

SCENE THREE

*Dormitory below Shalford's Bazaar. Evening.*

*The boys and FLO sit on the barely-adequate beds. KIPPS plucks on his ancient banjo.*

BUGGINS            That was the 'ardest day's work I've ever done. And for what?

SID                    Call it a living wage? Might as well call it a *dying* wage.

KIPPS                Who'd be an apprentice to Shalford?

SID                    It won't always be like this. Come the Revolution –

FLO                    I can't wait that long, Sid.

*(BUGGINS suddenly realises that FLO is with them.)*

BUGGINS            Shouldn't you be upstairs with the other girls, Flo? You'll catch it if he finds you down here with us.

FLO                    Arthur doesn't mind. Do you, Arthur?

SID                    It don't matter what Arthur thinks.

FLO                    I was just saying.

BUGGINS            I'd never want you to get in any trouble, Flo.

*(But his tender interest is lost on her.)*

SID                    Are you really going to waste your evening on a woodwork lesson, Arthur? You shouldn't let old Shalford steal your spare time like that. You don't have much of it.

KIPPS                I want to go. I'm looking forward to it.

BUGGINS            Why?

KIPPS                Because, I dunno, Miss Walsingham's the only lady I've ever come across. A *real* lady, I mean.

BUGGINS            He's been like that ever since he first set eyes on 'er. I seen you. Whenever she comes into the shop.

- PIERCE I hope you don't think Miss Walsingham would notice you.
- KIPPS No, but . . . don't you ever dream of something beyond Shalford's Bazaar? Something different? Something more?
- SID I dream about Socialism, Arthur. Today the world is ruled by rich men. They can do anything they like but all they're doing is laying it waste. I want to change things.
- PIERCE Never mind that. I want my own shops, bigger than this and lots of them, all over the land, so they cheer me in the streets when I drive by in my carriage and four.
- BUGGINS I'd just like a bit more to eat.
- FLO That can't be all you want, Mr Buggins.
- BUGGINS No. But what I want most I don't think I can get.
- SID There's only one problem.
- PIERCE What's that?
- SID Well, think! What do we need to make it all happen?

**Music No. 4: MONEY TO BURN – Part 1**

KIPPS / SID /

PIERCE / BUGGINS Money!

SID You've got it!

FLO / APPRENTICES

LIVING HERE LIKE A DRUDGE WITH NO WAY OUT  
HOW IS A FELLA S'POSED TO DREAM?

SID

IT'S LIKE WE'RE IN A DRAINPIPE  
NEVER TO SEE THE SKY  
CRAWLING ALONG UNTIL WE DIE

FLO

IF THINGS COULD CHANGE