

READING #3

FAGIN

JUST TO FIND SOME PEACE OF MIND
WE HAVE TO PICK A POCKET OR TWO. HEY!

The BOYS surround FAGIN to display their ill-gotten gains. OLIVER is amazed.

Put 'em all back in the box!

The BOYS return the articles they have stolen to the box with the exception of one BOY, whom FAGIN sees out of the corner of his eye.

I said all of 'em!

The smallest BOY stops in his tracks

Nipper!

(with violence)

Come 'ere!

The boy shamefully walks back with the handkerchief and tricks him. FAGIN pats the BOY on the head.

What a crook! I hope you've all been hard at work today, my dears.

DODGER

Hard?

ALL BOYS

As nails!

FAGIN

What 'ave you got for me, Dodger

DODGER

(off handedly)

Couple o' wallets.

FAGIN

Well lined, I hope.

DODGER

Only the best.

FAGIN

(weighing the wallets and checking inside quickly for the contents)

Not as heavy as they might be. But very nicely made! Ingenious workman, ain't he, Oliver.

OLIVER

(examining the wallets)

Did he make these himself?

CHARLEY

(roars with laughter)

Yeah, with his own lily white hands!

FAGIN

(hits Charley)

You be quiet, Charley.

(To Charley)

And what have you got, my dear?

CHARLEY

Nose Rags.

CHARLEY produces two large silk handkerchiefs - very elaborately patterned.

FAGIN

Well, they're very good ones, very! - yellow and green! You haven't embroidered the initials too well tho', Charley, - so they'll have to be picked out with a needle, won't they? You'll need to learn to do that too, Oliver my dear. Won't he boys?

BOYS giggle and nudge each other.

And you'll have to learn how to make wallets like the Dodger and Charley here. You'd like that, wouldn't you, my dear?

OLIVER

Yes, Mister Fagin, if you'll teach me.

More giggling and nudging from the boys.

FAGIN

Certainly my boy, no fee! Just do everything you see Dodger and Charley do. Make 'em your models, my dear - especially Dodger - He's going to be a right little... Bill Sikes!

OLIVER

Who's Bill Sikes Mr Fagin?

FAGIN

All in good time Oliver, all in good time

Now then, tell me, can you see my silk handkerchief what is protruding from my pocket?