TODD READING ONE

ANTHONY

Start And the lady, sir — did she — succumb?

In this small extract I want to see the softer, more vulnerable side of Todd. A sad man, who has come back to London hoping to find his wife and child but not at all hopeful he will them alive and well.

TODD

OH, THAT WAS MANY YEARS AGO ...
I DOUBT IF ANYONE WOULD KNOW.

Singing these lines is optional. If you choose to sing them it will be done acapella

(Music under)

Now, leave me, Anthony, I beg of you. There's somewhere I must go, something I must find out. Now. And alone.

ANTHONY

But surely we will meet again before I'm off to Plymouth!

TODD

If you want, you may well find me. Around Fleet Street, I wouldn't wonder. **End**

ANTHONY

Well, until then, Mr. Todd.

(ANTHONY starts off down the street. TODD stands a moment alone in thought, then starts down the street in the opposite direction)

TODD

THERE'S A HOLE IN THE WORLD
LIKE A GREAT BLACK PIT
AND IT'S FILLED WITH PEOPLE
WHO ARE FILLED WITH SHIT
AND THE VERMIN OF THE WORLD
INHABIT IT ...

#2a – Transition Music

(As TODD disappears, we see Mrs. Lovett's Pieshop. Above it is an empty apartment which is reached by an outside staircase. MRS. LOVETT, a vigorous, slatternly woman in her forties, is flicking flies off the trays of pies with a dirty rag as SHE sings or hums. TODD appears at the end of the street and moves slowly toward the pieshop, looking around as if remembering. Seeing the pieshop, HE pauses a moment at some distance, gazing at it and at MRS. LOVETT, who has now picked up a wicked-looking knife and starts chopping suet. After a beat, TODD moves toward the shop, hesitates and then enters. MRS. LOVETT does not notice him until his shadow passes across her. SHE looks up, knife in air, and screams, freezing him in his tracks)