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Monologue – Revolutionary

Note that this is inspired by Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, and contains mention of historical events connected to the 1832 uprising.

Have you heard the news?

Well listen up, General Lamarque died last night, so we reckon that's it.

There's been trouble brewing for years with the poor harvests and the food prices rising all the time- look at what happened in Lyons last winter – the uprising failed but even many of the soldiers brought in to put down the rebellion, ended up joining the rebels. That shows you.

This time many of the fat ones up top think they are taking no chances, word is that there's 25,000 troops around Paris. But that won't stop anyone, it's gone too far.

With the cholera outbreak this spring and about 13,000 they say dead from it here in Paris alone, mainly in the slums of course, it's rumoured the government poisoned the wells – after all, they complained last winter about how overcrowded the slums are. Regardless of the truth of that it shows what people think of the government.

And you can't say you're not affected. We have it easier than many, most of us from wealthier families and studying at the law school, or the medical school or the university, but it hits us too – I mean, look. Him over there, he's a law student and a baron, but he still had to sell his coat and his spare pair of trousers to pay his rent last winter.

Now I know people are scared. The usual talk of "oh there's so many soldiers" or "what if I'm arrested?" But you know how the troops joined the rebellion in Lyons, people are desperate – you have seen yourselves how many old women and tiny children live on the streets, destitute, while the rich push their way through in fancy carriages with the windows covered so they don't see.

The people, that's us, you and me, have to fight for a fair world and France has to change. Weapons and ammunition have been stockpiled for months now; we have known the storm is coming. And we, that is you, you, you over there, and I too, have the most powerful weapon there is. Ideas. Our desire for a better world. Those weapons can never run out of ammunition, be arrested or be shot because there will always be someone to raise the banner and fight on, and one day justice will prevail!

ARE YOU WITH US? Will you join us and be able to say "I was there" when the people fought for their rights, and won?