

CHAPTER 11

ROSE SUDDENLY DECIDED WHAT SHE WOULD DO. SHE WOULD tell Mr Brownlow what Nancy had said. He was a good man and he had been kind to Oliver. He would help them. Immediately, they set off for his house. Oliver waited in the coach while Rose went to talk to Mr Brownlow.

She was shown into a comfortable room, where the old gentleman sat, reading a book. He rose quickly and greeted Rose, quite surprised by her visit.

"What I have to say may surprise you," Rose said, "but you once showed great kindness to a young friend of mine, and I thought you would like to hear about him again. His name is Oliver Twist!"

Rose told Mr Brownlow about the burglary and how Oliver had come to her and Mrs Maylie. Then, she told him what Nancy had said. To her surprise, Mr Brownlow seemed to understand exactly what she was talking about!

"When I first saw Oliver," he explained, "I thought he might be connected with a mystery from my past. What you have said confirms my suspicions."

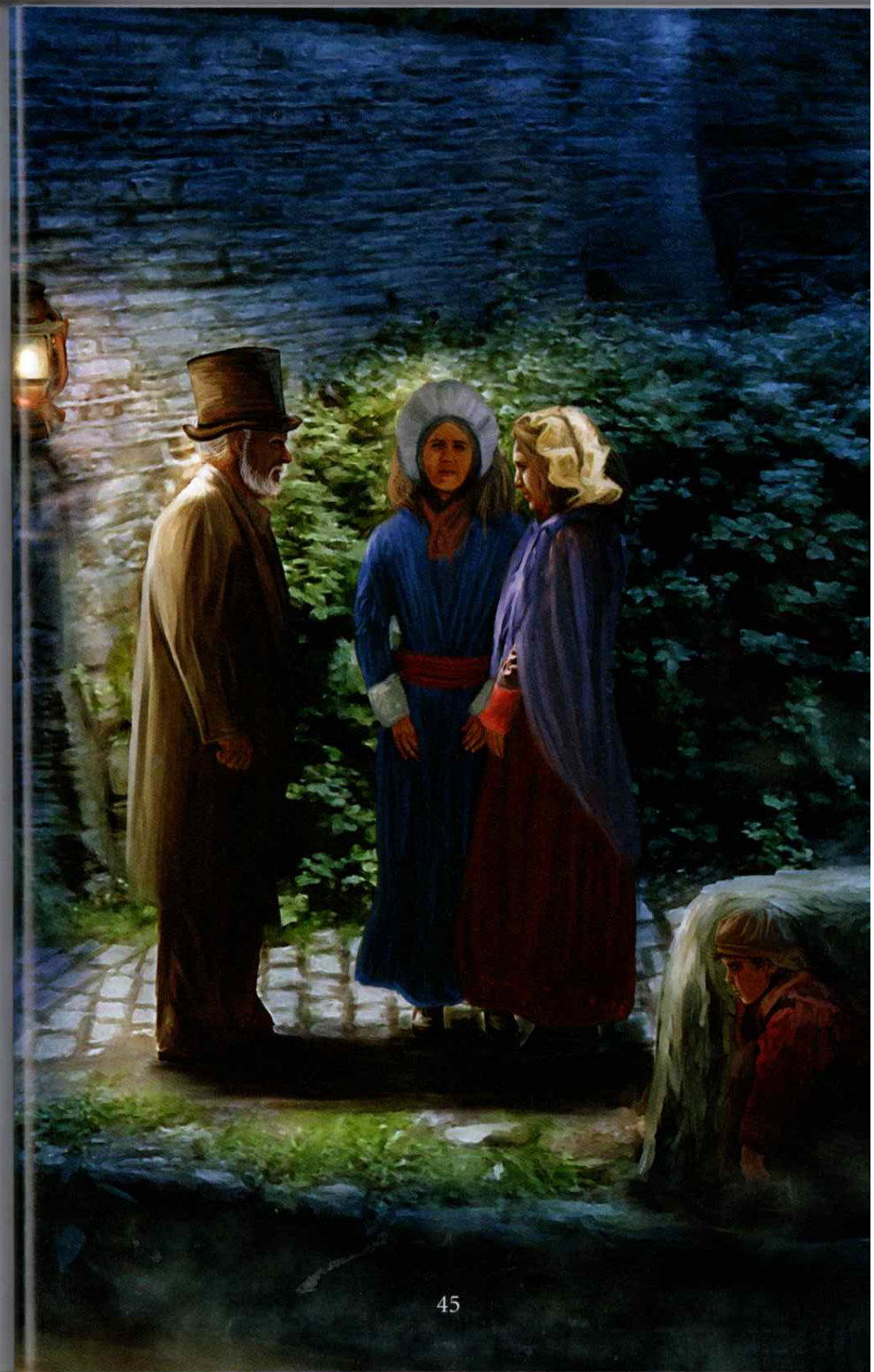
"Do you know this man Monks, then?" Rose asked.

"I do," said Mr Brownlow, "although that is not his real name. We must find him and discover what he knows about Oliver. Nancy will be able to help us. I will come with you tonight when you go to meet her."

At Fagin's place, Nancy was very nervous and only thought of her next meeting with Rose Maylie. Fagin noticed that she looked at the clock often, and knew that something was going on.

"She is going to meet someone," he thought to himself. Fagin called one of his boys and asked him to follow Nancy. At a quarter to eleven, she started for London Bridge. The boy followed in the shadows.

He saw Nancy meet a young woman and an old gentleman on the bridge. The old gentleman asked her about Monks and then



he asked her where he could be found. Nancy described Fagin's place, but asked that the other thieves not be arrested. "They may be wicked people," she said, "but they are all I have." The young lady and the gentleman promised to leave the other thieves alone. The young woman asked Nancy to return with them, but she refused. Finally, they left Nancy on the bridge, and went on their way. The boy saw Nancy return home. Quickly he went to Fagin's house, and told him what he had heard.

Fagin didn't sleep that night. It did not matter to him that Nancy had asked for mercy for him and Sikes. He did not trust her. He was full of anger and hatred. Then he heard the password, "Plummy and slam!"

It was Sikes. Fagin looked at him with an evil smile.

"Bill," he said, pointing to where the Dodger lay asleep, "if that boy was going to give us up to the police, what would you do?"

The word "police" made Sikes furious. "I'd kill him!"

Fagin smiled again. "And what if I did it," he asked. "What would you do if I did it?"

"You!" said Sikes in disgust. "I would smash your head."

Suddenly Fagin jumped up and screamed in Sikes face. "Well, it's not me, and it's not the Dodger – it's Nancy who has betrayed us!"

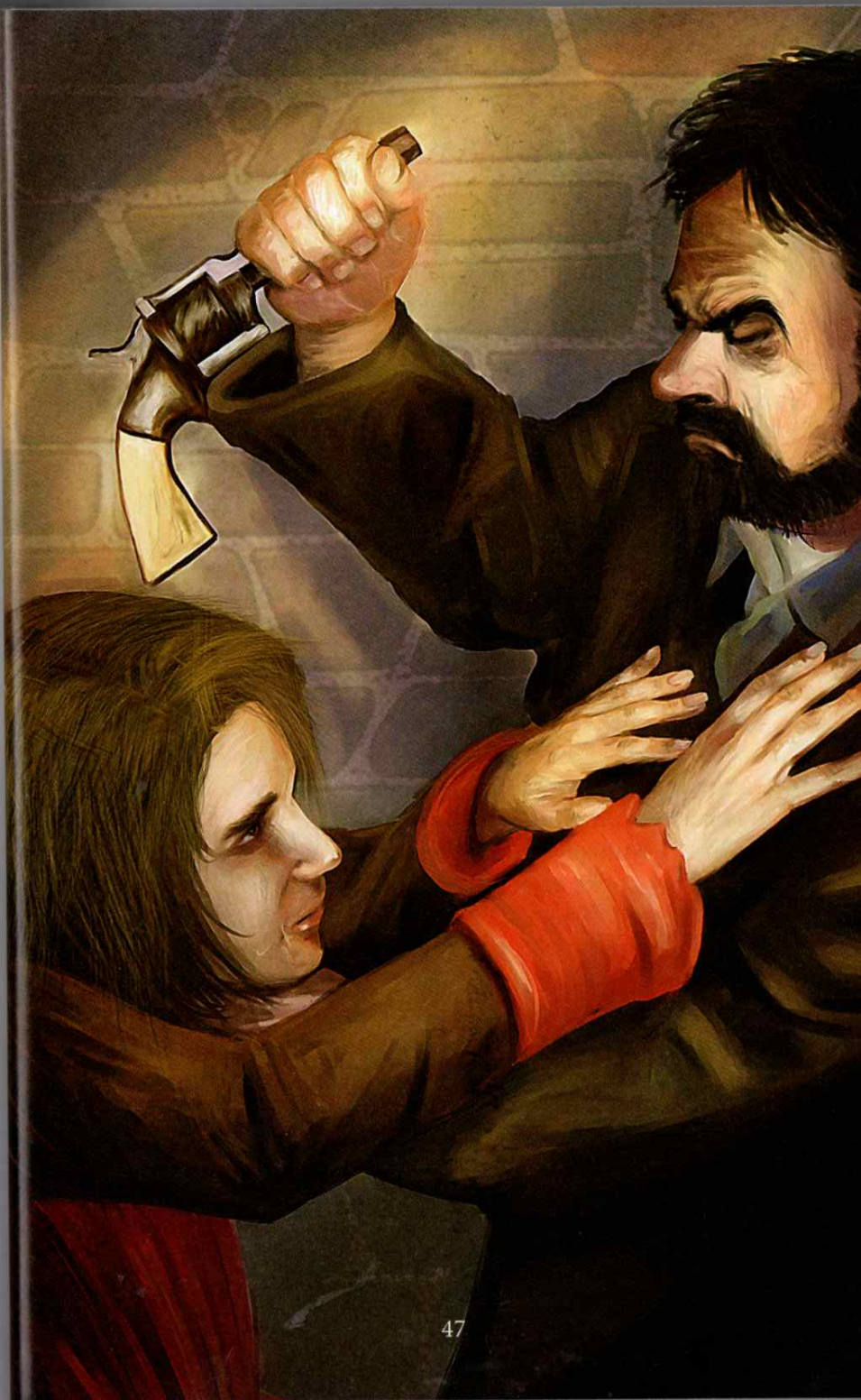
Sikes stared at him, shocked, and then he rushed out of the door. When he got home, Nancy was still in bed.

"Get up!" he said rudely. He grabbed her by the throat and dragged her across the room.

"Did you think I wouldn't find out?" he screamed. "You were followed!"

"Listen to me!" cried Nancy, "We have both been wicked people, but we can change! Think of it! We could go to a foreign country, far from here, and start a new life!"

Sikes grabbed his pistol. Then he realised the shot would be heard and with all his strength he beat the barrel against Nancy's face. She fell to her knees, and then Sikes lifted a club and struck her down.



CHAPTER 11

Comprehension

1 Read the following sentences and decide if they are True or False. Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Both Oliver and Rose went to talk to Mr Brownlow. ☐
2. Mr Brownlow knew exactly what Rose was talking about. ☐
3. Mr Brownlow arranged to go with Rose to meet Nancy. ☐
4. Fagin sent one of his boys after Nancy. ☐
5. Nancy wanted all the thieves to be arrested. ☐
6. Fagin hated Nancy for what she had done. ☐
7. Sikes shot Nancy in the face. ☐

2 Match the two halves to make true sentences.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. What Rose told Mr Brownlow | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. that he knew Monks by another name. |
| 2. Mr Brownlow said | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. promised not to harm the other thieves. |
| 3. Fagin realised | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. about Nancy's betrayal by Fagin. |
| 4. Rose and Mr Brownlow | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. confirmed his suspicions about Oliver's past. |
| 5. Sikes was informed | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. that Nancy was planning something. |

Vocabulary

3 Find words/phrases in Chapter 11 which:

1. show Nancy's feelings before the meeting on the bridge (page 44)

2. show Nancy's feelings for the thieves (page 46)

3. show Sikes' violent behaviour towards Nancy (page 46)

4 Complete the following sentences using the words in the box.

suspicious shadows anger mercy password grab
promised confirm described betray

1. You need a _____ to open this file.
2. I'm calling to _____ a reservation for two I have made for tonight.
3. Laura _____ her mother not to stay up late.
4. He didn't mean what he said. He said it in a moment of _____.
5. The eye witness _____ the thief to the police.
6. His _____ were confirmed when he saw the mouse eating the cheese.
7. Don't _____ my arm so hard. It really hurts.
8. The criminal asked for _____ in court.
9. He took money from the enemy to _____ his own country.
10. Late in the afternoon, the _____ are longer.

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. What do you think Mr Brownlow's suspicions about Oliver's past were?
2. Where do you think Mr Brownlow knows Monks from? Why does Monks use a false name?
3. How do you think Mr Brownlow and Rose will use the information they got?
4. What do you think of Sikes' behaviour towards Nancy?

6 Imagine you are the boy following Nancy to London Bridge. Give Fagin a detailed description of everything you witnessed. (80 - 100 words)