

#1 *Overture*¹ (Optional)

(Orchestra)

SCENE ONE#2 *Maybe — Underscore*

(Annie)

(The CURTAIN rises on the New York City Municipal Orphanage — Girls' Annex.² "Maybe" underscores³ the following scene.

Shortly after three a.m. on a chilly morning in early December, 1933.

The stage is nearly dark. Asleep in the dormitory⁴ are [six] ORPHANS — MOLLY, the littlest, who is 6; KATE, the next-to-littlest, who is 7; TESSIE, the cry baby, who is 10; PEPPER, the toughest, who is 12; JULY, the quietest, who is 13; and DUFFY, the biggest, who is also 13.

NOTE: In addition to the six speaking ORPHANS, producers may wish to add ADDITIONAL ORPHANS. If so, dialogue written for the six speaking ORPHANS may be distributed, as necessary, among the ADDITIONAL ORPHANS — or the ADDITIONAL ORPHANS may simply be organized as GROUP ONE, GROUP TWO, GROUP THREE, etc.)

MOLLY

(Awaking from a dream and crying out)

Mama! Mama! Mommy!

PEPPER

Shut up!

DUFFY

Can't anybody get any sleep around here?



¹ **overture:** a piece of music played before the start of an opera or musical, often incorporating music from the work

² **municipal:** of or pertaining to a local government; **annex:** a subsidiary building or wing to a building

³ **underscore:** to play underneath a scene in order to clarify or heighten its mood

⁴ **dormitory:** a room for sleeping

MOLLY

Mama. Mommy.

PEPPER

I said shut your trap,⁵ Molly.

(Shoves MOLLY to the floor,⁶ DOWNSTAGE CENTER)

JULY

Ahh, stop shovin' the poor kid. She ain't doin' nuthin' to you.⁷

PEPPER

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

JULY

No, you're keeping us awake —

PEPPER

You wanna make somethin' out of it?

JULY

How 'bout I make a pancake outta you?

(PEPPER and JULY fight)

TESSIE

Oh my goodness, oh my goodness,⁸ they're fightin' and I won't get no sleep all night. Oh my goodness, oh my goodness.

⁵ **trap:** slang for "mouth"

⁶ **Actor's note:** MOLLY should merely *appear* to get shoved to the floor. Remember, theatre is about illusion, not physical violence! Here's what to do: PEPPER should grab MOLLY'S shoulder and pull up (gently) while MOLLY flings herself to the floor. MOLLY should always be in control of the situation!

⁷ Sometimes pages from a script will contain misspelled words (like "nuthin'" instead of "nothing"). These words should be pronounced as spelled, and are meant to reflect the characters' styles of speech.

⁸ **Actor's note:** This exclamation ("oh my goodness, oh my goodness") is one of TESSIE'S **idiosyncrasies**. An **idiosyncrasy** is an unusual characteristic that makes someone special or memorable. See if you can discover or invent idiosyncrasies for the other characters in *Annie*.

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

ANNIE

Pipe down,⁹ all of ya. Go back to sleep.

(To MOLLY)

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

MOLLY

It was my Mama, Annie. We was ridin' on the ferryboat.¹⁰ And she was holdin' me up to see all the big ships. And then I couldn't find her no more.

(ANNIE holds a hanky¹¹ for MOLLY)

ANNIE

Blow. 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

Again?

MOLLY

Please?

ANNIE

Sure, Molly.

PEPPER

Here it comes again.

⁹ **pipe down:** slang for "be quiet"

¹⁰ **ferryboat:** a boat that brings passengers or goods across a narrow body of water such as a river. The Staten Island Ferry, for example, takes passengers from Manhattan to Staten Island, across New York Harbor.

¹¹ **hanky:** slang for "handkerchief"

ANNIE

(Takes a crumpled note¹² from her pocket, unfolds it and reads it to MOLLY¹³)

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

KATE

(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 locket¹⁴ around her neck and kept the other half —

PEPPER, DUFFY, KATE

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

TESSIE

Oh my goodness, oh my goodness, now they're laughing.

ANNIE

(To the OTHERS)

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

(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.

#3

*Maybe**(Annie)*

(See p. 108 for music)

ANNIE

(Fingering her locket)

I know.

¹² The note is crumpled because it is old; ANNIE has had it her entire life and has read it countless times. **Actor's note:** ANNIE should handle the note with great care; keep in mind it is her only link to her parents.

¹³ **Actor's note:** ANNIE might be tempted to write her line on the note, so she won't have to memorize it; however, what if the ink gets smudged, or part of the note gets torn off? The safest thing is to memorize the line and pretend to read it off of the note.

¹⁴ **locket:** a little case which usually hangs on a chain and is worn as either a necklace or bracelet