

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

STRANGE EVENTS

The little room where Oliver read his books was on the ground floor at the back of the house. One summer evening Oliver fell asleep there. He dreamt that he was in Fagin's house. He saw the old man sitting in his usual corner, talking to another man. "I know this boy. It is Oliver." Fagin spoke aggressively in Oliver's dream. Oliver's fear woke him up.

But Oliver wasn't dreaming. There, at the window, stood Fagin and the man Oliver had bumped into when he sent Mrs Maylie's letter. The men stood there for a moment, then they were gone. Oliver didn't move for a few seconds, then he shouted for help.

Harry tried to find the men, but he didn't see anyone. "It must have been a dream, Oliver," he said.

"Oh, no," replied Oliver. "I saw them both, as clearly as I see you now."

Slowly, Rose recovered. One morning, Harry found her alone and he asked her to marry him. Rose was very pale and had tears in her eyes. Mrs Maylie was right. Rose **refused** to marry Harry.

"You can't marry me, Harry. I would give you a bad name and stop your **progress** in the world," she said. "I can't let that happen. I love you, but I can only be your friend."

"I will ask you again," said Harry. "If your answer is the same the second time, I will **accept** it."

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

MONKS RETURNS

One day, the mysterious man called Monks, went to see Mr Bumble. Mr Bumble was now the director of the workhouse where Oliver was born.

"I need information from you," said Monks. As he spoke, he put some gold **coins** into Mr Bumble's hand. "I need information about a workhouse boy, who was born here 12 years ago. He

worked for an undertaker and then ran away to London."

"You mean Oliver Twist!" cried Mr Bumble. "I remember him, of course, he was . . ."

"I don't want to know about him," interrupted Monks. "I want to know about Old Sally. She was the woman who was with Oliver's mother when Oliver was born."

"Mrs Corney was with Old Sally when she died, so she may have information," said Mr Bumble.

The next evening Mr Bumble, Mrs Corney and Monks met in a house by the river. When they arrived, Monks asked Mrs Corney, "Did Old Sally tell you anything when she died?"

"Yes, about Oliver's mother," replied Mrs Corney. "But what will you give me for this information?"

"Twenty-five pounds," answered Monks. "That's a lot of money for a 12-year-old secret." He gave the money to Mrs Corney. She told Monks that Old Sally stole the gold locket from Oliver's dying mother.

"Do you have it now?" asked Monks.

Mrs Corney opened her bag, took the locket out and put it on the table. In the locket was some hair and a gold wedding ring with the name *Agnes* on the inside.

