

DODGER

(in between being shaken)

Got took away in a coach!

FAGIN

(pulling Dodger up by his coat)

Who coach? What coach? Where coach?

DODGER slithers out of coat and shirt and he is naked from the waist up.

DODGER

(breathlessly)

He got nabbed on the job!... They took him to court. We waited outside... The old man we dipped, come out of the court with Oliver and took him off in a coach!

FAGIN

Where to? Quick? Speak!

DODGER

19, Chepstowe Gardens... Bloomsbury... I run all the way.

FAGIN

(Fretfully)

We were supposed to look after him. We were supposed to bring him back with us. We were supposed to never let him out of OUR SIGHT!

SIKES

(aloud)

Who?

FAGIN

(to nobody in particular)

One of us, Bill. A new boy – went out on his first job today with Dodger. I'm afraid... that he may say something which will get us into trouble.

SIKES

(grinning)

That's very likely... You're blowed upon Fagin.

FAGIN

(still to nobody in particular)

And I'm afraid..you see... that if the game was up with us...

(he now addresses SIKES specifically)

...it might be up with a good many more... and it would come out rather worse for you than it would for me, my dear.

SIKES starts towards FAGIN, who merely stares vacantly ahead.

SIKES

Why you old!... Somebody must find out what's been done, or said. If he hasn't talked yet, there's still a chance we might get him back—without suspicion. We'll nab him the very moment he dares to step out of that house. Now who's gonna go?

They all look around at each other.

DODGER

I suppose it'll have to be me.

FAGIN

You shut your trap, Dodger. You've caused enough trouble.

(He looks at Nancy)

It's got to be done quiet. We don't want any fuss.

(Smirking at Nancy)

The very thing! Nancy my dear—you're so good with the boy.

NANCY

It's no good trying it on with me.

SIKES goes across to her menacingly.

BILL

And just what do you mean by that remark?

NANCY gets up and faces SIKES.

NANCY

What I say Bill. I'm not going... Why can't you leave the boy alone? He won't do you no harm. Why can't you leave him where he is—where he'll get the chance of a decent life?

BILL

You'll get him back 'ere my girl—unless you want to feel my hands on your throat!

SIKES throws Nancy onto a stool. FAGIN hurries across and speaks pleadingly at NANCY, trying to prevent more violence, which he hates.

FAGIN

Nancy, my dear - if he talked, think what would happen to us. Think what would happen to Bill. It'd be the gallows for him, Nancy - the gallows! You wouldn't let that happen would you, my dear? Not to Bill? Not to your Bill?

SIKES

She'll go Fagin.

SIKES turns away. With sudden spirit, NANCY looks up at Fagin.

NANCY

No she won't Fagin!

SIKES

Yes, she will Fagin!

SIKES hits NANCY viciously across the face, knocking her off the chair onto the floor. He turns and strides towards the door.

Bullseye!

SIKES & BULLSEYE exit.

There's silence. FAGIN goes to help NANCY. She looks at him with scorn and disgust. FAGIN and the BOYS turn and leave.

NANCY

Alright Bet. Go home. There's a good girl.

Visual cue: as Bet gets halfway upstage

#31 - *As Long As He Needs Me*

AS LONG AS HE NEEDS ME...
OH, YES, HE DOES NEED ME...
IN SPITE OF WHAT YOU SEE...
...I'M SURE THAT HE NEEDS ME.

WHO ELSE WOULD LOVE HIM STILL
WHEN THEY'VE BEEN USED SO ILL?
HE KNOWS I ALWAYS WILL...
AS LONG AS HE NEEDS ME.

I MISS HIM SO MUCH WHEN HE IS GONE,
BUT WHEN HE'S NEAR ME
I DON'T LET ON...

The TAVERN KEEPER is in the background putting chairs on tables and clearing up tankards.

...THE WAY I FEEL INSIDE.
THE LOVE, I HAVE TO HIDE...
THE HELL! I'VE GOT MY PRIDE
AS LONG AS HE NEEDS ME.

ACT TWO

Scene Three

Thieves Kitchen.

Enter SIKES twisting OLIVER's arm, followed by NANCY and BET.

NANCY hangs respectable shawls, hats etc around the fireplace.

FAGIN

Aaah! So you've come home again, have you Oliver my dear?

DODGER

Look at his togs, Fagin!

All the boys laugh and sneer.

CHARLEY

E's got books too. Quite the little gent, ain't he?

He grabs the parcel of books from OLIVER. The other boys are pulling OLIVER about. One pulls his cap off, puts it on himself at a rakish angle and struts around the room. The other boys roar with laughter. Meanwhile, DODGER is systematically going through OLIVER'S pockets.

FAGIN

(with an ironical bow)

Delighted to see you looking so well, my dear. The Artful Dodger shall give you another suit, for fear you should spoil that Sunday one. Why didn't you write, my dear, and say you were coming? We'd have got something warm for supper.

DODGER

Cor! Look at this!

DODGER draws forth the five-pound note from one of OLIVER's pockets. BILL SIKES steps forward, but before he can get there, FAGIN grabs the note.

SIKES

Hullo, what's that? That's mine, Fagin.

FAGIN

No, no my dear. Mine, Bill, mine. You can have the books.

BOYS laugh but SIKES glares at them and they stop as one.

OLIVER gives SIKES the books but he throws them to the ground in disgust. DODGER picks them up.

SIKES

If that ain't mine—mine and Nancy's, that is, I'll take the boy back again!

FAGIN stops in his tracks.

SIKES

Come on, 'and over .

FAGIN

(imploringly)

This is hardly fair, Bill—hardly fair, is it, Nancy?

SIKES

Fair or not fair, 'and it over you avaricious old skeleton, Give it 'ere!

At which he plucks the note from between FAGIN's finger and thumb.

That's for our share of the trouble and not half enough neither.

SIKES takes the books from Dodger and gives them to Fagin.

Here. You can 'ave the books. Start a library.

SIKES laughs and makes to exit.

OLIVER

You can't keep the books or the money! They belong to Mr Brownlow and if he finds out you've got them he'll be down here after you.

There is a silence as OLIVER's words sink in.

SIKES

(Advancing towards OLIVER menacingly.)

So 'e'll be down here, will 'e?

NANCY

Leave 'im alone, Bill!

SIKES

(glares at NANCY, then turns to OLIVER)

What did you tell him about us?

OLIVER

Nothing.

THE BOYS, sensing impending violence, hide themselves in corners.

SIKES

That remains to be seen—but if we found out you said anything—anything out of place... Fagin, I'll wager that young scoundrel's told him everything.

OLIVER

(as he tries to escape)

Help! Help!

SIKES grabs him, OLIVER hits SIKES across the face.

SIKES

Hit me would you?

He pushes off OLIVER and makes for his cudgel. NANCY rushes forward and grabs SIKES' arm.

NANCY

No leave him alone Bill!

SIKES

Stand off me, or I'll split yer head open!

NANCY

Go on, then kill me! You'll have to before I'll let you lay a hand on that boy!

SIKES

Keep out o' this—I'm warnin' you.

SIKES flings NANCY across the room.

FAGIN

All right, all right! We've got him back! What's the matter with you?

NANCY rises to her feet.

SIKES

The girl's gone mad, I think, Fagin.

NANCY

No she hasn't Fagin, don't think it.

FAGIN

Then keep quiet, will yer. All this violence.

SIKES

Tell 'em all about us would you?

#39 - *It's A Fine Life (Reprise)*

NANCY

I won't stand by and see it done, Bill.

29. My Name

SFX: Three loud bangs on the table. Enter SIKES.

VOICE: (in a loud whisper) Bill Sikes!

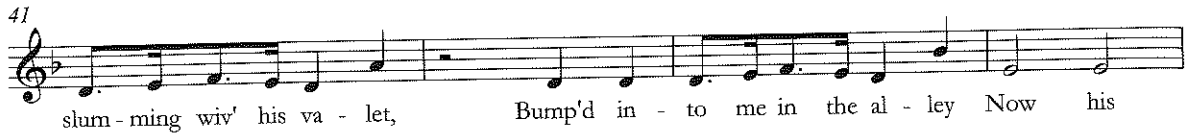
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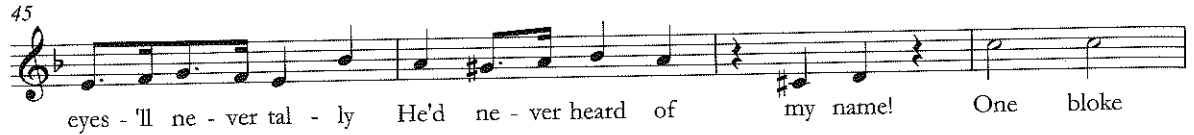
4 SIKES

Strong men trem-ble when they hear it! They've got
cause e-nough to fear it! It's much black-er than they smear it!
No-bo-dy men-tions my name! Rich men hold their five pound notes out
Saves me emp-ty-ing their coats out They know I could tear their throats out
just to live up to my name! Wiv' me jem-my in me hand,
Lem-me see the man who dares Stop me ta-king what I may
He can start to say his prayers! Bi-ceps like an i-ron gir-der,
Fit for do-ing of a mur-der, If I just so much as heard a

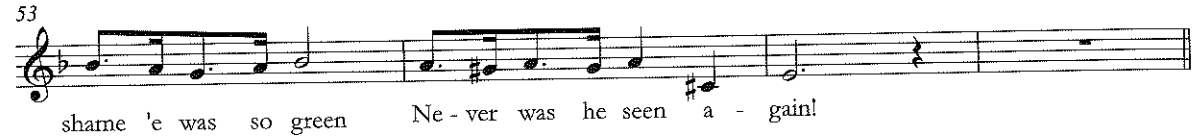
Whispers: 'Bill Sikes!'

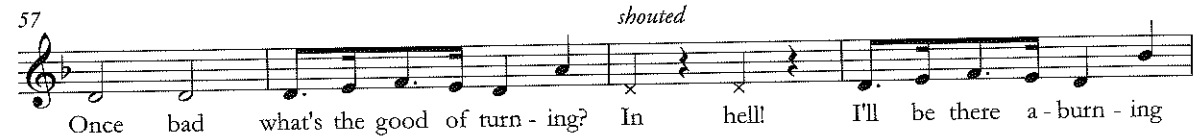
36  2
bloke e - ven whis - per my name. Some toff

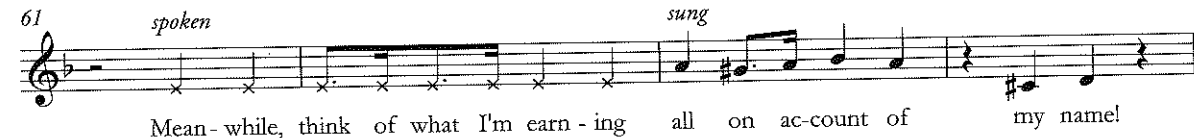
41 
slum - ming wiv' his va - let, Bump'd in - to me in the al - ley Now his

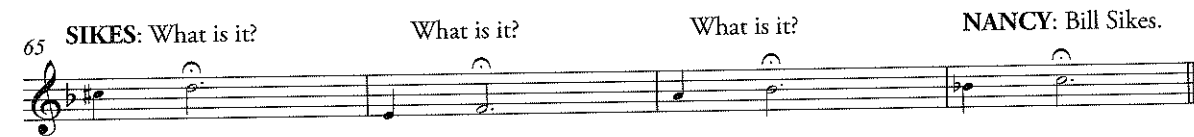
45 
eyes - 'll ne - ver tal - ly He'd ne - ver heard of my name! One bloke

49 
used ter boast the claim He could take my name in vain Poor bloke,

53 
shame 'e was so green Ne - ver was he seen a - gain!

57  *shouted*
Once bad what's the good of turn - ing? In hell I'll be there a - burn - ing

61  *spoken* *sung*
Mean - while, think of what I'm earn - ing all on ac - count of my name!

65 **SIKES:** What is it? What is it? What is it? **NANCY:** Bill Sikes.


(NANCY kisses BILL)

30. Underscore After 'My Name' – TACET

CUE: **DODGER:** Fagin! Fagin! Fagin!

#29 – My Name / #30 – Underscore After "My Name"