

## CHAPTER 9

**O**LIVER FELT SUCH JOY THAT HE ALMOST COULDN'T BEAR IT. Rose was going to live, and even the sun seemed to shine brighter because of it. He went out and picked the biggest bunch of flowers for her that he ever had. As he returned to the house, he saw a carriage pulling up. A young man jumped out. "Is she better or worse?" he cried.

"Better, much better!" Oliver said, happy to give good news. He saw his own joy reflected in the young man's face. He was about twenty-three, tall and handsome. Oliver realised that this was Mrs Maylie's son, Harry, whom he had posted the letter to. Harry stayed with them waiting for Rose to recover. He insisted on coming with Oliver to pick flowers for Rose. Oliver liked him, and he noticed Rose did too. She never threw out the flowers that Harry brought, but kept them even after they had dried out. Indeed, most people who met Harry liked him. He planned to become a politician and be elected to Parliament. Those who knew him agreed that he would probably succeed very soon.

Day by day, Rose became stronger. But Oliver noticed that sometimes she looked unhappy. Harry noticed this too, and he spoke to his mother about it.

"I must talk to Rose," he said. "I love her. I've wanted to tell her so all my life, but I was waiting till I became rich or famous or successful. But now I see how foolish it is to wait. If she had – I can't say the word – if she had not gotten better, I would have lost my chance forever. You can't imagine how I suffered, thinking of that!"

Mrs Maylie was quiet. "I suppose you have suffered," she finally said.

"You *suppose* I have!" cried Harry. "How can you doubt it! I did – I did – you must know it!"

"Listen, Harry, Rose deserves someone who will love her all her life," Mrs Maylie replied. "You think you like her right now. But after you are elected to Parliament, you will meet many beautiful





and interesting women. You may regret marrying someone like Rose, who is a poor orphan and used to a simple life. If you change your mind, you will break her heart."

"I would never regret it," exclaimed Harry, hurt by the idea. "I will talk to her. I am sure she feels the same way I do." And so Harry went to Rose, and asked to speak with her.

"I think you know what I am going to say," he began. "You know how I feel when I am around you, even though I have not put it into words." Rose knew. A tear fell from her eye.

"I came here because of a terrible fear, the worst I have ever known," Harry continued. "It was the fear of losing the woman whom I have loved my whole life. You were dying, and all my hopes and dreams were dying with you. And then, like a miracle, you began to get better. As your health returned, the world became beautiful to me again. Rose, dear Rose, I love you! I have loved you ever since we were children."

"You have always been kind and good to me," said Rose, filled with emotion. "Please hear my answer, and don't think I am ungrateful."

"Your answer is that I may try to deserve you, isn't it, Rose?" Harry said eagerly.

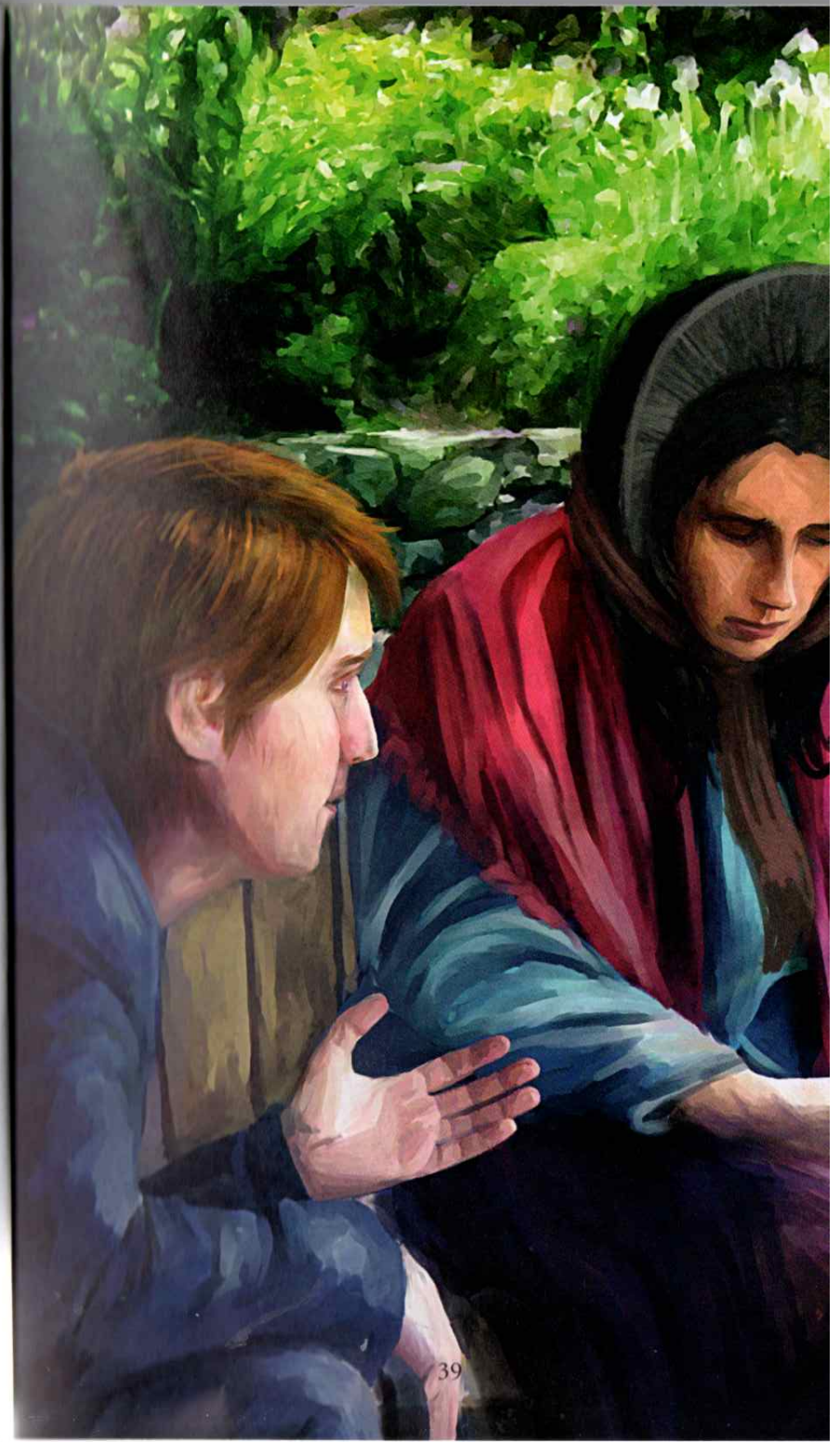
"My answer is that you must forget me," Rose said. "I cannot marry you, because there is a scandal connected with my family."

"But Rose," said Harry, "A scandal doesn't matter to me! I love you!"

"It does matter," said Rose, "because people gossip. Everybody says you will soon be elected to Parliament. Many people will support you, but others will be jealous and try to disgrace you. If I marry you, they will learn of my past and use it against you."

"I don't understand," said Harry. So Rose told him her story.

"My mother died shortly after I was born. I had one sister, who was much older than me. When I was five years old, and my sister was about nineteen, she met a man who was living in the country. He was quiet and didn't have many friends, but my sister got along well with him. Soon, they fell in love. They planned to marry, but then my sister's fiancé had to go abroad suddenly. There he died





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

**B**ACK 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



## CHAPTER 9

### Comprehension

#### 1 Complete the sentences using the names in the box.

Mrs Maylie Rose's sister Rose Harry Maylie Rose's father Oliver

- \_\_\_\_\_ was involved in politics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ had always wanted to tell \_\_\_\_\_ that he loved her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ believed that \_\_\_\_\_ would regret marrying \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ fell in love with a man who lived in the country.
- \_\_\_\_\_ died thinking his daughter had killed herself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ still wanted to find Mr Brownlow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ set off for London together.

#### 2 Answer the following questions.

- What did people usually think of Harry?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why had Harry put off telling Rose how he felt about her?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why does Mrs Maylie believe Harry will regret marrying Rose?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why did Rose tell Harry she couldn't marry him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What happened to Rose's sister?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why does Oliver want to go to London?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary

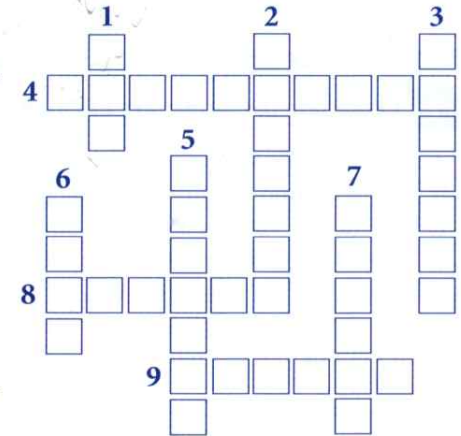
#### 3 Complete the crossword.

##### Across

- Somebody who is involved in politics
- A man who is engaged to a woman
- In or to a foreign country

##### Down

- Great happiness
- A lucky thing that happens which you did not expect or believe could happen
- Sad, not happy
- Behaviour or an event that people think is wrong or immoral and causes shock or anger
- The woman that a man is married to
- A child whose parents have died



#### 4 Match the two halves to make expressions.

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. put sth     | a. one's heart |
| 2. change      | b. in love     |
| 3. break       | c. worse       |
| 4. get along   | d. one's mind  |
| 5. make things | e. emotion     |
| 6. fall        | f. into words  |
| 7. filled with | g. with sb     |

### Follow-up activities

#### 5 Discuss.

- What was the scandal connected with Rose's family?
- Why did Rose's sister run away from her family?
- How do you think Rose's past would be a problem to Harry's career as a politician?
- Do you think Rose and Harry's relationship will have a happy ending? Why? / Why not?

#### 6 Imagine that you are Rose, leaving for London. Write a letter to Harry Maylie explaining once again why you can't marry him and informing him about your plans for the near future. (80-100 words)