

SCENE THREE: STREET

(NEWSIES criss-cross the stage selling papers to CUSTOMERS. JACK watches DAVEY's pathetic attempt at selling.)

DAVEY

Paper. Paper. Evenin' pape here.

JACK

Sing 'em to sleep, why don'tcha?

(snatches a paper from DAVEY and hawks it)

Extra! Extra! Terrified flight from burnin' inferno. You heard the story right here!

(A CUSTOMER snatches the paper from JACK, hands him a coin, and exits.)

Thanks!

DAVEY

You just made that up.

JACK

Did not. I said he heard it right here, and he did.

DAVEY

My father taught us not to lie.

JACK

And mine taught me not to starve.

(LES comes up empty-handed, along with CRUTCHIE.)

LES

Hey! Just sold my last paper.

CRUTCHIE

Kid's a natural, Jack.

DAVEY

I got one more.

JACK

Sell it or pay for it.

(LES takes the paper, goes to a WOMAN passing by, and makes a sad face.)

LES

Buy a pape from a poor orphan?

(LES coughs gently.)

WOMAN

Oh, you dear thing. Of course I'll take a newspaper. Here's a dime.

(The WOMAN exits with her paper.)

CRUTCHIE

Born to the breed.

LES

This is so much better than school!

DAVEY

Don't even think it. When Pop goes back to work, we go back to school.

(to JACK)

Our father tangled with a delivery truck on the job. Messed his leg up bad, so they fired him. That's how come we had to find work.

JACK

Yeah, sure, that makes sense. Too bad about your dad.

(WARDEN SNYDER and the POLICE OFFICER stealthily approach JACK. #7 – CHASE.)

CRUTCHIE

Jack, it's Snyder! Am-scray!

SNYDER

Jack Kelly!

JACK

Run for it!

(JACK helps CRUTCHIE as they run off with DAVEY and LES.)

SNYDER

Stop! Officer, grab him. Jack Kelly, you come back here! Get him!

(The POLICE OFFICER and SNYDER exit in pursuit.)