

to play a song for them. To their surprise, she played a very sad tune.

"Rose, are you alright?" Mrs Maylie asked.

"Oh yes!" Rose said, trying to laugh. "I will play something happy now." Then suddenly she burst into tears. "I am sorry!" she said. "I tried not to show it, but I am afraid I feel very ill."

Mrs Maylie told Rose to go to bed immediately, and Oliver hoped she would feel better in the morning. But the next morning Rose was much worse. She had a very bad fever and Mrs Maylie was very worried.

"I must stay with her," she said. "Oliver, you must go to town without delay and bring the doctor. And please post this letter to my son, Harry, in London. He must come at once!"

Oliver ran as fast as he could. When he reached the town, he gave the doctor the address, and felt a little better when he saw him start for the house at once. Then he went to the post office to send the letter. After that, as he was running back home, he accidentally ran into a man in a long black cloak. "There you are, you little monster!" the man shouted.

"Sorry, sir," Oliver said quickly. "I am in a hurry." But the man still seemed very angry.

"I should kill you! What are you doing here?" he shouted, and walked towards Oliver.

Oliver was frightened. He had never seen this strange man before. Why did he want to kill him? But before he could do anything, the man fell down in a fit. Oliver ran away as fast as he could. When he got home, he forgot what had happened, because he was very concerned about Rose. The doctor told Oliver and Mrs Maylie that the girl might not survive the night.

What a terrible night that was! Nobody did anything, they just sat and waited. Oliver was so afraid that he could not speak.

In the early morning the doctor came in. "It is alright," he said gently. "The fever has gone down and Rose will be alright." It was the best news Oliver had ever heard.

