

**MR BROWNLOW**

MR BROWNLOW

I understand you bring information regarding the boy Oliver Twist.

MR BUMBLE

Bumble is my name, sir. Beadle of the workhouse where this boy was cared for - from where he was apprenticed to an undertaker - where he ran away from

*He stops to catch his breath*

MR BROWNLOW

Yes, yes it's very good of you to come. Now what have you got to tell me?

MR BUMBLE

*(producing the locket with great moment)*

This locket was given by the lad's dying mother to my dear wife just before she passed away. . .The lad's dying mother that is, not my wife.

*WIDOW CORNEY scornfully laughs. BUMBLE hands MR BROWNLOW the locket.*

MR BROWNLOW

You say when he left your work house he went to an undertaker's?

MR BUMBLE

Yes, Mr Sowerberry, the undertaker took Oliver from us for three pounds

MR BROWNLOW

You mean to say that you sold him.....like an animal?

MR BUMBLE

Well, sir, it was Mrs Bumble who actually authorised the sale.

MR BROWNLOW

Really! Then I will see that neither of you is employed in a position of trust again. And your behaviour madam was shameful! Leave my house!

WIDOW CORNEY

*(outraged)*

Oh! How dare you speak so to me, sir! I came here to help you...

MR BROWNLOW

You came here in the hope of profiting from your own greed and dishonesty!

**MR BUMBLE**

*(trying to save the situation)*

As to that, sir - if you consider the trinket don't properly belong to my dear wife...

**WIDOW CORNEY**

Shut up, you old fool!

*BUMBLE subsides, BROWNLOW takes out his wallet. NANCY appears in the background.*

**MR BROWNLOW**

*(taking out some notes)*

Here - ten pounds

*He thrusts the money into WIDOW CORNEY's hands.*

Take it, and consider yourself fortunate that you don't find yourselves in the hands of the law. Mrs Bedwin - show these ghastly people out.

**MR BUMBLE**

I hope Sir that this unfortunate little circumstance will not deprive me of my parochial office?

**MR BROWNLOW**

Indeed it will. And you may think yourself well off besides.

**MR BUMBLE**

Well it was all Mrs Bumble. She would do it.

**MR BROWNLOW**

That is no excuse. You were present on the occasion when the boy was sold, and indeed, are the more guilty of the two - in the eye of the Law. For the Law supposes that your wife acts under your direction.