

WARBUCKS

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

GRACE

(eagerly)

Yes, sir?

WARBUCKS

Messages?

GRACE

(consulting a notepad)

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

WARBUCKS

I'll get back to him tomorrow.

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.

(frowning, he approaches ANNIE, assessing her)

Annie, huh? Annie what?



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

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

(aside to GRACE)

What are we supposed to do with this child?

GRACE*(aside to WARBUCKS)*

It is her first night here, sir.

WARBUCKS

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?

(ANNIE checks in with GRACE to see if this would be all right. GRACE nods "yes.")

ANNIE

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

WARBUCKS

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

ANNIE

Golly!

WARBUCKS

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

GRACE

Yes, sir.

ANNIE*(disappointed)*

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.

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

(regards 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.

(GRACE nods "yes" as DRAKE enters with three coats.)

DRAKE

Which car will you be wanting, sir?

WARBUCKS

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

GRACE

Walk to the Roxy?

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. WARBUCKS strolls downstage while GRACE and ANNIE get into their coats behind him.)

