

Call Back Side Warbucks Annie Grace

START

WARBUCKS

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

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

GRACE

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

WARBUCKS

The orphan? But that's not a boy. Orphans are boys.

GRACE

(The feminist in her answering gingerly.)

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

WARBUCKS

(Cowed)

Oh. Well, I suppose she'll have to do.

(To ANNIE, assessing her)

Annie, huh? Annie what?

ANNIE

(Frightened, confused)

Sir?

WARBUCKS

What's your last name, child?

ANNIE

(Nervously)

Oh, I'm just Annie, sir. Mr. Warbucks. I haven't got any last name. That I know of.

WARBUCKS

So, you're just Annie, huh?

ANNIE

Just Annie.

(GRACE sends ANNIE over to WARBUCKS. SHE lands at HIS belly button)

I'm sorry that I'm not a boy.

WARBUCKS

(Not knowing what exactly to say)

I don't suppose you'd like to meet Babe Ruth?

ANNIE

(Eagerly, trying to please)

Oh, boy. Sure.

(ANNIE thinks about it for a second)

Who's Babe Ruth?

WARBUCKS

(Leaving HER, as SHE walks dejectedly downstage)

I couldn't be happier that you'll be spending Christmas with us. Grace, we'll start with the figures on the iron-ore shipments from ... Toledo to ...

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

What are we supposed to do with this child?

GRACE

(Whispers to WARBUCKS)

It is her first night here, sir.

WARBUCKS

It is? Oh. Hmm.

(To ANNIE)

Well, Annie, your first night here, I guess we ought to do something special for you.

(Ponders)

Why don't you sit down.

(ANNIE races to chair and sits. GRACE and WARBUCKS whisper behind chair about what to do with ANNIE. GRACE pantomimes a movie. WARBUCKS doesn't get it)

ANNIE

A movie!

WARBUCKS

Would you like to go to a movie?

ANNIE

Gosh, sure, Mr. Warbucks, I'd love to. I mean, I heard a lot about them, but I've never been to one.

WARBUCKS

Never?

ANNIE

No, sir.

WARBUCKS

Well, then we've got to do something about that right away. And nothing but the best for you, Annie.

(Remembering)

You'll go to the Roxy. Then an ice-cream soda at Rumplemeyer's and a hansom cab ride around Central Park.

ANNIE

Golly.

WARBUCKS

Grace, forget about the dictation for tonight. We'll do it first thing in the morning.

GRACE

Yes, sir.

WARBUCKS

Instead, you take Annie to the movies.

GRACE

Yes, sir.

ANNIE

(Obviously disappointed about something)

Aw, gee.

WARBUCKS

Something the matter, Annie?

ANNIE

Nothing, sir. It's just ... aw, gee.

WARBUCKS

No, what is it, child? You don't want to go to the Roxy?

ANNIE

No, I want to. It's just that, well ... I thought *you* were going to take me.

WARBUCKS

(Put off)

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, I've just been away for six weeks. Making an inspection tour of my factories. Or what's left of my factories with this damned Depression.

(Phone rings. GRACE picks it up)

And when a man is running a multi-billion-dollar corporation that has ...

ANNIE

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

GRACE

(To WARBUCKS, holding out the phone)

Excuse me, sir. Bernard Baruch calling.

WARBUCKS

Good.

(WARBUCKS crosses and talks into the phone while ANNIE wanders down center glancing over her shoulder at HIM from time to time, imploringly, with cocker-spaniel-like eyes, giving him the look that every father who has ever had a daughter who wanted something from him, knows all too well)

Hello, Barney. Yes, I got in an hour ago. No, Detroit and Chicago. Barney, I didn't like what I saw out there. Factories shut down. *MY* factories shut down ... You're damn...

(WARBUCKS realizes ANNIE is standing next to him and changes his 'damn' to 'darn')

(WARBUCKS)

You're darned tootin', when I'm not making money, nobody is. And gosh darn it, Barney, your pal Roosevelt has got to do something drastic. He's got to come up with a new approach, a new plan, a new ... something ... Yes, I know he's a Democrat but he's a human being, too. ... Yes, I'll talk to you about it. Come over here tonight ... Good, we'll be able to ... I can show you the ... Barney, make it tomorrow. Tonight ... tonight I've got a date to go to the movies. With a ten-year-old girl.

ANNIE

(Smiling triumphantly, she's won)

Eleven.

WARBUCKS

I was mistaken, she's eleven. 'Bye, Barney.