

SYKES

Shan't 'e! I'll soon do that if you don't keep off.
(HE flings the GIRL across the room)

FAGIN

All right, all right, we've got him, what's the matter?

SYKES

The girl's gone mad, I think.

NANCY

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

FAGIN

Then keep quiet, will yer.

NANCY

No, I won't keep quiet.

FAGIN

All this violence.

SYKES

Try and run away, would you?
(Takes off belt to beat OLIVER)

NANCY

I won't stand by and see it done, Bill. You've got him here and what more would you have? Let 'im be let 'im be, or I shall put my mark on someone, and not care for the consequence.

FAGIN

Why Nancy, you're wonderful today. Such talent. What an actress.

NANCY

Am I? Take care I don't overdo it. 'Cause I'm warning you I'll put my finger on some of you and I don't care if I hang with you.

SYKES

You? Do you know who you are? And what you are?

NANCY

(Hysterically)
Ah, yes, I know all about it. Who I am and what I am.

SYKES

Well then, keep quiet or I'll quiet you for a good long time to come. You're a nice 'un, coming all this humane and genteel rubbish. A pretty subject for the "child", as you call him, to make a friend of.

NANCY

Lord help me, I am, and I wish I'd of been struck dead in the street before I lent a hand in bringing him here. After today, 'e's a thief, a liar, and all that's bad from this day forth, isn't that enough for yer, without beating him to death!

FAGIN

Come, come Sykes, we must have civil words, civil words, Bill.

NANCY

Civil words, yes, you deserve them from me. I thieved for you when I was a child, half his age and for twelve years since. Don't you forget it!

SYKES

Well, if you have it's your living.

/23/ REPRISE: - "IT'S A FINE LIFE"

NANCY

SOME LIVING! SOME LIVING!

SYKES

WHAT YOU DESERVE YOU GET.

NANCY

NO GETTING! ALL GIVING!

FAGIN

MUST WE HAVE MURDERS YET?

SYKES

THERE'LL BE MURDERS! THERE'LL BE TERROR -

SYKES

SUCH AS YOU'VE

NEVER SEEN.
WATCH IT, NANCY,
MAKE NO ERROR!
THERE AIN'T NO
IN BETWEEN

IN LIFE.

FAGIN

NO VIOLENCE!
PLEASE
NO VIOLENCE!
PLEASE,
NO SCENES.

NO VIOLENCE!

NANCY

LORD, HELP ME!

NANCY

LORD, HELP ME!

NANCY

IF YOU DON'T MIND MAKING A MATE OR SATAN
IT'S A FINE LIFE!

SYKES

FINE LIFE!

ACT TWOScene 6

LONDON BRIDGE at night. It is ten forty-five p.m. A clock chimes the three-quarters as NANCY hurries on leading OLIVER and looking over HER shoulder. SHE stops at a recessed embrasure. They are silhouetted against the night sky in an attitude of waiting. Music underscores entire scene.

/27/ LONDON BRIDGE - (Orchestra)

A HUSSAR & GIRL pass a NIGHT WATCHMAN on the bridge. NIGHT WATCHMAN - "Goodnight".

The shadow of a burly man falls across the scene. BILL SYKES suddenly appears behind NANCY.

NANCY

Bill! Don't take him back Bill! Let him go, for pity's sake, let him go! Why are you looking at me like that, Bill?

SYKES

It's a dark night, my girl, but it's light enough for what I've got to do.

NANCY

I wasn't going to blow the gaff, honest, I wasn't, Bill. I wouldn't say nothing! Bill! Bill!

(SHE Screams. HE kills HER. SYKES grabs OLIVER and runs to door of thieves' kitchen with HIM. BROWNLOW enters in time to see SYKES disappearing, HE sees NANCY's body and shouts)

BROWNLOW

Help! Help!

(A NIGHT WATCHMAN enters and when HE sees NANCY's body, runs off ringing HIS bell and shouting)

NIGHT WATCHMAN

Murder! Murder!