

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)*

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. 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.

*(Frowningly approaching 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

*(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

*(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?

ANNIE

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

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 handsome 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

*(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.