

## CHAPTER 12

**O**F ALL THE CRIMES COMMITTED IN LONDON THAT NIGHT, Sikes had committed the worst. The sun rose slowly and it shone through Sikes' window onto Nancy's dead body. Sikes realised the dreadful thing he had done. He could not bear to look at Nancy, so he ran away and disappeared.

A day after the murder, a coach pulled up at Mr Brownlow's house. Mr Brownlow got out with a man in a black cloak – Monks – following him.

"How dare you kidnap me off the street!" Monks protested.

"I know that you are partly responsible for the death of a woman called Nancy," Mr Brownlow replied sternly. "If you don't come with me, and tell me everything you know about Oliver Twist, I will give you up to the police! And then you know what will happen." Monks did know – he would be hanged. So he finally agreed. Rose and Oliver were called in to listen.

"My real name is Edward Leeford," Monks said. "I am the son of Edwin Leeford." Edwin of course was Mr Brownlow's old friend. "My father had been forced to marry my mother, and there was no love between them. My parents separated when I was a boy. I went to live with my mother, and my father continued to live alone." Monks spoke angrily. His unhappy childhood had made him a lonely, angry man. He had looked for friends among the criminals in society, which was how he had met Fagin.

Mr Brownlow continued the story. "After separating from his wife, Edwin met a young woman called Agnes. They fell in love, and Edwin planned to go to America with Agnes where nobody knew about his past. There they could start a new life and be happy. But then his rich uncle died in Italy and he had to go there to claim his inheritance. While he was there, he caught a fever and died."

Very pale, Rose looked at Mr Brownlow, then at Oliver. "Did Agnes have a sister?" she asked.

"She did," said Mr Brownlow. "A very young sister. You! When





Agnes discovered she was going to have a baby, she felt she had disgraced her family. She left them and gave birth to Oliver in a workhouse. The only identification she had was a gold locket with her name in it, and the wedding ring Edwin hoped to put on her finger one day. We all know what happened to the locket." Mr Brownlow looked at Monks severely.

But Rose and Oliver did not think of the lost locket, for they had found something more important. "Then Oliver is my sister's son – my nephew!" cried Rose, getting to her feet.

Oliver ran to Rose, throwing his arms around her. "To me, you will always be a sister," he said.

Monks watched in disgust. He looked at Mr Brownlow. "What else do you need to know – so I can get out of here!"

"Why did you want to hide Oliver's identity?" Mr Brownlow asked.

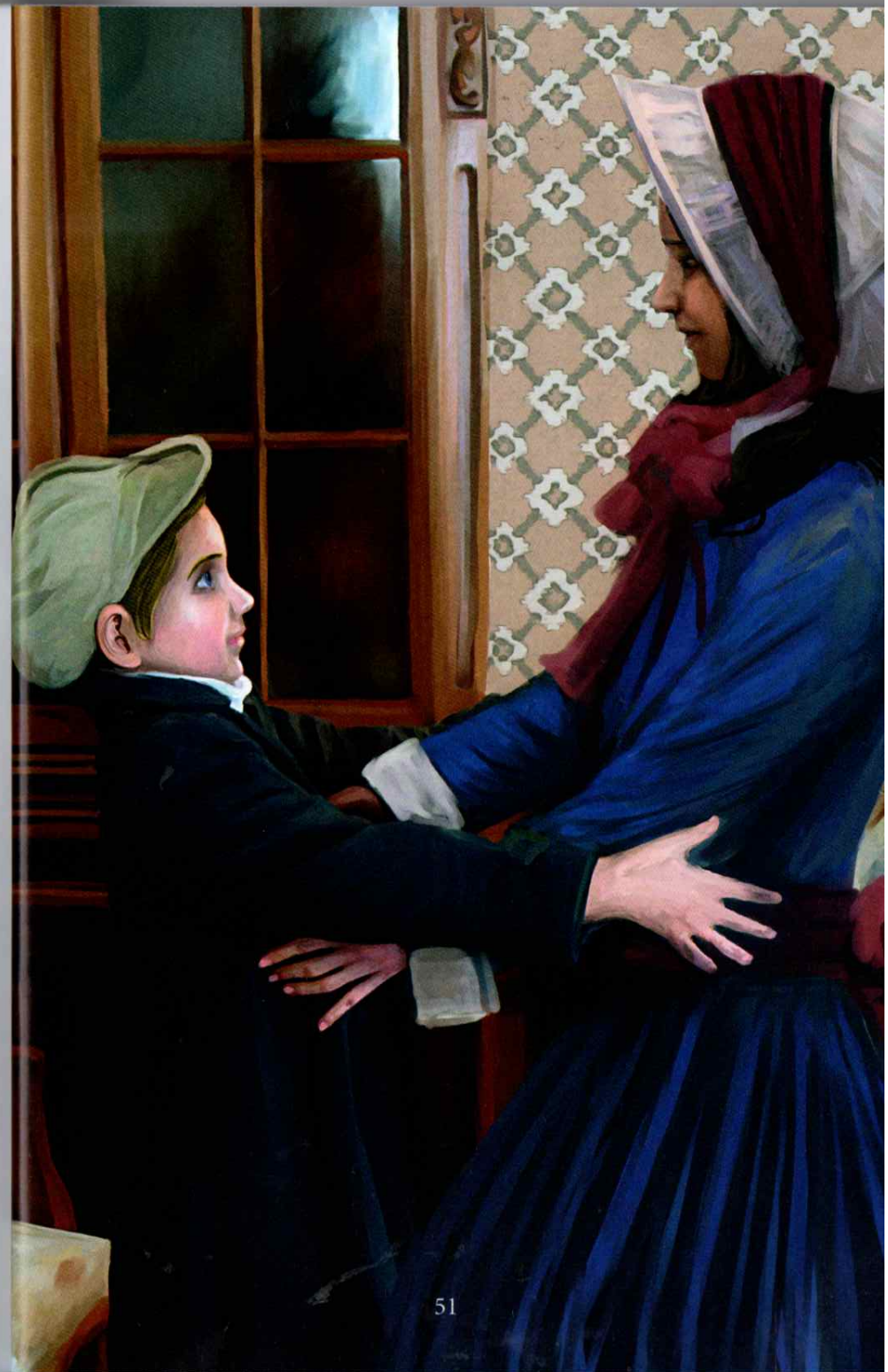
Monks made a face. "When she heard that my father had died, my mother went to Italy. As his wife, she believed that she would get the inheritance. But she found out that he had made another will – leaving half of the money to a woman called Agnes. Mother destroyed that will, of course. Then she went and found Agnes' family and told them that she was Edwin's wife. They had no idea he was married. While my mother was there, she realised that Agnes was going to have a child. And this child would take my money away! She told me this and I never forgot it. I found Oliver and tried to make sure nobody ever finds out the truth about him. That's why I destroyed the locket." He glared at Oliver. "I wish I had killed him when I had the chance!"

"It is too late for that," said Mr Brownlow. "Now we all know the truth and you must give Oliver his half of the inheritance. Then you will go to a far away country and never bother any of us again."

Mr Brownlow's solution was agreed upon by everybody. Oliver did not much care about the money – he had found a family!

The only sad part was Nancy's terrible murder.

"They will find the man who did it," Mr Brownlow said. And he was right. A few days later, Sikes was found hiding in a slum,



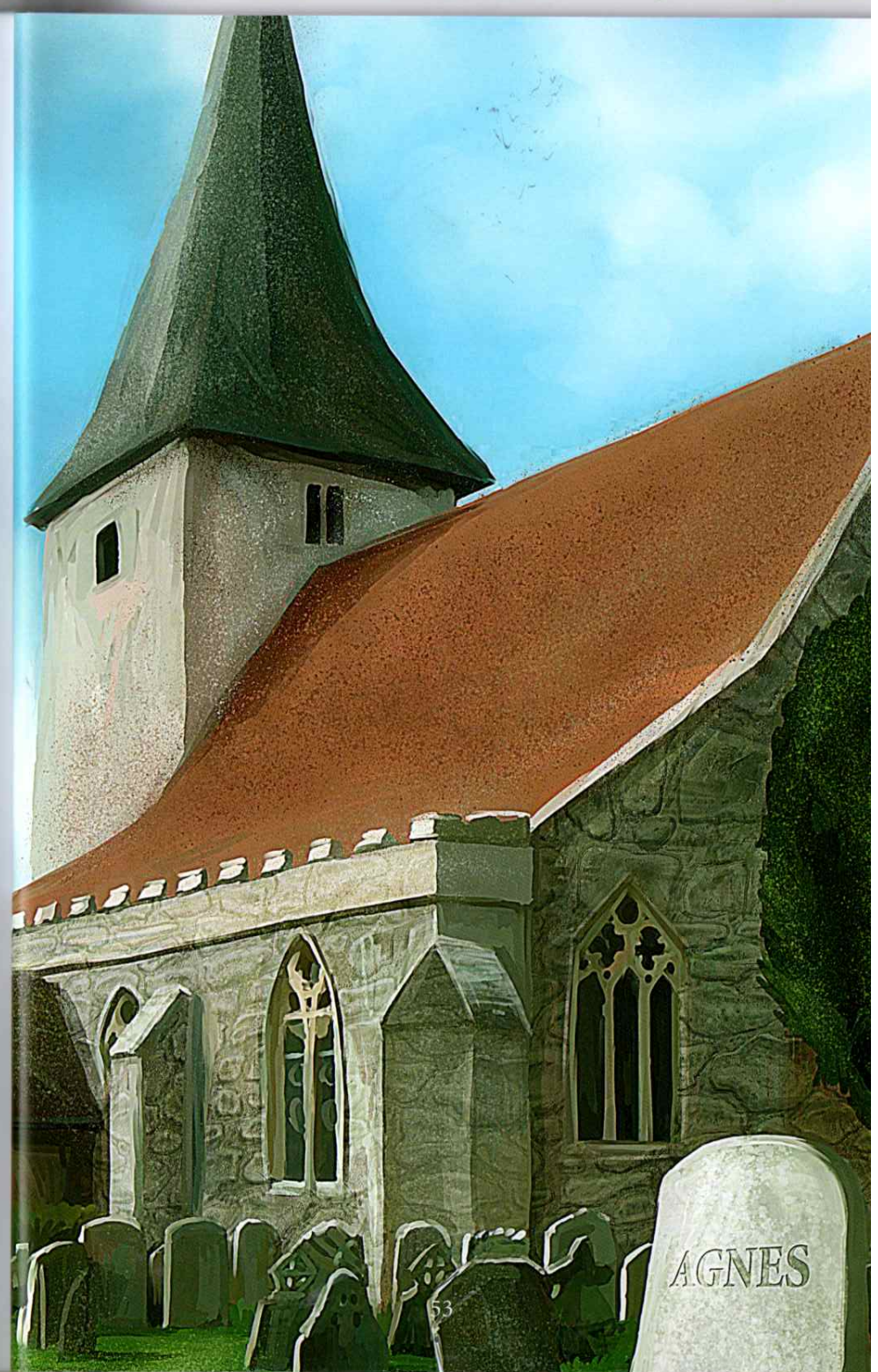


and while trying to escape through a window, he died. Fagin was also arrested and hanged for his crimes and the Artful Dodger was put in prison.

A few weeks later, Harry visited Rose. She was very nervous, but she noticed that he looked very happy. "Don't try to make me change my mind, Harry," Rose said. "I still feel the same way as before."

Harry smiled. "I am the one who has changed his mind," he said. "I realised that you are more important to me than anything else. So I am going to be the vicar in a small town. And if you want, I would like you to join me there."

So Harry and Rose married and they went to live in the country. Mr Brownlow adopted Oliver. They were all very happy that they had found each other. In a corner of the churchyard near the cemetery, Harry and Rose put up a white marble gravestone, with one word on it: "Agnes." This way, her spirit finally found peace and a home near her most loved ones.





## CHAPTER 12

### Comprehension

#### 1 Choose a, b or c to complete the following sentences.

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Monks was                               | 4. Fagin                           |
| a. Leeford's friend.                       | a. was found dead in a slum.       |
| b. Leeford's father.                       | b. was hanged for his crimes.      |
| c. Leeford's son.                          | c. was put in prison.              |
| 2. Leeford went to Italy                   | 5. Harry Maylie                    |
| a. to start a new life.                    | a. became a successful politician. |
| b. to claim an inheritance.                | b. no longer wanted to marry Rose. |
| c. to meet his rich uncle.                 | c. became a vicar in a small town. |
| 3. Monks' mother told Agnes' family        |                                    |
| a. that Edwin was already married.         |                                    |
| b. that she had found Edwin's second will. |                                    |
| c. that Agnes was going to have a child.   |                                    |

#### 2 Put the following events in chronological order. Write 1-9 in the boxes.

- ☐ Edwin and his first wife separated.
- ☐ Monks' mother found out about Agnes from Edwin's will.
- ☐ Agnes ran away and gave birth to Oliver in a workhouse.
- ☐ Edwin Leeford had an unhappy marriage to Monks' mother.
- ☐ Edwin met Agnes and they fell in love.
- ☐ Agnes' family found out that Edwin Leeford was married.
- ☐ Monks found Oliver and tried to destroy everything that would lead to his identification.
- ☐ Edwin died in Italy, where he had gone to claim an inheritance.
- ☐ Monks' mother destroyed Edwin's will because she wanted all the money.

### Vocabulary

#### 3 Choose a, b or c to complete the following sentences.

- The students \_\_\_\_\_ when the teacher told them that their day trip had been cancelled.  
a. destroyed                      b. protested                      c. separated
- A three-year old boy was \_\_\_\_\_ from the park yesterday.  
a. adopted                      b. arrested                      c. kidnapped
- He is poor and can't afford to live anywhere else than a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. slum                      b. society                      c. gravestone
- Alan is not \_\_\_\_\_ and is not to be trusted.  
a. dreadful                      b. responsible                      c. loved
- According to his \_\_\_\_\_, all his money will be given to his son.  
a. will                      b. spirit                      c. identification
- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ me now. I am trying to do my homework.  
a. disgrace                      b. join                      c. bother

#### 4 Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words in capitals.

- She was \_\_\_\_\_ to blame for the car accident.      **PART**
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ years are the best of our lives.      **CHILD**
- Last week Mary gave \_\_\_\_\_ to an adorable baby girl.      **BEAR**
- Do you know if Peter is \_\_\_\_\_ or single?      **MARRY**
- None of the students could find the \_\_\_\_\_ to the maths problem.      **SOLVE**

### Follow-up activities

#### 5 Discuss.

- Why did Monks turn into a lonely, angry man looking for friends among criminals?
- Do you think that people can do anything for money? What role does money play in your life?
- What things do you consider important in life?
- What do you think of the punishment imposed on the thieves? Did they deserve it?

#### 6 Write two or three paragraphs describing what you think Oliver's life will be like from now on. (80-100 words)