

Sweeny Todd Extract with Universal Woman, Sweeney Todd, Mrs Ragg, Smith, Mark, Tobias

Includes two songs, plus another song, Tobias' Lament

Universal Woman: Our eponymous villain in the company of a tradesman, a carpenter, come to collect his dues. *(She exits)*

Todd: If I am to understand you correctly, Mr Smith, you say you now require payment for the clever little contraption you created for me. Is that so?

Smith: Your brain is as sharp as your razor, Mr Todd. That is precisely what I require. I have the bill with me.

Todd: Not the Old Bill, I take it.

Smith: You'll be police-d to hear it's a brand new one, and what you owe me is a guinea.

Todd: Foul fellow! A guinea? That's daylight robbery.

Smith: But I learnt my carpentry at night school. Just pay me what you owe me and have done.

Todd: I'll be the one who's done if I pay you a guinea, Mr Smith. What would you say to ten shillings?

Smith: I've heard that money talks but I'll be damned if I say anything to ten shillings!

Todd: And a free shave. I don't want you to get stroppy, if you'll pardon the pun.

Smith: Pardon be beggared, it's a guinea you owe me, you rogue. Need I remind you we are not far from the offices of those who ply their trade at the Old Bailey. When will you pay me? Or do I have to reveal the rather unusual nature of the devilish device to officers of the law.

Todd: Now, now, Mr Smith, let's not be hasty - *(aside)* though he may quickly find himself in pastry! I'm sure we can settle the matter of a few bob without the bobbies becoming involved. And now I regard you more closely, Mr Smith, I can't help but notice a shadow upon your features, which is swiftly remedied by means of a shave.

Smith: It's no shadow but the storm cloud of my rage, Mr Todd. I see no harm in accepting your offer of a free shave, but you'll not be trimming my bill.

Todd: Step this way, Mr Smith, and wait for me in my shop. I'll be with you in the ticking of a clock - *(aside)* and your time is about to be up!

Smith exits into the shop. Sweeney Todd remains and sings his song.

If your face wants shaving
Don't go rant and raving
Sit upon my barber's chair
Soon your chin will have no hair
Soon your heart will have no soul
Down you'll go into my hole!
Snip snap snip and into chops
Bones and all including slops

Don't you mess with Sweeney Todd
Unless it's time to meet your god!

Mrs Ragg and her son Tobias enter.

Mrs Ragg: Ah, Mr Todd, I've brought him, my dearest, darling boy.

Todd: So I see, Mistress Ragg. And your every word is true - a more angelic looking child I've never seen. Rest assured, young Tobias is in the very best of hands in coming to work for me.

Mrs Ragg: You're such a good man, Mister Todd. It breaks our hearts to see him go, me, my husband and the other twelve little Ragg's, but it is so reassuring to know that he's to be apprenticed to a craftsman and a gentleman.

Todd: Naturally he'll feel cut up about leaving his family, but he won't be in a lather very long.

Mrs Ragg: And how long do you suppose it will take him to learn the ropes, Mr Todd?

Todd: Learn the soaps, I prefer to say. Why, in five short years I'll have taught him all I know - *(aside)* if he lives that long!

Mrs Ragg: Five years. Why, Tobias, I'll hardly recognise you when Mr Todd has finished with you.

Todd: *(aside)* I'll see to that all right!

Mrs Ragg: Now, Tobias, you're to be a good boy to sweet, kind Mr Todd, and you're to consider yourself very lucky that he had a sudden unexpected vacancy for you as an apprentice which spares us the expense of having to feed and clothe you as you grow into manhood. And make sure you write to your old ma and don't go breaking her heart by having such a good time here that you forget all about your family and make your way in the world without remembering who it was who gave you your start in life.

Todd: *(clipping Tobias round the head)* You ungrateful dog.

Tobias: Ow! What was that for?

Todd: That was for your own good, Tobias. Not having a rod about my person, I don't want you spoiling. A barber's hand is just what you need for a clip round the ear!

Mrs Ragg: Ah, I can see I'm leaving him in good hands. He's got your best interests at heart, Tobias. Pay heed to Mr Todd and all that he can teach you. He's a master of his trade.

(Tobias starts to cry) Now don't go a-blubbin' because you won't be seeing me for a while.

Tobias: It's not that, Ma - my ear still hurts from Mr Todd clipping me.

Mrs Ragg: *(clips him)* And there's another one from me for your ingratitude. *(Departing)* Work hard for Mr Todd, and I'm sure he'll treat you fair. *(Exits)*

Todd: Now come here, boy. Do you know what an apprentice is?

Tobias: No sir.

Todd: Well, I'll tell you. It's another word for a slave.

Tobias: I thought slavery had been abolished.

Todd: By will or by force, **you**'ll be abolished if you answer me back again, lad. You do exactly as I tell you. You don't even breathe without my permission, understood?

Tobias: Yes, sir. *(Pause)* Er, Mr Todd?

Todd: Now what is it?

Tobias: Permission to breathe, sir?

Todd: You cheeky young scoundrel! *(Clips him)* Now, into the shop!

Tobias: But I thought you said...

Todd: Enough. Into the shop!

As Tobias opens the door, Smith exits, tired of waiting, and Mark Ingestre enters in seafaring garb.

Smith: Think you can keep me waiting, do you, Todd? I've been in there on me tod for the past five minutes and I'm waiting not a second longer. You'll be hearing from me.

Todd: Oh, be off with you. I've got bigger fish to fry. Here's a gentleman worthy of my acquaintance.

Smith: *(aside)* You'll be hearing from me all right. *(and he exits)*

Mark: I wonder, kind sir, if you know the whereabouts of a Miss Johanna Oakley who once lived hereabouts.

Todd: That I don't. Pretty lady, is she, sir?

Mark: Indeed she is, and my love. I have been busy seeking my fortune in ventures abroad and am now returned to propose marriage to one I prize more highly than any of the jewels that have fallen into my possession.

Todd: Indeed.

Mark: But imagine my dismay upon calling at her house to discover the family have moved away during my absence. What good now that I have amassed a fortune of twenty thousand pounds, with a ruby ring to give my bride worth ten thousand more?

SFX Cash register sound effect and Sweeney Todd's eyes light up.

Todd: Tobias, here at once!

Todd: The gentleman here is enquiring after a Miss Oakley. Have you heard of such a body?

Tobias: Miss Johanna? Indeed I have. She is one of the kindest souls I've ever met in all my short days. She moved into our street at the beginning of last year after her father had encountered hard times...

Todd: The latest Dickens. Very good too. Mind you, I preferred "Great Expectations"...

Mark: Be quiet, man! So, young lad, will you be able to escort me to the house? I am most anxious to be re-acquainted with Miss Johanna at the earliest opportunity.

Todd: The boy is **mine** to command. If I may make so bold, why not come into my establishment and be shaved and trimmed to present a better appearance when you are reunited with the lady? I would very much enjoy hearing more about your travels and the riches you acquired. At such a time as you are more fit to be seen, begging your pardon, my boy Tobias will be at your disposal - *(aside)* while I dispose of your body and fortune!

Mark: That I will - a splendid notion. After all this time on the ocean, a man forgets he must keep up appearances.

Todd: Don't dilly-dally, boy. Lead the gentleman into the shop. *(clips Tobias again)*

Mark: I say, I can't be doing with corporal punishment.

Todd: But I think it's a capital idea.

At the end of the song, the curtains draw back to reveal the interior of Todd's shop.

Tobias's Lament

Though I am just a slip of a lad
Will you believe that I am not mad
For Todd's an evil old piece of work.
And you must see that he's the one who's gone berserk he's gone berserk.
For he is wicked, oh yes he's bad.
For he is wicked, and can't stand me.
And there is no one on this earth
Since Sweeney's mother last gave birth
Who is as wicked as that man can be.
I am afraid that he can't resist
Adding more victims onto his list

For he is evil, yes, through and through
And you know that his next victim might be you. It might be you.
For he is wicked, oh yes he's bad.
For he is wicked, and can't stand me.
And there is no one on this earth
Since Sweeney's mother last gave birth
Who is as wicked as that man can be.