

SCENE SIX*(LIGHTS up.)*

MISS HANNIGAN'S office in the Orphanage, as in SCENE THREE.
MISS HANNIGAN, seated by her desk, notices the time and turns
on the cathedral-style, table-model¹⁰⁰ Philco¹⁰¹ radio)

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

Once again we bring you the romance of Helen Trent... who sets out to prove that just because a woman is thirty-five or more, romance in life need not be over.¹⁰²

MISS HANNIGAN

God, I hope not.

*(GRACE FARRELL ENTERS)***GRACE**

Good afternoon, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN*(Switching off the radio)*

Whatsa matter, Warbucks fed up with Annie already?

GRACE

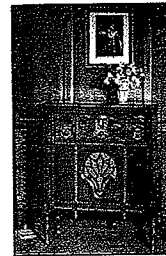
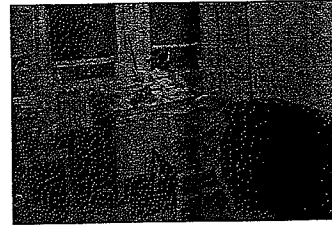
On the contrary...

(Hands MISS HANNIGAN a legal document)

Miss Hannigan, this has to be signed and sent back to the Board of Orphans no later than 10 o'clock tomorrow.

MISS HANNIGAN

What for?



A radio from the period.

¹⁰⁰ Meaning it is a small unit, designed to sit on a tabletop or on a shelf

¹⁰¹ Philco was a popular American radio manufacturer of the era. It later went on to manufacture television sets.

¹⁰² Radio was at the height of its popularity in the 1930s and 1940s, before the advent of television. During the Depression, radio programs provided listeners with a temporary escape from their worries. Radio programming consisted of live music, comedy shows (featuring the likes of Jack Benny, Burns and Allen, Ed Wynn and Amos 'n' Andy) and dramas. Soap operas like "The Romance of Helen Trent" (so called because they were primarily sponsored by soap companies) saw an explosion of popularity in 1933, the year they burst onto the national radio broadcasting scene.

GRACE

Because Mr. Warbucks is so taken with Annie that he wants to adopt her.

MISS HANNIGAN

Annie? The daughter of a millionaire?

GRACE

The daughter of a billionaire.

MISS HANNIGAN

Would you excuse me for a moment, please?

(Goes out into the hallway, lets out a long, loud scream of fury and frustration, then returns to the office)

Got any more wonderful news?

GRACE

Merry Christmas, Miss Hannigan.

(As GRACE EXITS, she bumps into ROOSTER)

ROOSTER

Oops, pardon me, blondie.¹⁰³

(GRACE gives ROOSTER a disdainful look and EXITS; ROOSTER ENTERS)

Hi ya, Sis. Long time no see.

MISS HANNIGAN

Rooster? They finally let you outta prison? What were you in for this time?

ROOSTER

Some old geezer¹⁰⁴ said I swindled¹⁰⁵ him outta eleven hundred bucks.

MISS HANNIGAN

Why'd he say that?

¹⁰³ **blondie:** slang for a person with blonde hair (such as GRACE)

¹⁰⁴ **geezer:** slang for an eccentric old man

¹⁰⁵ **swindle:** to cheat out of money or property

LILY

(ENTERING)

Because the Rooster swindled him outta eleven hundred bucks.

ROOSTER

Sis, I'd like you to meet a friend of mine from...

LILY

Jersey City!¹⁰⁶

MISS HANNIGAN

Rooster, do me a favor. Get outta here.

ROOSTER

So who was the blondie I bumped into when I come in? Looked like she had a couple of dollars.

MISS HANNIGAN

She works for Oliver Warbucks.

LILY

The Oliver Warbucks?

MISS HANNIGAN

Annie, one of the orphans from here, is gettin' adopted by him.

LILY

Crummy orphan!

ROOSTER

Yeah, livin' in the lap of luxury¹⁰⁷ while the two Hannigan kids ended up on the skids!¹⁰⁸

#15

Easy Street

(Rooster, Miss Hannigan, Lily)

(See p. 124 for music)

IT AIN'T FAIR

HOW WE SCROUNGE¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁶ **Jersey City:** a city in northeast New Jersey, across the Hudson River from lower Manhattan

¹⁰⁷ **the lap of luxury:** an expression meaning a state of great wealth and material comfort

¹⁰⁸ **on the skids:** bankrupt, in financial distress

¹⁰⁹ **scrounge:** to beg; also, to rummage around for food and supplies