

SCENE SEVEN*(LIGHTS up.**WARBUCKS' office in his mansion.**Late morning of the following day.**WARBUCKS is seated at his desk, talking on the telephone. GRACE is nearby with a steno¹¹¹ pad)***WARBUCKS***(Into the phone)*

Yes... Yes, Mr. President. No, I am not asking for your help, but I'm telling you that you've got to do something. All right, we'll talk about it on...

GRACE

Friday.

WARBUCKS

Friday. Listen, Mister President, why don't we bury the hatchet and you come here with Mrs. Roosevelt for supper Christmas Eve?

(Disappointed)

You will? Wonderful. Goodbye, Mister President.

(Hangs up phone)

Grace, find out what Democrats¹¹² eat.

GRACE

Yes, sir.

WARBUCKS

The package from Tiffany's?¹¹³

GRACE

Arrived this morning.

¹¹¹ short for "stenographer's pad". A **stenographer** is someone who is employed to take dictation, often with a special system of writing called "shorthand."

¹¹² **Democrat**: a member of the Democratic Party, one of the two major political organizations in the United States. ROOSEVELT was a member of the Democratic Party. WARBUCKS is a member of the Republican Party, the other major political group.

¹¹³ **Tiffany & Co.**: a famous Fifth Avenue jeweler, now over 100 years old

WARBUCKS

Fine. I'm going to give it to her and then tell her that I want to adopt her.

GRACE

She's going to be the happiest little girl in the world.

WARBUCKS

Get her down here.

GRACE

Yes, sir.

(EXITS STAGE RIGHT.)

ANNIE ENTERS. SHE is now dressed in a red dress and her hair is curled to look for the first time as she does in "Little Orphan Annie.")

ANNIE

Hello.

WARBUCKS

Annie, can we have a man-to-man talk?

ANNIE

You're sending me back to the Orphanage, right?

WARBUCKS

Of course not.

(Pause)

Annie, I was born into a very poor family and both of my parents died before I was ten. So I made a promise to myself — someday, one way or another, I was going to be rich. Very rich.

ANNIE

That was a good idea.

WARBUCKS

But, I've lately realized something. No matter how much money you've got, if you have no one to share your life with, if you're alone, then you might as well be broke.¹¹⁴

(Takes the Tiffany's package from his desk and hands it to

ANNIE)

I was in Tiffany's yesterday and picked this up for you.

¹¹⁴ broke: slang for "bankrupt"

ANNIE

For me? Gee, thanks, Mr. Warbucks.

(Opens up the package and looks at the gift. She is clearly unhappy with it, but pretends to like it)

Oh. Gee.

WARBUCKS

It's a silver locket, Annie. I noticed that old, broken one you always wear, and I said to myself, "I'm going to get that kid a nice new locket."

(Starting to take off ANNIE'S OLD LOCKET)

Here, we'll just take this old one off and...

ANNIE

(Recoiling from WARBUCKS; yelling)

No! I don't want a new one.

WARBUCKS

(Following ANNIE as she cowers back from him)

Annie, what is it?

ANNIE

(Going gradually into hysterics and tears; fingering her locket)

This locket, my Mom and Dad left it... when they left me at the Orphanage. And a note, too. They're coming back for me. I know I'm real lucky, being here with you for Christmas. But... the one thing I want in all the world...

(Crying)

... is to find my mother and father. And to be like other kids, with folks of my own.

(ANNIE goes into a hysterical crying fit. ANNIE runs to GRACE, who has returned at the sound of her hysterics. GRACE embraces and attempts to comfort her while WARBUCKS stands helpless, dazed, totally unable to cope with a crying child)

WARBUCKS

It'll be all right... I'll find them... I'll find your parents for you.

GRACE

Shh, shh. Mr. Warbucks will find your mother and father. If he has to put everyone in his organization on the job. If he has to pull every political string there is to pull.¹¹⁵

WARBUCKS

Up to and including the White House! Annie, give me your locket.

¹¹⁵ Meaning WARBUCKS will use every political connection at his disposal.

ANNIE

But, Mr. Warbucks...

WARBUCKS

I understand. But it could be our best clue. We'll have the F.B.I.¹¹⁶ trace it and find out who bought it.

#17 *You Won't Be An Orphan For Long* (Warbucks, Annie)

(See p. 126 for music)

ANNIE

(Somewhat reluctantly taking off her locket and handing it to WARBUCKS, while also taking her crumpled note out of her pocket)

Okay. And maybe they should have my note, too.

WARBUCKS

(Taking the note from ANNIE)

You watch, Annie, you may be meeting your mother and father within a couple of days.

ANNIE

Really?

WARBUCKS

Really.

ANNIE

Oh, boy, I gotta write a letter to the kids about this!

(ANNIE runs to WARBUCKS' desk, sits down at it, and takes up a pen to write as the SERVANTS EXIT. GRACE starts to leave, but lingers¹¹⁷ near the door)

WARBUCKS

(Quietly)

WHAT A THING
TO OCCUR:
FINDING THEM,
LOSING HER.

¹¹⁶ **F.B.I.:** the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a government agency which investigates crimes against the federal government.

¹¹⁷ **linger:** to delay in leaving