

AUDITION SIDE #1
(Annie & Orphans)

(Shortly after 3am on a chilly morning in December 1933. All are asleep in the dormitory)

MOLLY

(Awakening from a dream and crying out)

Mama! Mama! Mommy!

PEPPER

(Sitting up)

Shut up!

DUFFY

Can't anybody get any sleep around here?

MOLLY

Mama. Mommy.

PEPPER

I said, shut your trap, Molly.

(Pepper shoves Molly to the floor downstage centre)

JULY

Ahhh, stop shovin' the poor kid. She ain't doin' nuthin' to you.

PEPPER

She's keepin' me awake, ain't she?

JULY

No, you're keeping us awake -

PEPPER

I am not!

JULY

You are too!

(PEPPER and JULY fight)

JULY

Ah, you think you're Jack Dempsey, do ya?

PEPPER

And you're lookin' for a knuckle sandwich!

TESSIE

(Whining)

Oh my goodness, oh my goodness, they're fightin' again....

*(ANNIE, who is 11 runs in with a bucket. SHE has been up cleaning.
SHE breaks up the fight)*

ANNIE

Pipe down, ALL of ya! Do you want Miss Hannigan to come in here? Go back to sleep!

MOLLY

(Rubbing her eyes...still half asleep)

Annie...Annie...

ANNIE

(To MOLLY)

It's all right, Molly. Annie's here.

MOLLY

It was my mama, Annie. We was ridin' on the ferry boat. She was holding me up to see all the big ships - and then she was walkin' away wavin'. And I couldn't find her no more...any place...

(ANNIE holds a hanky for MOLLY)

ANNIE

Blow!

(MOLLY blows her nose loudly)

It was only a dream, honey. Now you gotta go back to sleep. It's after three o'clock.

MOLLY

Annie...read me your note

ANNIE

My note? Again?

MOLLY

Pleeease.

ANNIE

Sure, Molly.

PEPPER

Here it comes again. Aargh!

ANNIE

(ANNIE takes a crumpled note from her pocket, unfolds it and reads it to MOLLY)

"Please take good care of our little darling. Her name is Annie..."

DUFFY

(Mockingly, she has heard this note read a thousand times before)

"She was born on October 28th. We will be back to get her soon."

PEPPER

(Mockingly)

"We have left half of a silver locket around her neck and kept the other half..."

(KATE and DUFFY join PEPPER)

PEPPER, DUFFY & KATE

"...so that when we come back for her you will know that she's our baby."

(They all laugh)

TESSIE

Oh my goodness, now they're laughing.

ANNIE

(To the OTHERS)

All right. Do you wanna sleep with your teeth inside your mouth...or out!?!?

(ANNIE lovingly folds her note and puts it back in her pocket)

MOLLY

Gee, I dream about havin' a mother and father again. But you're lucky. You really got'em

AUDITION SIDE #2
(Miss Hannigan, Grace, Annie)

GRACE

Good afternoon, Miss Hannigan?

MISS HANNIGAN

Yeah?

GRACE

(extends her hand)

Oh, good. I'm Grace Farrell.

MISS HANNIGAN

(looks at her hand)

So?

GRACE

The New York City Board of orphans suggested that I...

MISS HANNIGAN

(Panics)

Wait! Hold it! I can explain everything! It wasn't my fault. It was Annie, you see, who got into Bundles' laundry bin and....

GRACE

Miss Hannigan, I....

MISS HANNIGAN

..and sure, I know I should've called Mr. Donatelli instead of the cops, but I panicked and...

GRACE

Miss Hannigan, I'm sorry, but I haven't the slightest idea what you're talking about...

MISS HANNIGAN

Wait a minute. Hold it sister. I get it.

(referring to Grace's briefcase)

If it's beauty products you're peddling, I don't need any. Get out.

GRACE

Miss Hannigan. I'm not "peddling" anything. I'm private secretary to Oliver Warbucks...

MISS HANNIGAN

(interrupting)

Oliver Warbucks? *THE* Oliver Warbucks?

(quickly changes her tone. Offers Grace a chair)

Love the hat!

GRACE

Mr Warbucks has decided to invite an orphan to spend the Christmas holidays at his home.

MISS HANNIGAN

An orphan? You sure he wouldn't rather have a lady? I got two weeks comin'

(A long look at GRACE)

It's a joke. What sort of orphan did you have in mind?

GRACE

Well, she should be friendly.

(Unseen by Hannigan, ANNIE waves to GRACE)

And intelligent

ANNIE

Mississippi. Capital M-I double-S-I double S-I double P-I. Mississippi

GRACE

And Cheerful

(ANNIE laughs a big laugh)

MISS HANNIGAN

(Swats at ANNIE to quiet her)

You! Shut up! And how old?

GRACE

Oh, age doesn't really matter. Say, eight or nine.

(ANNIE gestures upward to indicate she wants GRACE to say a higher age)

Ten.

(ANNIE gestures still higher)

Eleven.

(ANNIE gestures to GRACE to stop and then points to her own hair)

Yes, eleven would be perfect. And, oh I almost forgot. Mr. Warbucks prefers red-headed children.

MISS HANNIGAN

Eleven year old red-head. Nope. I'm afraid we don't have any orphans like that around here.

GRACE

What about this child right here?

(BOTH looking at ANNIE)

MISS HANNIGAN

(grabbing ANNIE)

Annie? Oh, no, you wouldn't want her....

(struggling for an excuse)

She's....she's a drunk...and a liar! A drunk and a liar.

GRACE

Yes. I'm sure she's a drunk and a liar. Annie. Come here. Annie, would you like to spend the next two weeks at Mr. Warbucks' house?

ANNIE

Oh boy! I would love to. I would *REALLY* love to!

MISS HANNIGAN

(Pulling ANNIE to her)

You can have any orphan here, but not Annie.

GRACE

Perhaps I should call Mr Donatelli at the Board of Orphans and...

(MISS HANNIGAN laughs)

MISS HANNIGAN

(Pushing ANNIE back to GRACE and giving up)

If it's Annie you want, it's Annie you get.

AUDITION SIDE #3
(Annie, Warbucks & Grace)

(ANNIE enters)

WARBUCKS

Hello. Annie, can we have a man-to-man talk?

ANNIE

You're sending me back to the Orphanage, right?

WARBUCKS

Of course not.

(Pause)

Annie, I was born into a very poor family and both of my parents died before I was ten. So I made a promise to myself -- someday, one way or another, I was going to be rich. Very rich.

ANNIE

That was a good idea.

WARBUCKS

But, I've lately realized something. No matter how much money you've got, if you have no one to share your life with, if you're alone, then you might as well be broke.

(Takes the Tiffany's package from his desk and hands it to ANNIE)

I was in Tiffany's yesterday and picked this up for you.

ANNIE

For me? Gee, thanks, Mr. Warbucks.

(Opens up the package and looks at the gift. She is clearly unhappy with it, but pretends to like it)

Oh. Gee.

WARBUCKS

It's a silver locket, Annie. I noticed that old, broken one you always wear and I said to myself, "I'm going to get that kid a nice new locket."

(Starting to take off ANNIE'S OLD LOCKET)

Here, we'll just take this old one off and...

ANNIE

(Recoiling from WARBUCKS and stopping him)

No! I don't want a new one.!

WARBUCKS

(Following ANNIE as she cowers back from him)

Annie, what is it?

ANNIE

(Growing gradually into tears; fingering her locket)

This locket, my Mom and Dad left it... when they left me at the Orphanage. And a note, too. They're coming back for me. I know I'm real lucky, being here with you for Christmas. But... the one thing I want in all the world...

(Crying)

...is to find my mother and father. And to be like other kids, with folks of my own.

(ANNIE goes sobs. ANNIE runs to GRACE, who has returned at the sound of her hysterics. GRACE embraces and attempts to comfort while WARBUCKS stands helpless, dazed, totally unable to cope with a crying child)

WARBUCKS

It'll be all right... I'll find them... I'll find your parents for you.

GRACE

Shh, shh. Mr. Warbucks will find your mother and father. If he has to put everyone in his organization on the job. If he has to pull every political string there is to pull.

WARBUCKS

Up to and including the White House! Annie, give me your locket.

ANNIE

But, Mr. Warbucks...

WARBUCKS

I understand. But it could be our best clue. We'll have the F.B.I. trace it and find out who bought it.

ANNIE

(Somewhat reluctantly taking off her locket and handing it to WARBUCKS, while also taking her crumpled note out of her pocket)

Okay. And maybe they should have my note, too.

WARBUCKS

(Taking the note from ANNIE)

You watch Annie, you may be meeting your mother and father within a couple of days.

ANNIE

Really?

WARBUCKS

Really.

**AUDITION SIDE #4
(Miss Hannigan & Annie)**

(MISS HANNIGAN, wearing a bathrobe, flings open her door and, witch-like, stands bathed in white light before ANNIE)

MISS HANNIGAN

Aha! Caught you!

(Flings ANNIE to the floor and switches on the hallway light. LIGHTS brighten)

I hear ya, brat. I ALWAYS hear ya. Get up. I said, get up!

ANNIE

(Getting up, warily)

Yes, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN

There! Now, what do you say? What... do... you... say?

ANNIE

(Reluctantly; through her teeth)

I love you, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN

Rotten orphan.

ANNIE

(Angrily)

I'm not an orphan. My mother and father left a note saying they loved me and they were coming back for me!

MISS HANNIGAN

That was 1922; this is 1933.

(laughing)

They must've got stuck in traffic.

(Switches on the LIGHT in the dormitory, sticks her head through the door and BLOWS her whistle)

You in here! Get up! Get up! Now, for this one's shenanigans, you'll scrub this floor and strip them beds for the laundry man. Then you'll all get down on your knobby little knees and clean this dump until it shines like the top of the Chrysler Building!

ANNIE & ORPHANS

Yes, Miss Hannigan

MISS HANNIGAN

Get to work. Now!

...Why any kid would want to be an orphan, I'll never know.

AUDITION SIDE #7
(Warbucks, Grace, Annie & Drake)

WARBUCKS

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

DRAKE

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. Grace?

GRACE

(Eagerly)

Yes, sir?

WARBUCKS

Messages?

GRACE

(consulting a notepad)

John D Rockefeller, Mahatma Gandhi and Harpo Marx.

WARBUCKS

Ah good. Nothing urgent. What did Harpo want?

GRACE

He didn't say.

(Trying to introduce ANNIE to WARBUCKS)

Mr. Warbucks...

WARBUCKS

All right, good to see you all again.

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, assessing her)

Annie, huh? Annie what?

ANNIE

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-ore shipments from... Toledo to...

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

What are we supposed to do with this child?

GRACE

(Whispers to Warbucks)

It is her first night here.

WARBUCKS

Well, then I suppose we ought to do something special. Would you like to go to a movie?

ANNIE

Oh boy Mr Warbucks. I'd love! I'd really love to! I mean, I've heard a lot about them, but I've never been to one.

WARBUCKS

Then we've got to do something about that right away. And nothing but the best for you, Annie. Grace, forget about the dictation tonight. We'll do it first thing in the morning.

GRACE

Yes, sir.

WARBUCKS

Instead you'll take Annie to the movies.

ANNIE

Aw gee....

(Obviously disappointed)

I thought *you* were going to take me.

WARBUCKS

Me? Oh no, I'm afraid that I'll be far too busy tonight to....

ANNIE

(turning on the charm)

Aw, gee...

WARBUCKS

You see Annie, when a man is running a multi-billion-dollar corporation that has...

ANNIE

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

(Giving him puppy-dog eyes. The look every daughter knows how to give her father when she wants something from him.) (GRACE gestures for him to do something.)

WARBUCKS

(Sighs....giving in reluctantly)

Drake. Our coats.

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

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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

(As ANNIE finishes her song
APPLAUSE SIGN to the AU

BERT HEALY reads from a script
the show. Occasionally, ALL drop finished pages to the floor)¹²²

HEALY

Thank you, Annie. And welcome to America's favorite radio program, the Oxydent Hour of Smiles, starring your old softy,¹²³ Bert Healy. And good evening, Oliver Warbucks, it's nice of you to drop by.

WARBUCKS

(Reading)

Good evening, Bert Healy. It's nice to be here.

HEALY

Oliver Warbucks, I understand that you have something to tell the folks at home about little Annie here.

WARBUCKS

Yes, Bert Healy, I am now conducting a coast-to-coast nationwide search for Annie's parents. Furthermore, I'm offering a certified check for fifty thousand dollars to any persons who can prove that they are Annie's parents.

ANNIE

Wow!

HEALY

So, Annie's parents, if you're listenin' in, write to Oliver Warbucks care of this station. Thank you, Oliver Warbucks.

WARBUCKS

Thank you, Bert Healy.

HEALY

Well, I see by the old clock on the wall that another of our Thursday-night get-togethers has gone by faster than you can say Oxydent. Yes, this is your old softy, Mrs. Healy's boy, Bert, saying, "until next week, same time, same station..." Good night.

*Ladies Oxydent Girls
2X*

*2nd time
end
on mi*

¹²² Before the advent of the magnetic tape recorder, most radio shows were broadcast live. Shows were often meticulously scripted in order to minimize the number of things that could go wrong during the live broadcast. Much of the humor in this scene comes from the fact that even WARBUCKS' "spontaneous" responses to BERT HEALY are scripted.

¹²³ **softy**: slang for a sentimental person