

Speaking Parts
to audition for
Warbucks

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.

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?

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.

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

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

WARBUCKS

Grace?

GRACE

Yes, sir?

WARBUCKS

Do you have those legal papers I gave you the other day?

GRACE

Right here!

WARBUCKS

(CROSSES to the settee with ANNIE and sits)

Annie. I want to adopt you.

ANNIE

Adopt me?

WARBUCKS

Yes or no?

ANNIE

If I can't have my real mother and father, there's no one in the world I'd rather have for a father than you, Mr. Warbucks!

(THEY hug.)

As ANNIE and WARBUCKS embrace, GRACE starts to join them, but then catches herself, realizing that it is their moment, and steps back in embarrassment)

WARBUCKS

(Picking up ANNIE and swinging her around)

Annie, this isn't just going to be an adoption, it's going to be a celebration! And you can have anyone in the world you want to come to it. Who would you like?

ANNIE

Well, I guess I'd like Miss Farrell here. And Mr. Drake. And Mrs. Pugh. And, well, everybody here.

WARBUCKS

Drake?

DRAKE

(ENTERING)

Yes, sir.

WARBUCKS

Tell the staff to get spiffed up.¹³⁸ They're going to be the guests at Annie's adoption party.

ROOSTER

(To WARBUCKS and GRACE, taking out a piece of locket)

When we left Annie at the Orphanage, we left half of a silver locket with her and kept the other half.

(Fits it quickly to ANNIE'S LOCKET and then puts it back in his pocket)

Yes. It fits perfectly.

LILY

Oh, thank God, Ralph, she's our Annie.

WARBUCKS

Mr. Mudge, what about the money?

ROOSTER

Well, we ain't got much, but we'd be glad to give you whatever...

WARBUCKS

You haven't heard that I've offered a certified check for fifty thousand dollars to anyone who can prove they are Annie's parents?

ROOSTER

No, sir. Anyway, we don't want no money.

LILY

On the other hand, Ralph, remember that little pig farm out in New Jersey? With fifty thousand dollars, we could afford to bring Annie up right. In the country.

WARBUCKS

Would you mind if Annie stayed here until tomorrow morning, Christmas? Then you could come back to pick up Annie and the check.

ROOSTER

Whatever you prefer, sir.

LILY

'Bye, Annie, love.

ROOSTER

Until tomorrow morning, honey. And then you'll be spendin' the rest of your life with us.

(As ROOSTER and LILY step back toward the door, ROOSTER bumps into GRACE, as in SCENE SIX)

Oops, pardon me, blondie. Merry Christmas.

(Suspicious, GRACE watches as ROOSTER and LILY EXIT STAGE RIGHT. ALL, especially ANNIE, are deeply steeped in gloom)

WARBUCKS

Well... this is...

GRACE

Wonderful news.

WARBUCKS

Drake. Champagne.

DRAKE

Yes, sir.

WARBUCKS

We must celebrate. Because we've just had the most wonderful news in the world. Annie has found her mother and father. I propose a toast.

(ALL raise glasses)

To Annie Mudge.

GRACE

To Annie Mudge.

(ANNIE looks at the glasses, extended in toast, and bolts upstairs and EXITS. GRACE follows ANNIE halfway upstairs)

Annie!

WARBUCKS

I've lost her. I've lost Annie.

GRACE

Sir, I have the strangest feeling that I've seen that Mr. Mudge before, that he's not who he says he is.

WARBUCKS

Then I won't give her up 'til we're certain.

GRACE

But how...?

WARBUCKS

I'll find a way! I'll go straight to the top — to the President of the United States. Even if he is a Democrat!