

CHAPTER 7

TWO DAYS AFTER THE BURGLARY, SIKES HAD NOT YET COME TO see Fagin, so Fagin went to his house. Nancy answered the door.

"Bill was here last night," she told Fagin, "but he left this morning, and I don't know where he went."

"Was Oliver with him?" Fagin asked. Nancy said no. "He lost the boy! That stupid, useless fool!" Fagin cried, suddenly very angry.

Nancy looked at him. "Are you worried about Oliver?" she asked. "I think he is better off dead than he is with you. And I hope I shall never see him again." She looked in Fagin's eyes. "His innocence reminds me of how wicked I am, and how wicked you are, too."

Fagin looked at her angrily. "I don't like your attitude," he told Nancy. "And tell Sikes he must find the boy, otherwise he's in trouble!"

"Why is that?" Nancy wondered.

"I'll tell you," roared Fagin. "Oliver Twist is worth hundreds of pounds to me, and now maybe - " Fagin stopped suddenly. Quickly he said goodbye to Nancy and told her to let him know immediately if she saw Oliver.

Nancy was curious. Why was Oliver worth hundreds of pounds to Fagin? She felt that a big secret surrounded the boy, so she put on her bonnet and shawl and followed Fagin.

Fagin reached home and he was opening his door, when a man in a black cloak came out of the shadows and tapped him on the shoulder.

Fagin jumped with fright. Then he recognised the man. "Monks dear," he said, "I am sorry if I kept you waiting." "Hurry up and let me in," the man called Monks ordered Fagin. "I must talk to you in private." He looked nervous and kept looking over his shoulder. Fagin opened the door and went ahead into the dark house. Monks followed him, and the door suddenly slammed shut



behind them. "Is there anyone else here?" asked Monks.

"No one but ourselves. That must have been the wind," said Fagin, returning with a candle.

"Then tell me," hissed Monks. "Is it true that Oliver Twist escaped?"

Fagin looked worried. "It was an accident. Sikes had no idea how important he was."

"I pay you hundreds of pounds," shouted Monks, "and still you let that cursed boy get away! I told you, he must not be seen or recognised by anyone! Why couldn't you keep him locked up in here?"

"He is not like the other boys," Fagin replied. "He thinks stealing is wrong, and so he keeps trying to run away from us. I had to force him to do one very bad thing, to make him one of us. Then he would not try to run away anymore, because he would be afraid of the police."

"You must find him immediately and bring him back," said Monks firmly. "Where was he last seen?"

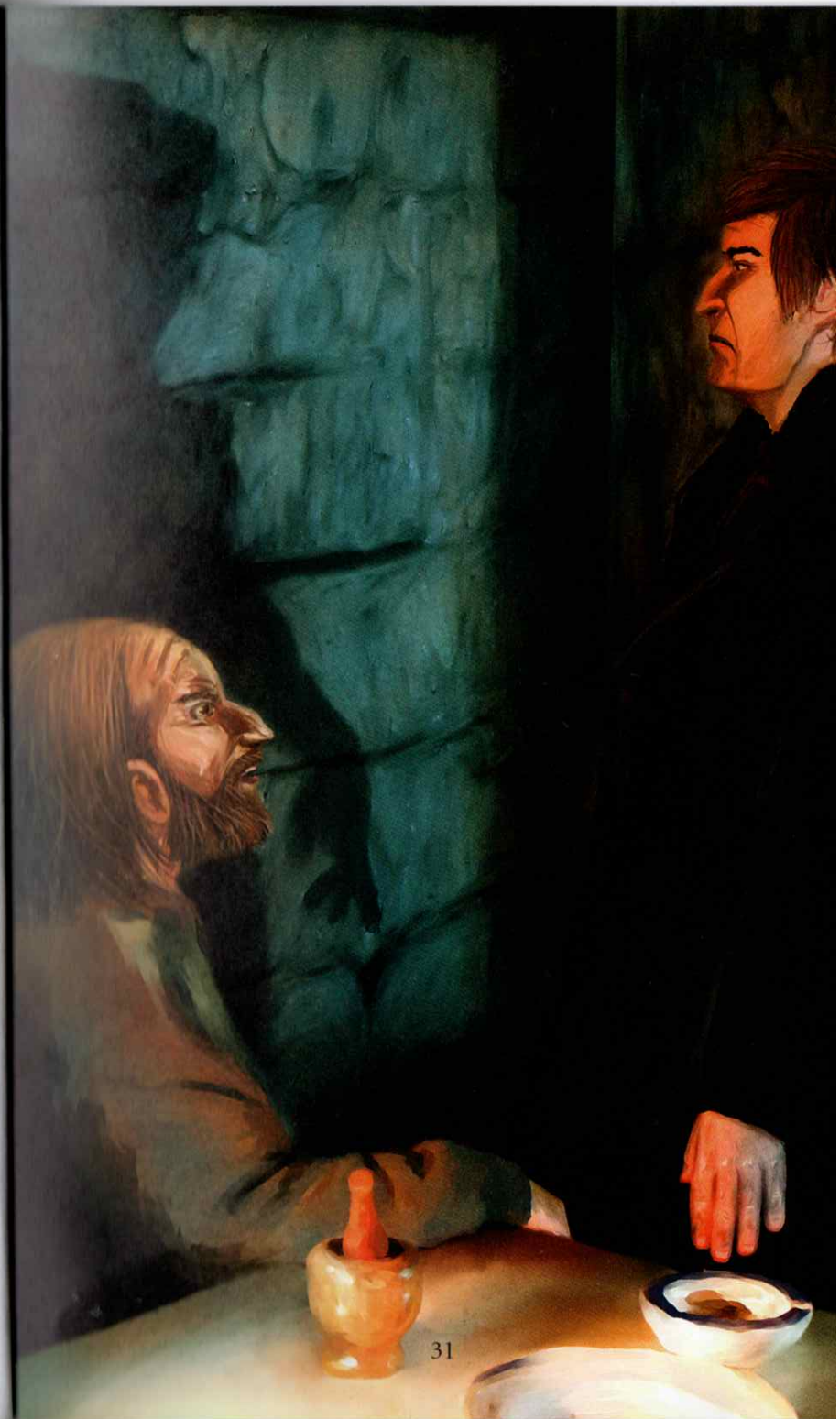
"At a house owned by a family called Maylie," said Fagin. "Sikes left him in a field close by. He cannot have gone very far."

"I will go there myself, and look for him," said Monks. "I will find everyone who knows anything about him, and—" Suddenly he jumped to his feet. "What's that? You said there was no one else here!"

"There isn't," Fagin said, getting up. "What did you see?"

"A shadow on the wall," said Monks, trembling with fear. "A woman in a bonnet and shawl!"

"Impossible," said Fagin, "but we can search the house." So they did, but they found no one. Monks was puzzled. "I must have imagined it", he finally said and left.



CHAPTER 7

Comprehension

1 Decide if the following sentences are True or False. Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Nancy knew where Bill Sikes was the previous night. ☐
2. Nancy knew why Oliver was worth a lot to Fagin. ☐
3. Nancy followed Fagin to find out what his secret was. ☐
4. When Fagin arrived home there was a man waiting for him. ☐
5. Fagin didn't know where Oliver was last seen. ☐
6. Monks wanted to look for Oliver himself. ☐
7. Monks thought the shadow on the wall was all his imagination. ☐

2 Put the following events in the order which they happened. Write 1-5 in the boxes.

- ☐ Nancy went after Fagin to find out his secret.
- ☐ Fagin explained to Monks why Oliver was different from other boys.
- ☐ Fagin went to Sikes' house looking for him.
- ☐ Monks decided to search for Oliver himself.
- ☐ Monks was waiting for Fagin at his house.

Vocabulary

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in capitals.

1. Everything happened very _____ and _____
we didn't have time to react. SUDDEN
2. It was _____ for her to remember
where she had left her glasses. POSSIBLE
3. That knife is completely _____. It can't
cut anything! USE
4. Tell Peter to come to my office _____. IMMEDIATE

5. When the ambulance arrived, the man was already _____.

DIE

6. There have been a number of _____ in
my area recently.

BURGLAR

4 Read the definitions below and find the words in Chapter 7.

1. remember sth/sb because
sth/sb else makes you think
of it _____ (page 28)
2. bad, mean _____ (page 28)
3. sth that is not to be revealed _____ (page 28)
4. confused _____ (page 30)
5. to form a picture in one's
mind of what sth/sb might
be like _____ (page 30)

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. Why do you think Oliver is worth hundreds of pounds to Fagin?
What can his secret be?
2. Who do you think Monks is? What is his relationship with Fagin?
Why is he so interested in Oliver?
3. Nancy seems to be a nice person. How do you think she got
involved with someone like Fagin or Sikes?
4. Do you think that Monks will find Oliver? What will he do then?

6 Imagine that Oliver Twist has been made into a TV series. After watching Episode 7, write a short review presenting it for a TV guide. (80-100 words)