









During this, we have seen Anthony moving down the street. He sees the sign and stops. He goes to the bell and rings it, then starts running up the stairs. Todd and Mrs. Lovett alert. She hastily gives him back the razor. Anthony bursts enthusiastically in.

TODD:

Anthony.

ANTHONY:

Mr. Todd. I've paced Fleet Street a dozen times with no success. But now the sign! In business

already.

TODD:

Yes.

ANTHONY:

I congratulate you. (Turning to Mrs. Lovett) And...er...

MRS. LOVETT: Mrs. Lovett, sir.

ANTHONY:

A pleasure, ma'am. Oh, Mr. Todd, I have so much to tell you. I have found the fairest and most loving maid that any man could dream of! And yet there are problems. She has a guardian so tyrannical that she is kept shut up from human eye. But now this morning this key fell from her shuttered window. (He bolds up Johanna's key) The surest sign that Johanna loves me and. . .

MRS. LOVETT: Johanna?

ANTHONY:

That's her name, ma'am, and Turpin that of the abominable parent. A judge, it seems. But, as I said, a monstrous tyrant. Oh, Mr. Todd, once the judge has gone to court, I'll slip into the house and plead with her to fly with me tonight! Yet when I have her -- where can I bring her till I have hired a coach to speed us home to Plymouth? Oh, Mr. Todd, if I could lodge her here just for an hour or two! (He gazes at the inscrutable Todd)

MRS. LOVETT: (After a beat) Bring her, dear.

ANTHONY: Oh thank you, thank you, ma'am.

(To Todd) I have your consent,

Mr. Todd?

TODD:

(After a pause) The girl may come. (Anthony grabs his hand and pumps it, then turns to grab Mrs. Lovett's)