

(A SERVANT pinches ANNIE.⁷¹ ANNIE reacts)

GRACE

She didn't mean it.

WE'VE NEVER HAD A LITTLE GIRL.

SERVANTS

WE'VE NEVER HAD A LITTLE GIRL.

ANNIE

I'M VERY GLAD TO VOLUNTEER.

GRACE, SERVANTS

WE HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND
YOUR WISH IS OUR COMMAND.

ANNIE

I KNOW I'M GONNA LIKE IT HERE.

GRACE, SERVANTS

(Simultaneously)

WE KNOW YOU'RE GONNA LIKE IT HERE.

ALL

(Spoken)

WELCOME!

(As the APPLAUSE dies, a voice is heard from OFFSTAGE RIGHT)

WARBUCKS

(OFFSTAGE)

Where is everybody?

(OLIVER WARBUCKS, trailed by a uniformed CHAUFFEUR,⁷² comes bustling in. WARBUCKS is carrying a bulging briefcase and the CHAUFFEUR is carrying two suitcases. WARBUCKS takes off his overcoat⁷³ and hands it to DRAKE)

⁷¹ Actor's note: The SERVANT should only pretend to pinch ANNIE, and let ANNIE react as if she has actually been pinched.

⁷² chauffeur: a private driver

⁷³ overcoat: a heavy coat worn over other clothing in times of cold weather

Hello, everybody.

SERVANTS

Sir.

GRACE

Welcome home, Mr. Warbucks.

WARBUCKS

It's good to be home.

DRAKE

How was your flight from Chicago?

WARBUCKS

Not bad... only took eleven hours.⁷⁴ Grace?

GRACE

(Eagerly)

Yes, sir?

WARBUCKS

Messages?

GRACE

(Consulting a notepad)

President Roosevelt⁷⁵ wants you to call him at the White House.



President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

⁷⁴ **Actor's note:** Today the flight from Chicago to New York takes only two to three hours. This line will probably get laughs from the audience, so be prepared!

⁷⁵ President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was thirty-second President of the United States, serving from 1933 to his death in 1945. He was born to a wealthy family and had every advantage money, education and social position can buy. But he also knew great suffering as a result of a bout of polio which left him paralyzed for half of his life. He is best remembered for the many social programs instituted by his administration to lessen the harmful effects of the Depression. These social and economic programs greatly expanded the role of the United States government in the lives of its citizens.

WARBUCKS

I'll get back to him tomorrow.⁷⁶

GRACE

(Trying to introduce ANNIE to WARBUCKS)

Mr. Warbucks...

WARBUCKS

All right, good to see you all again.

SERVANTS

Sir.

WARBUCKS

Drake, dismiss the staff.

DRAKE

Yes, sir.

(The SERVANTS, not including GRACE, EXIT; WARBUCKS turns to speak to GRACE and, for the first time, notices ANNIE)

WARBUCKS

And, Grace, if you'll get your notebook... Who is that?

GRACE

This is Annie, Mr. Warbucks: the orphan who will be with us for Christmas.

WARBUCKS

That's not a boy. Orphans are boys.

GRACE

I'm sorry, sir, you just said "orphan". So, I chose a girl.

WARBUCKS

Well, I suppose she'll have to do.

(Frowningly approaching ANNIE, assessing⁷⁷ her)

Annie, huh? Annie what?

⁷⁶ Note to WARBUCKS: this line is an indication of WARBUCKS' wealth and power; even the President of the United States is of secondary importance to him!

⁷⁷ **assess:** to look over or evaluate

ANNIE

(Nervously)

Oh, I'm just Annie, Mr. Warbucks, sir. I haven't got any last name. I'm sorry I'm not a boy.

WARBUCKS

(Obviously not meaning it)

Not at all. I couldn't be happier. Grace, we'll start with the figures on the iron-ore⁷⁸ shipments from... Toledo⁷⁹ to...

(Made uncomfortable by the presence of ANNIE, aside⁸⁰ to GRACE)

What are we supposed to do with this child?

GRACE

(Aside to WARBUCKS)

It is her first night here, sir.

WARBUCKS

(Aside to GRACE)

Hmm.

(To ANNIE)

Well, Annie, I guess we ought to do something special on your first night.

(Has an idea)

Would you like to go to a movie?⁸¹

ANNIE

(Checking GRACE to see if this would be all right; GRACE nods "yes")

Gosh, Mr. Warbucks, I've never been to one.

⁷⁸ **ore:** a mineral or combination of minerals which can be processed to produce a valuable material, especially a metal (in this case, iron)

⁷⁹ **Toledo:** a city in northwest Ohio, on Lake Erie

⁸⁰ **aside:** a remark made softly, so people close by will not hear — in this case, WARBUCKS makes an aside to GRACE, which ANNIE is not meant to hear. WARBUCKS should lower his voice when he speaks, and ANNIE should pretend she doesn't hear. He should always speak loud enough for the audience to hear, though.

⁸¹ The 1930s are considered the "golden age" of the Hollywood studio film. Sound had been introduced in late 1927, and by the 1930s movie audiences found escape from the misery of the Depression in musicals, westerns, adventure films, gangster movies and screwball comedies starring such actors as Greta Garbo, Mae West, Betty Davis, Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, Gary Cooper, Clark Gable, James Stewart, James Cagney, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

WARBUCKS

Then you'll go to the Roxy.⁸² And then an ice-cream soda at Rumpelmayer's⁸³ and a hansom⁸⁴ cab ride around Central Park.⁸⁵

ANNIE

Golly!

WARBUCKS

Grace, forget about the dictation for tonight. Instead, you take Annie to the movies.

GRACE

Yes, sir.

ANNIE

(Obviously disappointed about something)

Aw, gee.

WARBUCKS

Something the matter, Annie?

ANNIE

It's just that... well... I thought *you* were going to take me.

WARBUCKS

Oh, no, I'm afraid I'll be far too busy tonight.

ANNIE

Aw, gee.

⁸² The Roxy Music Hall, one of the great movie theatres of the era; such theatres were so ornate and spectacular they became known as "movie palaces."

⁸³ A famous ice cream parlor on Central Park in New York City

⁸⁴ **hansom cab:** a two-wheeled covered carriage (pulled by a horse) on which the driver's seat is located above and behind the passenger compartment. Hansom cab rides around Central Park are still available in New York City today.

⁸⁵ **Central Park:** an 840-acre park in the center of Manhattan; Central Park is one of the first public parks designed by landscape architects, and contains numerous walks, lakes and open fields in addition to a zoo, a skating rink, an open-air theatre and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

WARBUCKS

Now, Annie... I've just been away for six weeks. And when a man is running a multi-billion-dollar corporation...

ANNIE

Oh, sure. I know. That's okay, Mr. Warbucks.

WARBUCKS

(Regards⁸⁶ ANNIE and is moved by her disappointment; calls OFFSTAGE LEFT)

Drake!

DRAKE

(From OFFSTAGE LEFT)

Yes, sir?

WARBUCKS

Get our coats.

ANNIE

(Smiling triumphantly; she's won)

Aw, gee!

WARBUCKS

Grace, you'll come, too, of course.

*& chauffeur -
(GRACE nods "yes" as DRAKE ENTERS with three coats)*

~~DRAKE~~ Chauffeur

Which car will you be wanting, sir?

WARBUCKS

The Duesenberg.⁸⁷ No, wait. This child's been cooped up in an Orphanage. We'll walk.

GRACE

Walk to the Roxy?

⁸⁶ regard: to consider

⁸⁷ Duesenberg: one of the grandest luxury automobiles of the era, advertised as "The World's Finest Motor Car." Today, automobile collectors pay upwards of one million dollars for a Duesenberg.

WARBUCKS

Why not? It's only 45 blocks.

GRACE

Yes, sir!

(As DRAKE helps WARBUCKS into his coat, the set begins to change to become upper Fifth Avenue.⁸⁸ WARBUCKS strolls DOWNSTAGE while GRACE and ANNIE get into their coats behind him)

WARBUCKS

Ah, smell those bus fumes!⁸⁹ There's no air like the air of New York. Come on, you slowpokes! We gotta get to the Roxy before the prices change.

(LIGHTS crossfade as SCENE FOUR blends into SCENE FIVE)

END OF SCENE FOUR

⁸⁸ Fifth Avenue, which divides Manhattan's East Side from its West Side, is known for its elegant residences and exclusive shops. Today, many of the city's major museums are located on Fifth Avenue, as is the Empire State Building.

⁸⁹ Public buses make up one half of the New York City public transportation system. The other half consists of the subway system, an underground network of trains.