

Crime and Punishment Scenic Breakdown

This is a play about Raskolnikov, a poor student, who comes to terms with his own insignificance/ordinary nature, and admits to killing two women.

Scene 1:

- A scene in which Porfiry asks Raskolnikov to tell him his whereabouts during the days prior to the murder causing Raskolnikov to recall the sights and smells of Petersburg in the terrible heat.
- Needed: Chair?

Scene 2:

- A scene in which Sonia visits Raskolnikov to thank him for helping her family with her father's funeral and Raskolnikov rebukes her for looking down on his poor room.
- Needed: a door

Scene 3:

- Continuation of scene 1
- A scene in which Porfiry continues to question Raskolnikov about the pawnbroker's apartment and finally asks him what happened when Raskolnikov went to see her.

Scene 4:

- A scene in which Raskolnikov visits Alyona to make a pawn and tells her that he will return with another.
- Needed: a door (can we see Alyona on either side? Or do we need masking?)

Scene 5:

- Continuation of scene 3
- A scene in which Porfiry questions Raskolnikov about the theories behind his published article and Raskolnikov admits he believes in God.

Scene 6:

- Continuation of scene 2
- A scene in which Raskolnikov questions Sonia about why she sells herself, and Sonia describes the effects of her father's alcoholism on the family's finances.

Scene 7:

- A scene in which Marmeladov joins Raskolnikov to tell someone about his poor, hopeless life.

Scene 8:

- Continuation of scene 6
- A scene in which Raskolnikov tells Sonia that he understands her father and kicks her out of his apartment.

Scene 9:

- A scene in which Porfiry questions Raskolnikov about his economic situation and Raskolnikov shows his disdain for the wealthy.

Scene 10:

- A scene in which Raskolnikov tries to compose a confession to his mother as she simultaneously verbalizes a letter she wrote to him about sending money to him.

Scene 11:

- Repetition of the end of Scene 9
- A scene in which Raskolnikov admits he needs money.

Scene 12:

- Sonia and Porfiry overlap questions: do you know what it means when you have absolutely nowhere to turn? And do you believe in God?
- A scene in which Raskolnikov verbalizes a dream where he witness the brutal killing of a horse by its drunk master and Raskolnikov affirms to himself that he has done nothing wrong.

Scene 13:

- A scene in which Lizaveta, Alyona's Sister, stumbles upon Raskolnikov while he is thinking and joins him to talk about her sister and visiting her friend, Sonia.
- Needed: a place for Lizavetta to sit with Raskolnikov?

Scene 14:

- A scene in which Raskolnikov has been called in to see Porfiry and Porfiry questions Raskolnikov about the deeper possibilities of the ideas put forth in the published paper.

Scene 15:

- A scene in which Raskolnikov visits Sonia at her apartment to tell her something, but has her read the story of Lazarus instead.
- Needed: the ability to become Sonia's apartment (does this happen just through the script?)

Scene 16:

- A scene in which Marmeladov begs for pity and Raskolnikov decides that "this" has to end today.
- Needed: ability for Marmeladov to appear and disappear

Scene 17:

- A scene in which Raskolnikov returns to the pawnbrokers to give her a pawn, and kills her with an axe.
- Needed: a door that is pounded on and pushed on.

Scene 18:

- A scene in which Porfiry visits Raskolnikov at his apartment to try to convince Raskolnikov to confess, and Raskolnikov doesn't admit anything.

Scene 19:

- A scene in which Raskolnikov verbalizes a letter he wrote to his mother admitting his thoughtlessness with money and that he will be going far away.

Scene 20:

- A scene in which Raskolnikov addresses the audience directly, trying to bring them to his side and winds up showing his disgust for humanity.

Scene 21:

- The day after scene 15.
- A scene in which Raskolnikov gets Sonia to realize that Raskolnikov committed the murders without admitting it verbally and Sonia pleads with him to confess his sin to God, but Raskolnikov is unable to.

Scene 22:

- A scene in which Raskolnikov goes to Porfiry and confesses

Scene 23:

- A scene in which Sonia and Porfiry verbalize moments from earlier in the play:
“do you believe in the story of Lazarus?” “Do you believe a man can be
resurrected?” “Do you believe in God?”

Themes and Motifs:

Lazarus
Rising from the dead
Resurrection
Belief in God
God grants peace to the dead
Money
Investigations
Innocence
Guilt
Disease
Pale
Terrible stench
Unbearable heat
Suffering
Judgment
Small spaces
Suspicion
Psychology of a criminal
Illness
Ordinary people
Extraordinary people
Society
Our Savior
Second Coming
Fallen woman
Duty
Consumption
Poverty
Getting involved
Conscience
Crazy
Religion
Transgression
Sin
Murder
Alcoholism
Modernity
Delirium
Justice
Nature vs. science
Depression
Confession

Character and Scene descriptions:

Scene:

- Raskolnikov:
 - It is not nice. My room is extremely small. It's under the stairs to an upper floor, so the ceilings are low. So low that I can't really stand up straight. And there is only one small window, so there's not much light. The building is old; I hear noises all night long. In the summer it is unbearably hot, in the winter it is unbearably cold. And there is that special stench that fills the air of the city at this time of year the stench is everywhere, pouring out of the bars, alcohol mixed with vomit, rising up from the streets, dust and brick and shit. They throw powdered lime everywhere to keep down the stench from the horse shit. The human shit. Do you like street musicians? I love them on cold, dark, damp autumn evenings—they have to be damp—when all the passers-by have pale green, sickly faces, or better still when wet snow is falling straight down, when there's no wind. And the street lights shine through it. If he had to remain standing on a square of yard of space for a thousand years. I sat in my room like a spider, in that little cramped room, that kennel, but I couldn't bring myself to leave it. I had no light, I lay there in the dark and I wouldn't work to make money for candles. I liked lying in my bed and thinking.
- Porfiry:
 - Petersburg has become quite a different place in the last few years. My rooms are so expensive. The heat was terrible. The room, your general condition, it sounds awful. The evening is delightful, if it doesn't storm. Though that would be a good thing, too. Make the air feel fresher.

Raskolnikov:

- Himself:
 - I'm a little broke right now. I have so many debts. My sister gave me the ring, and my father gave the watch to me, I don't have anything else to remember him by. I was sick. God grants us nothing. I find myself swimming through this sea of smells in my own particular misery, dressed in the most ridiculous rags. Holes in my shoes, stains on my shirts. Yellow, human stains. **All worn out. All faded. All hope and color turned a dull, shiny grey.** It's Raskolnikov, the student. I wrote one article when I left university. I was studying to be a lawyer. I analyzed the psychology of a criminal, before and after he has committed a crime. An extraordinary man has the right, an inner right to decide for himself when he must overstep certain boundaries. All great leaders of men are, without exception, criminals. Bloodshed gives them strength. If that kind of a person must step over a corpse or wade through blood for the sake of his ideas, he must find sanction for these actions in his conscience. I believe in God. I could never stop thinking about it (selling myself). I am doing...work...I am thinking. I can't go out to give lessons dressed like this, like a beggar. No one wants to pay for knowledge, it's not worth anything. I haven't been to church in a long time. We are both damned. I only know that I need you, Sonia, and that we are both destined for the same place. I have a fever, you can't help being pale if you haven't had anything to eat. I didn't murder her. I don't care about my sentence. God: He doesn't hear me anymore. We have to correct nature and direct nature. Man is a disgusting creature. He didn't mean to kill Lizaveta...he...killed her accidentally...he meant to kill the old woman when she was alone...and then Lizaveta came in...and he killed her too. I needed money. I just couldn't stand the burden of my secret by myself anymore, so I came to throw it on you. You'll suffer and I'll feel better. I have a bad heart. I'm a coward. I wanted to be a Napoleon, that's why I killed her. You know my mother and my sister scarcely have anything. They pinned all their hopes on me. I was a student, but I couldn't afford university. I've only killed an insect. I'm vain, envious, malicious, base, vindictive, and...well, perhaps with a tendency towards insanity! Because I didn't want to do anything. Didn't want to work, didn't want to read, nothing. I sat in my room like a spider, in that little cramped room, that kennel, but I couldn't bring myself to leave it. I had no light, I lay there in the dark and I wouldn't work to make money for candles. I liked lying in my bed and thinking. I needed to know that I was something more than an insect in the web of life. I killed her for myself and myself alone. I needed to know that I wasn't an insect like everyone else! I'm an insect like all the rest! I murdered myself. I was the one. Who robbed the old pawnbroker woman. And killed her. And her sister Lizaveta with an ax.

- Porfiry:
 - You still look pale. The heat, terrible, perhaps this is why you were so ill recently. You are a sensitive man. A rare individual in my experience. You're a strange young man. You lead such a solitary life. You maintained that the perpetration of a crime is always accompanied by some kind of illness. You hold that there are certain people who have the right to commit crimes. You divide men into two categories: ordinary and extraordinary. I would have thought you were a nonbeliever. You believe in the second coming then? Your landlady brought her complaint against you. You couldn't pay the rent. You wouldn't move out of the room. You owed her over a hundred-and-fifty rubles. You used to be a teacher. But you do care so passionately. You are involved. You're nervous and irritable, and I think that's out of character for you. I see you as a man of noble character. I found myself being attracted to you. You're the murderer. You're young. You've lost your faith. You made up a theory and now you're ashamed because it turns out that it's not very useful. It's not even original at all. It turns out that your idea is something horrible. But you are not. In time, you'll be a new man. Life is waiting for you. You've stopped believing in your theory already. I'm convinced that you'll decide to face your suffering.
- Sonia:
 - If it hadn't been for you, we wouldn't have been able to bury Father. You gave us all the money you had. There is no one in the whole world as unhappy as you. You turn around and rob and murder. You killed two human beings! You turned away from God. You murdered them and you don't even know why! Do you have a cross? Of course you don't.
- Alyona:
 - You come with such junk. You're so pale, your...your hands are trembling.
- Marmeladov:
 - My experience tells me you are a man of education and not accustomed to drinking.
- Lizaveta:
 - You are a sweet young man.

Porfiry:

- Himself:
 - We don't really have any hard evidence. I like to think that the art of investigation can be very free form. I do enjoy talking to you. I have hemorrhoids. Don't we all think of ourselves a Napoleon nowadays? I do. I'm a man with no hope. A man of feeling, a man of sympathy, maybe some knowledge. But my time is over.
- Raskolnikov
 - Inspector

Sonia:

- Herself:
 - We won't waste your money. I will continue to work. And give my family everything that I can. I have to give them what I can. We had to eat; it was the only work I could find. I get ready at six o'clock, put on my kerchief and cape, and leave the apartment. And I walk, until I find...About nine o'clock, I'm finished. You stop thinking about it after a while. It is what I must do. For my family. I give them everything I can. I am so cruel to her. I reminded her that she is going to die. God provides everything. The bible was given to me by my friend Lizaveta. I don't go to church anymore, people stare. Lizaveta and I used to read together. I'll follow you to Siberia. Here take this (cross around my neck)
- Raskolnikov:
 - You'll continue to sell yourself? You a fallen woman. A whore is passing judgment on me. You are so thin. Your hands are transparent. Almost like a corpse. Your stepmother Katerina beats you. To get you to go out. It is the same fate for your little sister. She'll end up just like you. You pray to god a lot don't you? You're a religious idiot. Aren't we the same? You're exactly like me. You've destroyed a life, you own. I'll tell you and only you. I chose you long ago to hear this. You're crazy. You kiss me and hug me when I just told you that I... I asked you to go with me yesterday because you're all I have left. You expect some kind of explanation for me.
- Marmeladov:
 - My daughter Sonia earns money for all of us. She has been forced to do the most degrading things.

Alyona:

- Raskolnikov:
 - I needed money and she was always willing to lend it. Even though she charged outrageous interest. You're very good at (math). You're so suspicious. You always seem to be home alone. We have a stupid, senseless, worthless, spiteful, sick, horrible old woman, who is not simply useless but actually doing harm, who has no idea that she is living only for herself, and who was going to die soon anyway. I took a purse off her neck, a little leather bag...stuffed full of something...I've only killed an insect. A useless, loathsome, harmful creature.

Marmeladov:

- Himself:
 - Have you ever spent a night on a hay barge, on the river? I've just come from one and it's the fifth night I've slept so. I have a wife and children. My wife has a tendency to consumption. Why am I not doing my duty? This very bottle was bought with Sonia's money. Here, I, her own father, took that money for drink. And I am drinking it.

- Raskolnikov:
 - Sonia's father. There was nothing anyone could have done to save his life. I understand your father, Sonia.
- Sonia:
 - My father announced that he had gotten his old job back. We managed to scrape together money for a decent suit. The very next day. My father was gone. Along with all of the money.

Lizaveta:

- Herself:
 - I deserve everything I get from her. She thinks I am going out to sell some of my lacework. My collars. But I am going to see my friend instead. We are going to read together.
- Raskolnikov:
 - I've always liked Miss Lizaveta. She's a sweet and generous soul. You are always too kind. I can't believe that old witch Alyona is your sister. She was killed with an ax.
- Sonia:
 - She was a good woman. She will see God.