

respectfully. Nancy was touched by her kindness.

"Do you know a man called Monks?" Nancy began. Rose did not. "Well, he knows you," she continued, "and he also knows Oliver. Oliver is not the poor orphan you think he is! Monks knows Oliver's true identity, but he is trying to hide it." Nancy paused. "I was an orphan too, but I had only criminals to care for me. My life is ruined, but I hope Oliver can be happier than I was."

"Please tell me what you know," Rose said kindly, "and I will help you in any way I can."

"This is what I heard Monks say," said Nancy. "First he called Oliver his brother. Then he said that he had destroyed the only proof of Oliver's identity. This was a gold locket that belonged to Oliver's mother." Rose listened in astonishment. "There's more," said Nancy. "Monks said that now he could keep all of Oliver's money. That's all I know, and I don't understand it, but I am sure it is the truth." She paused. "Monks has been following you. He knows where you live and where you are now. That's how I found you."

"I am glad you told me this," Rose said, "but I don't know what to do about it. I must think it over. Can you come and see me again?"

"I don't dare come back here," Nancy said. "The thieves will be very angry if they find out what I have told you." Even now she felt afraid. "But I will take a walk on London Bridge at eleven o'clock every night. You can find me there. Now I must go."

"One more thing," Rose said. "You don't have to go back to those criminals. Stay here with me, and I will keep you safe!"

Tears came to Nancy's eyes. "I cannot," she said. "The people I live with may frighten you, but they are the only family I have". She said goodbye quickly and ran home through the dark streets.

Rose didn't sleep that night. She wondered what she should do next. Morning came, and still Rose did not know what to do. Then Oliver came running in, terribly excited. "I saw him!" he said, out of breath.

"Saw who?" Rose asked, surprised.

"Mr Brownlow!" cried Oliver. "He was getting out of a coach, and going into a house! Oh, I am so happy to see him again! I want to talk to him as soon as possible."

