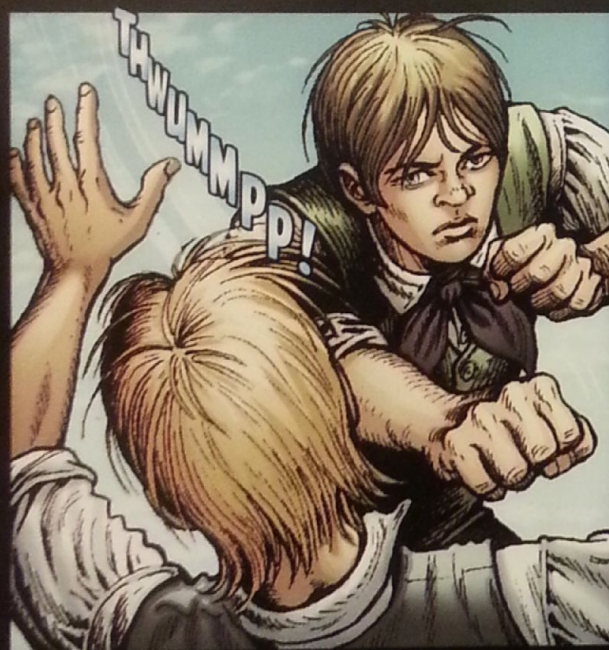
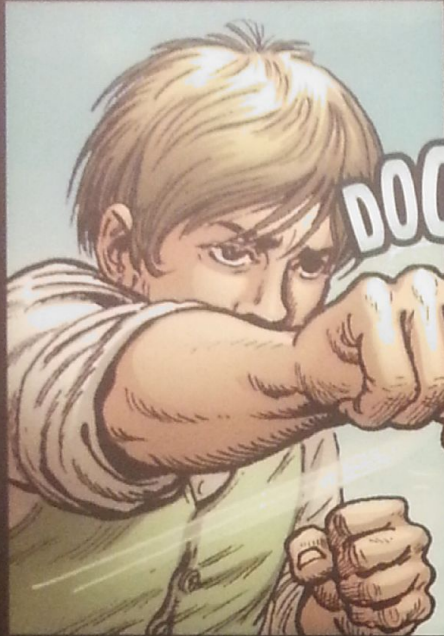
HALLOA, YOUNG FELLOW! WHO LET **YOU** IN AND GAVE YOU **LEAVE** TO **PROWL** ABOUT?

MISS ESTELLA.

COME AND FIGHT!

WHAT COULD I DO BUT FOLLOW HIM? HIS MANNER WAS SO FINAL, AND I WAS SO **ASTONISHED**, THAT I FOLLOWED WHERE HE LED.





AT LAST HE GOT A BAD FALL.
HE WENT ON HIS KNEES TO HIS
SPONGE AND THREW IT UP.

≈GASP≈
THAT MEANS
≈GASP≈ YOU
HAVE WON.

CAN I
HELP YOU?

NO THANKEE.
≈GASP≈ GOOD
AFTERNOON.

AFTER DRESSING, I WISHED HIM
A GOOD AFTERNOON IN RETURN.
WHEN I GOT INTO THE COURT-YARD,
I FOUND ESTELLA WAITING.

THERE WAS A BRIGHT FLUSH UPON
HER FACE, AS THOUGH SOMETHING
HAD HAPPENED TO DELIGHT HER.

COME
HERE! YOU
MAY KISS
ME, IF YOU
LIKE.

I KISSED HER CHEEK AS
SHE TURNED IT TO ME.

BUT I FELT THAT THE KISS WAS GIVEN
TO THE COARSE COMMON BOY AS A
PIECE OF MONEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

VOLUME I
CHAPTER XII

THE MORE I THOUGHT OF THE FIGHT, THE MORE CERTAIN IT APPEARED THAT SOMETHING WOULD BE DONE TO ME.

FOR SOME DAYS, I EVEN KEPT CLOSE AT HOME, AND LOOKED OUT AT THE KITCHEN DOOR WITH THE GREATEST CAUTION AND TREPIDATION BEFORE GOING ON AN ERRAND, LEST THE OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY JAIL SHOULD POUNCE UPON ME.

WHEN THE DAY CAME ROUND FOR MY RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE DEED OF VIOLENCE, MY TERRORS REACHED THEIR HEIGHT.

HOWEVER, GO TO MISS HAVISHAM'S I MUST, AND GO I DID.

AND BEHOLD! NOTHING CAME OF THE LATE STRUGGLE. IT WAS NOT ALLUDED TO IN ANY WAY, AND NO PALE YOUNG GENTLEMAN WAS TO BE DISCOVERED ON THE PREMISES.

I ENTERED, THAT SAME DAY, ON A REGULAR OCCUPATION OF PUSHING MISS HAVISHAM ROUND HER OWN ROOM, AND ACROSS THE LANDING, AND ROUND THE OTHER ROOM.

OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN, WE WOULD MAKE THESE JOURNEYS, AND SOMETIMES THEY WOULD LAST AS LONG AS THREE HOURS AT A STRETCH.

Does she grow prettier and prettier Pip?

Yes.

I SHOULD RETURN EVERY ALTERNATE DAY AT NOON FOR THESE PURPOSES, OVER A PERIOD OF AT LEAST EIGHT OR TEN MONTHS.

ESTELLA WAS ALWAYS ABOUT, BUT NEVER TOLD ME I MIGHT KISS HER AGAIN. SOMETIMES SHE WOULD COLDLY TOLERATE ME. SOMETIMES SHE WOULD CONDESCEND TO ME.

SOMETIMES SHE WOULD BE QUITE FAMILIAR WITH ME. SOMETIMES SHE WOULD TELL ME ENERGETICALLY THAT SHE HATED ME.

Break their hearts my pride and hope, break their hearts and have no mercy!

I REPOSED CONFIDENCE IN NO ONE BUT BIDDY; BUT, I TOLD POOR BIDDY EVERYTHING. WHY IT CAME NATURAL TO ME TO DO SO, AND WHY BIDDY HAD A DEEP CONCERN IN EVERYTHING I TOLD HER, I DID NOT KNOW THEN.

THOUGH I THINK I KNOW NOW.

MEANWHILE, COUNCILS WENT ON IN THE KITCHEN AT HOME. THAT ASS, PUMBLEHOOK, USED OFTEN TO COME OVER FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING MY PROSPECTS WITH MY SISTER.

NOW, MUM, HERE IS THE BOY WHICH YOU BROUGHT UP BY HAND.

HOLD UP YOUR HEAD, BOY, AND BE FOR EVER GRATEFUL UNTO THEM WHICH DID SO.

WE WENT ON IN THIS WAY FOR A LONG TIME...

...AND IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO GO ON IN THIS WAY; WHEN, ONE DAY, MISS HAVISHAM STOPPED SHORT AS SHE AND I WERE WALKING.

YOU ARE GROWING TALL, PIP!

TELL ME THE NAME AGAIN OF THAT **BLACKSMITH** OF YOURS - THE MASTER YOU WERE TO BE APPRENTICED TO?

JOE GARGERY, MA'AM.

YOU HAD BETTER BE APPRENTICED AT **ONCE**. WOULD GARGERY COME HERE WITH YOU, AND BRING YOUR INDENTURES, DO YOU THINK?

HE WOULD TAKE IT AS AN **HONOUR** TO BE ASKED.

WHEN I GOT HOME AT NIGHT, AND DELIVERED THIS MESSAGE, MY SISTER WENT ON THE **RAMPAGE** IN AN ALARMING DEGREE, BECAUSE THE MESSAGE WAS NOT FOR HER, BUT **JOE**.

AM I DOOR MATS UNDER YOUR FEET?

WHAT COMPANY AM I FIT FOR THEN?

VOLUME I
CHAPTER XIII

ON THE NEXT DAY BUT ONE, JOE ARRAYED HIMSELF IN HIS SUNDAY CLOTHES TO ACCOMPANY ME TO MISS HAVISHAM'S. THE FORGE WAS SHUT UP FOR THE DAY.

MY SISTER DECLARED HER INTENTION OF GOING TO TOWN WITH US, AND BEING LEFT AT UNCLE PUMBLECHOOK'S.

AT MISS HAVISHAM'S HOUSE, ESTELLA OPENED THE GATE AS USUAL. SHE TOOK NO NOTICE OF EITHER OF US, BUT LED US THE WAY THAT I KNEW SO WELL.

YOU ARE BOTH TO GO IN.

THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW, JOE PERSISTED IN ADDRESSING ME INSTEAD OF MISS HAVISHAM...

YOU HAVE REARED THE BOY, WITH THE INTENTION OF TAKING HIM FOR YOUR APPRENTICE; IS THAT SO, MR. GARGERY?

AS YOU AND ME WERE EVER FRIENDS, IF YOU HAD EVER MADE OBJECTIONS TO THE BUSINESS, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ATTENDED TO.

HAVE YOU BROUGHT HIS INDENTURES WITH YOU?

WELL, PIP, YOU YOURSELF SEE ME PUT 'EM IN MY 'AT.

YOU EXPECTED NO PREMIUM WITH THE BOY?

PIP, WHICH I MEANTERSAY, YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO BE FULL WELL NO, PIP.

PIP HAS EARNED A PREMIUM HERE, AND HERE IT IS. THERE ARE FIVE-AND-TWENTY GUINEAS IN THIS BAG. GIVE IT TO YOUR MASTER, PIP.

THIS IS WERY LIBERAL ON YOUR PART, PIP --

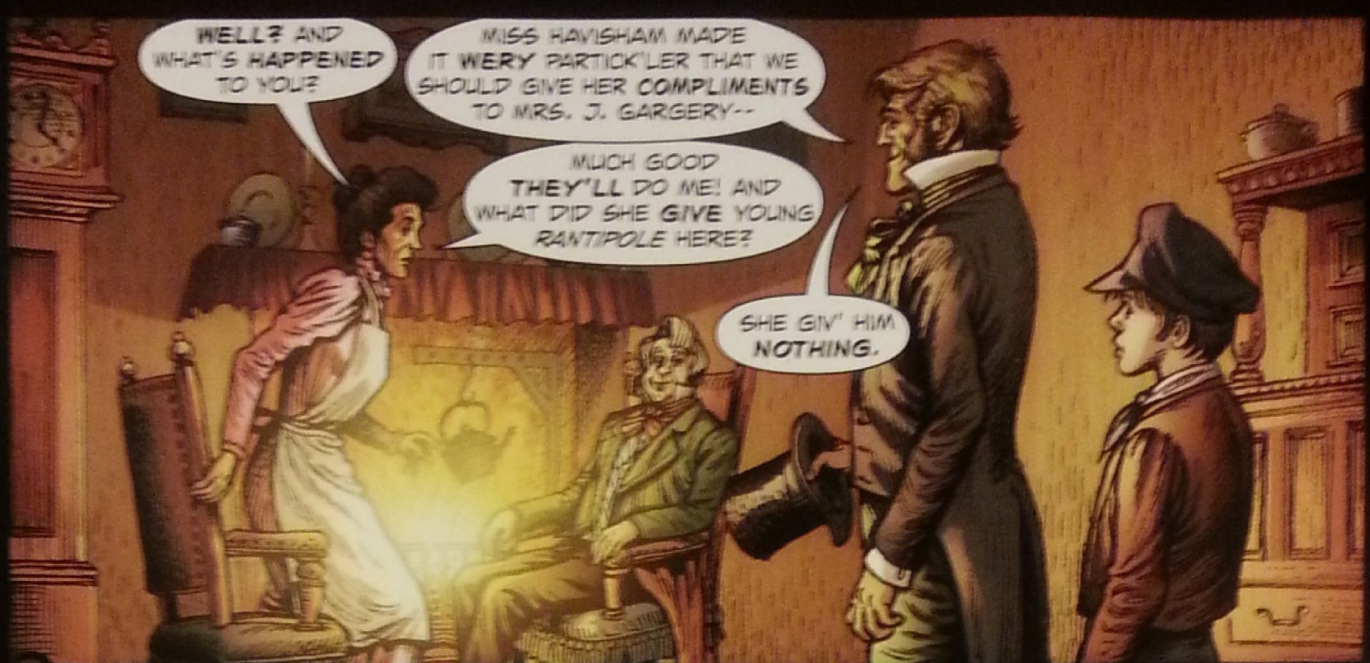
-- AND IT IS AS SUCH RECEIVED AND GRATEFUL WELCOME, THOUGH NEVER LOOKED FOR.

AND NOW, OLD CHAP, MAY YOU AND ME DO OUR DUTY, BOTH ON US, BY ONE AND ANOTHER!

GOODBYE, PIP! LET THEM OUT, ESTELLA.

AM I TO COME AGAIN, MISS HAVISHAM?

NO. GARGERY IS YOUR MASTER NOW.

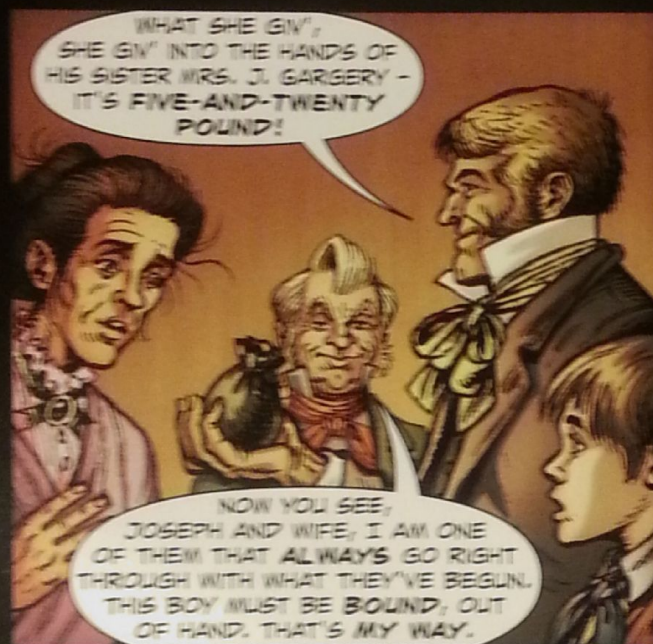


WELL? AND
WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO YOU?

MISS HAVISHAM MADE
IT WERY PARTICK'LER THAT WE
SHOULD GIVE HER COMPLIMENTS
TO MRS. J. GARGERY--

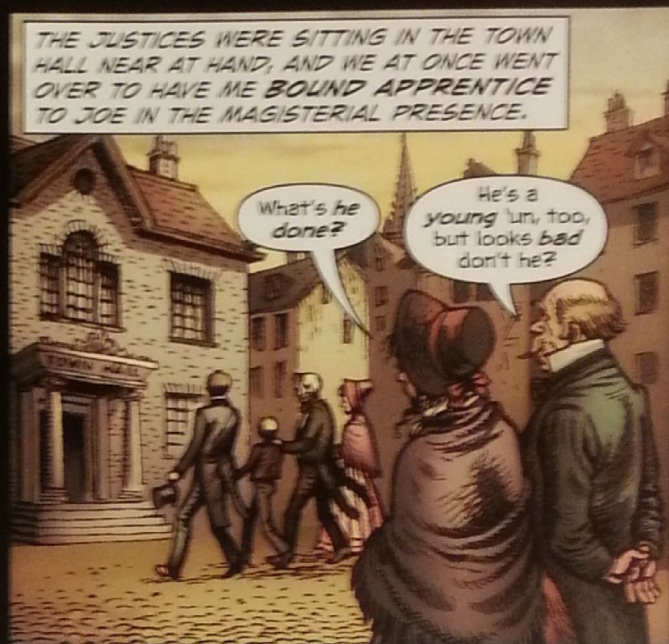
MUCH GOOD
THEY'LL DO ME! AND
WHAT DID SHE GIVE YOUNG
RANTIPOLE HERE?

SHE GIV' HIM
NOTHING.



WHAT SHE GIV',
SHE GIV' INTO THE HANDS OF
HIS SISTER MRS. J. GARGERY -
IT'S FIVE-AND-TWENTY
POUND!

NOW YOU SEE,
JOSEPH AND WIFE, I AM ONE
OF THEM THAT ALWAYS GO RIGHT
THROUGH WITH WHAT THEY'VE BEGUN.
THIS BOY MUST BE BOUND, OUT
OF HAND, THAT'S MY WAY.



THE JUSTICES WERE SITTING IN THE TOWN
HALL NEAR AT HAND, AND WE AT ONCE WENT
OVER TO HAVE ME BOUND APPRENTICE
TO JOE IN THE MAGISTERIAL PRESENCE.

What's he
done?

He's a
young 'un, too,
but looks bad
don't he?

MY SISTER BECAME SO EXCITED, THAT
NOTHING WOULD SERVE HER BUT WE MUST
HAVE A DINNER AT THE BLUE BOAR;
A MOST MELANCHOLY DAY I PASSED.

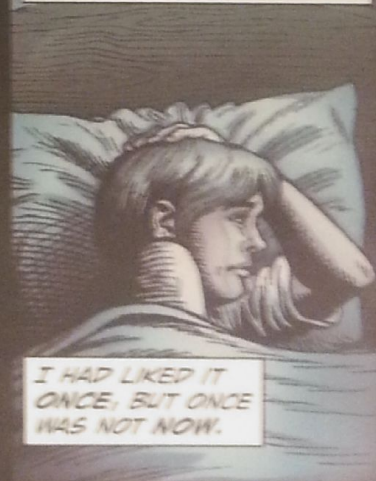
THE SKINDLING PLIMBLECHOOK TOOK
THE TOP OF THE TABLE AND, WHEN
HE ADDRESSED THEM ON THE
SUBJECT OF MY BEING BOUND, HE
PLACED ME ON A CHAIR BESIDE HIM.



THEY WOULDN'T LET ME GO
TO SLEEP. WHENEVER THEY
SAW ME DROPPING OFF,
THEY WOKE ME UP AND TOLD
ME TO ENJOY MYSELF.



WHEN I FINALLY GOT INTO
MY LITTLE BEDROOM
I WAS TRULY WRETCHED,
AND HAD A STRONG
CONVICTION THAT I SHOULD
NEVER LIKE JOE'S TRADE.



I HAD LIKED IT
ONCE, BUT ONCE
WAS NOT NOW.