

of a fever. To make things worse, a woman came to visit my father and sister. She told them that she was that man's wife and they had a son! Naturally, my sister was devastated. Then she discovered she was going to have a child. One night she ran away and we never saw her again. My father died shortly after that, believing she had killed herself."

Rose paused after telling this sad story. "You see, I cannot be the wife of a politician, Harry. People will talk about my family's past!"

Harry knew he couldn't change Rose's mind, so finally he said, "I will leave now, but, I will come back later and see if you still feel the same." Early the next morning, Harry left for London. Afterwards, Oliver found Rose alone, crying bitterly. She tried to smile when she saw him, but she still looked unhappy and restless. Oliver did not know what to do, but fortunately he soon thought of a new project. This was to go to London to find Mr Brownlow and apologise to him. Rose agreed enthusiastically, and they set off for the city.



CHAPTER 10

BACK IN LONDON, BILL SIKES WAS SICK AND NANCY WAS taking care of him. She didn't have any money, so she had to ask Fagin. She sat down to talk to him, when there was a cry of "Plummy and Slam!" It was Monks' voice! While Fagin went to the door, Nancy took off her bonnet and shawl and hid them under the table.

Fagin showed Monks in and the two men went into another room to talk privately. As soon as the door closed, Nancy crept close and listened at the keyhole. They were talking about Oliver! After a few minutes she had heard all she wanted. When Monks left, Nancy persuaded Fagin to give her some money to buy food and she set off for home. On her way there, she thought of a plan. Nancy knew how angry Sikes could get if he knew what she was going to do. She poured Sikes a drink, putting a drug in it and when he was asleep, she left the house. She headed for the hotel that Monks had mentioned.

The hotel was for wealthy people and Nancy was embarrassed because she was poor and shabby. But she walked bravely up to the doorman and asked for Miss Rose Maylie. "Tell her I must speak to her alone", she said. She tried to ignore the servants who were making fun of her clothes.

Rose agreed to see Nancy when she said that she had information about Oliver. She showed her into a private room and greeted her

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."



CHAPTER 10

Comprehension

1 Complete the summary of Chapter 10 with the sentences a-e.

- It was a gold locket that belonged to Oliver's mother.
- He had found Mr Brownlow again.
- Back home, she put a drug in Sikes' drink and left.
- Nancy was touched by the way Rose talked to her.
- Nancy told her where she could be found and got ready to leave.

At Fagin's house, Nancy overheard his discussion with Monks about Oliver. (1) _____. She headed for a hotel and she asked for Rose. (2) _____. So, she told Rose what she knew; that Monks was Oliver's brother and that Oliver was by no means a poor orphan. However, Monks had destroyed the only proof of Oliver's identity. (3) _____.

Rose was confused by the information and asked Nancy to come and see her again. (4) _____. She kindly refused Rose's invitation to stay there with her, and ran back home. The next morning Oliver rushed to Rose's room very excited. (5) _____.

2 What do the underlined words refer to?

- They were talking about Oliver! (page 41) _____
- On her way there, she had thought of a plan. (page 41) _____
- Tell her I must speak to her alone. (page 41) _____
- This was a gold locket that belonged to Oliver's mother. (page 42) _____
- I am glad you told me this. (page 42) _____
- "I saw him!" he said, out of breath. (page 42) _____

Vocabulary

3 Choose the correct word to complete the following sentences.

- Wealthy / Shabby people usually stay in luxurious hotels while on holiday.
- I tried to **persuade** / **ignore** her to come to the cinema with us but she was not in the mood.
- There is no **identity** / **proof** that he committed the crime.
- After her divorce, she thought that her life was **paused** / **ruined**.
- I was really **touched** / **excited** by her kindness.
- Did Mr Samson **greet** / **mention** anything about tonight's meeting?
- He is a nice man and always treats everybody **privately** / **respectfully**.

4 Find words in Chapter 10 which mean the opposite of:

- put on _____ (page 41)
- in public _____ (page 41)
- poor _____ (page 41)
- tidy _____ (page 41)
- rudeness _____ (page 42)
- lie _____ (page 42)
- in danger _____ (page 42)
- sad _____ (page 42)

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- What do you think the mystery surrounding Oliver's true identity is? Why did Monks want to hide it?
- Why does Nancy still consider these horrible people her family?
- What do you think Rose will do now that she has all that information?

6 Imagine you are Nancy overhearing Monks and Fagin talking. Taking into consideration the information Nancy gave Rose, make a dialogue of what they probably said. (60-80 words)