I saw in her face, looking gloomily at me, “It would have been far better, little Esther, that you had had no birthday; that you had never been born! (chap.3; 19)

Your mother, Esther, is your disgrace, and you were hers. The time will come—and soon enough—when you will understand this better, and will feel it too, as no one save a woman can (chap.3; 19)

Submission, self-denial, diligent work, are the preparations for a life begun with such a shadow on it. (chap.3; 19)

They brought a chair on either side of me, and put me between them, and really seemed to have fallen in love with me, instead of one another (chap.13; 160)

"It's disgraceful," she said. "You know it is. The whole house is disgraceful. The children are disgraceful. Pa's miserable, and no wonder! Priscilla drinks—she's always drinking. It's a great shame and a great story of you, if you say you didn't smell her to-day. It was as bad as a public-house, waiting at dinner; you know it was!"

"My dear, I don't know it," said I.

"You do," she said, very shortly. "You shan't say you don't. You do!" (chap.4; 44)

I had rather a noticing way—not a quick way, O no! —a silent way of noticing what passed before me, and thinking I should like to understand it better. (chap.3; 17)

I surprised myself by beginning to laugh about it, and then surprised myself still more by beginning to cry about it. In short, I was in a flutter for a little while; and felt as if an old chord had been more coarsely touched than it ever had been since the days of the dear old doll, long buried in the garden. (chap.10; 115)

I was not free from an impression that I had been walking about the two rooms in the night, a little beside myself, though knowing where I was; and I felt confused at times—with a curious sense of fullness, as if I were becoming too large altogether (chap.31; 390)

Charley, if you let her in but once, only to look upon me for one moment as I lie here, I shall die (chap.31; 391)

While I was ill, the way in which these divisions of time became confused with one another, distressed my mind exceedingly. At once a child, an elder girl, and the little woman I had been so happy as, I was not only oppressed by cares and difficulties adapted to each station, but by the great perplexity of endlessly trying to reconcile them (chap.35; 431)

It seemed one long night, but I believe there were both nights and days in it—when I laboured up colossal staircases, ever striving to reach the top, and ever turned, as I have seen a worm in a garden path, by some obstruction, and labouring again (chap.35; 431)
Dare I hint at that worse time when, strung together somewhere in great black space, there was a flaming necklace, or ring, or starry circle of some kind, of which I was one of the beads! And when my only player was to be taken off from the rest, and when it was such inexplicable agony and misery to be a part of the dreadful thing? (chap.35; 432)

In the north and north-west, where the sun had set three hours before, there was a pale dead light both beautiful and awful; and into it long sullen lines of cloud waved up, like a sea stricken immovable as it was heaving. Towards London, a lurid glare overhung the whole dark waste: and the contrast between these two lights, and the fancy which the redder light engendered of an unearthly fire, gleaming on all the unseen buildings of the city, and on all the unseen buildings of the city, and on all the faces of its many thousands of wondering inhabitants, was as solemn as might be.

I had no thought, that night—none, I am quite sure—of what was soon to happen to me. But I have always remembered since, that when we had passed at the garden-gate to look up at the sky, and when we went upon our way, I had for a moment an undefinable impression of myself as being something different from what I then was. I know it was then, and there, that I had it. I have ever since connected the feeling with that spot and time, and with everything associated with that spot and time, to the distant voices in the town, the barking of a dog, and the sound of wheels coming down the miry hill. (chap.31; 380)

I believe it, my dear Charley. And now come and sit beside me for a little while, and touch me with your hand. For I cannot see you, Charley; I am blind (chap.31; 391)

It is night in Lincoln's Inn—perplexed and troublous valley of the shadow of the law, where suitors generally find but little day (chap.32; 391-2)

I think he must have begun his journey with some small bundle under his arm, and must have had it stolen, or lost it. For he still carried his wretched fragment of fur cap like a bundle, though he went bare-headed through the rain, which now fell fast (chap.31; 383)

I turned with the turning of the path, to the south front; and there, above me, were the balustrades of the Ghost's Walk, and one lighted window that might be my mother's.

The way was paved here, like the terrace overhead, and my footsteps from being noiseless made an echoing sound upon the flags. Stopping to look at nothing, but seeing all I did see as I went, I was passing quickly on, and in a few moments should have passed the lighted window, when my echoing footsteps brought it suddenly into my mind that there was a dreadful truth in the legend of the Ghost's Walk; that it was I, who was to bring calamity upon the stately house; and that my warning feet were haunting it even then. (chap.36; 454)

My hair had not been cut off, though it had been in danger more than once. It was long and thick. I let it down, and shook it out, and went up to the glass upon the dressing-table. There was a little muslin curtain drawn across it. I drew it back: and stood for a moment looking through such a veil of my own hair, that I could see nothing else. Then I put my hair aside, and looked at the reflection in the mirror; encouraged by seeing how placidly it looked at me. I was very much changed—O very, very much. At first, my face was so strange to me, that I think I should have put my hands before it and started back, but for the encouragement I have mentioned. Very soon it became more familiar, and then I knew the extent of the alteration in it even better than I had done. It was not like what I had expected; but I had expected nothing definite, and I dare say anything definite would have surprised me. (chap.36; 444-5)
And, very strangely, there was something quickened within me, associated with the lonely days at my
godmother's; yes, away even to the days when I had stood on tiptoe to dress myself at my little glass, after
dressing my doll. And this, although I had never seen this lady's face before in all my life—I was quite
sure of it—absolutely certain.

It was easy to know that the ceremonious, gouty, grey-haired gentleman, the only other occupant of
the great pew, was Sir Leicester Dedlock; and that the lady was Lady Dedlock. But why her face should
be, in a confused way, like a broken glass to me, in which I saw scraps of old remembrances; and why I
should be so fluttered and troubled (for I was still), by having casually met her eyes; I could not think
(chap.18; 224-5)

I passed on to the gate, and stooped down. I lifted the heavy head, put the long dark hair aside, and
turned the face. And it was my mother, cold and dead. (chap.59; 714)

this would only last until I was quite myself (chap.60; 715)

And in his last look as we drove away, I saw that he was very sorry for me. I was glad to see it. I felt
for my old self as the dead may feel if they ever revisited these scenes. I was glad to be tenderly
remembered, to be gently pitied, not to be quite forgotten. (chap.45; 551)

“And don't you know that you are prettier than you ever were?”

I did not know that; I am not certain that I know it now. But I know that my dearest little pets are
very pretty, and that my darling is very beautiful, and that my husband is very handsome, and that my
guardian has the brightest and most benevolent face that ever was seen; and that they can very well do
without much beauty in me—even supposing— (chap.67; 770)

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