

**From the full length play:
Great Expectations
Adapted from Charles Dickens by Tracy Wells**

ESTELLA, *the beautiful ward of Miss Havisham who behaves cruelly toward Pip; female*

MISS HAVISHAM, *wealthy, eccentric old woman whom Pip becomes employed by to “play” with Estella; wears faded wedding dress; female*

AT RISE: Interior of Satis House. Candles are lit throughout the room. ESTELLA is seated at vanity. MISS HAVISHAM stands behind her, combing her hair.

MISS HAVISHAM

So you will be a Baroness one day, my dear Estella. How wonderful for you.

ESTELLA

(Without feeling)

I suppose so.

MISS HAVISHAM

You aren't thrilled at the prospect of your marriage?

ESTELLA

How can I be? Marriage for me is a transaction—something I must do, and yet another way to hurt a man who cares for me.

MISS HAVISHAM

So this Bentley Drummle cares for you very much?

ESTELLA

I very much doubt it. To him, I am a prize to be won, nothing more. The man I am hurting by marrying is Pip, who loves me, although I gave him warning not to.

MISS HAVISHAM

Why would you do a thing like that? Did I teach you nothing?

ESTELLA

(Standing, coldly)

Oh, you taught me plenty, Mother.

MISS HAVISHAM

Are you tired of me, then?

ESTELLA

I am tired of myself.

MISS HAVISHAM

(Yelling)

Speak the truth, you ingrate! You are tired of me. You are made of ice and stone. You are cold through and through.

ESTELLA

You should know. I am what you have made me. Take all the praise, Mother. Take all the blame. Take all the success, take all the failure. In short—take me as I am, the woman you made in your own image.

MISS HAVISHAM

(Pacing, distraught)

Oh, look at her, look at her, so hard and thankless, in the home in which she was reared. I took her off the street, gave her everything and this is the thanks I get. And she has no love for me.

ESTELLA

Love? You want love? Mother by adoption, I owe everything to you. All I possess is freely yours. Beyond that, I have nothing. You have my gratitude and my duty as repayment for taking me in. But love...I was never taught love, so I now I don't have it to give.

MISS HAVISHAM

(Crossing to ESTELLA and falling at her feet)

Did I never give you love? I taught you to protect yourself and scorn those who could hurt you. But didn't I give you love? Am I going mad? Or are you as Pip says, insulting and proud?

ESTELLA

Proud? Who taught me to be proud? Who praised me when I learned my lesson?

MISS HAVISHAM

Why are you so hard?

ESTELLA

Who taught me to be hard? Who praised me when I learned my lesson?

MISS HAVISHAM

But why you should you be proud and hard to me? I never meant for that!

ESTELLA

You brought me up in the darkness of these rooms, and filled my heart with the darkness of your past, yet you wish for me to embody the light of day with my love for you. I am sorry, Mother, but I must now be taken as I have been made. The success is not mine, the failure is not mine, but the two together make me.

MISS HAVISHAM

What was left of my heart has been broken today. I don't know how much more I can take.

MISS HAVISHAM

I see now that I have made a grave error regarding you. I raised you to be a cold and cruel slayer of men's hearts, but in the process I forgot to teach you how to love—even how to love me.

(With a cry, putting her face in her hands)

Oh, what have I done?

ESTELLA

(coldly)

I am going to be married to him, and very soon. There is nothing in this world that can change it now.

(End of scene.)