## Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks

A powerful, self-assured billionaire who always has his mind on business. While sometimes gruff and abrupt he has a kind heart. At first he is awkwardly affectionate toward Annie, but he soon finds himself completely charmed by her. He must appear middle-aged, self-assured and confident.

He has over 100 lines and sings in 6 numbers. Vocal range: Baritone

Acting age: 50-60

Libretto audition: A1 S5: P49 to P54; A1 S8: P70 to P76

Music audition: Something Was Missing: bars 2 to 66

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## MRS. PUGH

Kentucky fried chicken...

## **WARBUCKS**

Wonderful.

## MRS. PUGH

AND, Baked...

## **WARBUCKS**

(Nicely. He doesn't want to get on HER bad side)

I won't be having dinner tonight. I've got hours of paperwork to get through.

## MRS. PUGH

(Crumpling the menu)

Wonderful.

## WARBUCKS

And, Grace, I'll need you for dictation.

## **GRACE**

Yes, sir.

## WARBUCKS

All right, good to see you all again.

## **SERVANTS**

(Bowing or courtseying)

Sir.

## **WARBUCKS**

Drake, dismiss the staff.

## **DRAKE**

Yes, sir.

## 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.

(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.

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.

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')

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.

(HE hangs up. Glares at ANNIE, giving her a fake smile right back)

Drake?

## **DRAKE**

(From off-stage left)

Yes, sir?

## **WARBUCKS**

Coats.

## **DRAKE**

(From off-stage left)

Yes, sir.

## **WARBUCKS**

Grace, you'll come, too, of course.

## **GRACE**

Yes, sir.

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## WARBUCKS

(Into the phone)

Yes ... yes ... yes ... Mister President, I'll grant you that Barney Baruch and I are not exactly standing on breadlines, yet... No, I am not asking for your help. I've never asked for any man's help and I never will ... but I'm telling you that you've got to do something and do it damn fast. All right, we'll talk about it on ...

## **GRACE**

(Consulting her pad)

Friday.

## **WARBUCKS**

All right, Friday, at the White House. Goodbye, Mr...

(GRACE indicates that HE should ease up on the President)

Listen, Mister President, why don't we bury the hatchet and you come here with rs. Roosevelt for supper Christmas Eve on your way to Hyde Park. Good, I'm delighted. Goodbye Mister President.

(Hangs up phone)

If I thought he was going to say "yes" I never would have asked him. Grace, call Al Smith and find out what Democrats eat.

#### **GRACE**

(With a smile)

Yes sir.

## **WARBUCKS**

(Casually)

The package from Tiffany's?

## **GRACE**

Yes, sir. Arrived this morning.

(SHE takes out a little blue Tiffany box tied with a white ribbon)

## **WARBUCKS**

(Nervously)

Fine. I'm going to give this thing to her and then tell her that I want to adopt her. Where is Annie?

## **GRACE**

She's upstairs in her room, sir. Writing another letter to her friends at the Orphanage. I'll have Drake call her.

(SHE hands HIM the box.)

# **WARBUCKS**Fine. (*A beat*)

(11 06111

Damn.

## **GRACE**

You don't have to be nervous, sir. She's going to be the happiest little girl in the world.

## **WARBUCKS**

Damn right she is and I'm not nervous and get her down here.

## **GRACE**

Yes, sir.

(GRACE exits. HE looks at the box and the music begins)

(GRACE crosses to the door, Stage right, and calls off)

Drake. Mr. Warbucks will see ANNIE now.

## **DRAKE**

(Off-stage right)

Miss Annie, Mr. Warbucks will see you now.

## **ANNIE**

(Off-stage right)

Thank you, Mr. Drake.

(ANNIE enters and goes directly behind WARBUCKS.)

## **ANNIE**

Hello.

## **WARBUCKS**

Hello, Annie. How are you today?

## **ANNIE**

Fine, thank you. How are you, sir?

## **BOTH**

(Back and forth)

Fine...fine...fine...

## **WARBUCKS**

(Stops her)

Annie, the time has come for the two of us to have a very serious discussion.

## **ANNIE**

(Not feeling sorry for herself)

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

(Doesn't quite know how to begin)

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

## ANNIE

Sure.

#### WARBUCKS

(Indicates that SHE should sit. SHE hops on HIS desk.)

I was born into a very poor family in what they call Hell's Kitchen, right here in New York. Both of my parents died before I was ten. And I made a promise to myself — someday, one way or another, I was going to be rich. Very rich.

## **ANNIE**

(Matter-of-factly)

That was a good idea.

## **WARBUCKS**

By the time I was twenty-three I'd made my first million. Then, in ten years, I turned that into a hundred million.

(Nostalgically)

Boy, in those days that was a lot of money.

(Back to business)

Anyway, making money is all I've ever given a damn about. And I might as well tell you, Annie, I was ruthless to those I had to climb over to get to the top. Because I've always believed one thing: You don't have to be nice to the people you meet on the way up if you're not coming back down again.

(Softening just a bit)

But, I've lately realized something. No matter how many Rembrandts or Duessenbergs you've got, if you have no one to share your life with, if you're alone, then you might as well be broke and back in Hell's Kitchen. You understand what I'm trying to say?

## **ANNIE**

Sure.

## WARBUCKS

Good.

**ANNIE** 

Kind of.

## WARBUCKS

Kind of?

## **ANNIE**

I guess not.

Damn!

(WARBUCKS crosses to desk, finally deciding to get the Tiffany box.)

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

## **ANNIE**

For me? Gee, thanks, Mr. Warbucks. You're so nice to me.

## **WARBUCKS**

I had it engraved.

## **ANNIE**

(ANNIE opens the box. Very quietly)

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.

#### **ANNIE**

(Politely)

Gosh, thanks, Mr. Warbucks. Thank you very much.

## WARBUCKS

(Starting to take off ANNIE's old locket)

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

## **ANNIE**

(ANNIE runs from WARBUCKS. SHE crosses downstage to end of desk. SHE approaches hysteria.)

No! No please don't make me take my locket off. I don't want a new one.

## **WARBUCKS**

Annie, what is it?

## **ANNIE**

(Fingering her locket)

This locket, my Mom and Dad left it with me when ... when they left me at the Orphanage. And there was a note, too.

(Loudly)

They're coming back for me. And, I know, being here with you for Christmas, I'm real lucky. But ... I don't know how to say it...

(SHE begins to cry)

The one thing I want in all the world ... more than anything else is to find my mother and father.

(More tears)

And to be like other kids, with folks of my own.

(As ANNIE is crying and telling her story, GRANCE and SERVANTS enter from left and right to see what is wrong. ANNIE runs to GRACE'S arms.)

## **WARBUCKS**

(non-plussed)

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

## **GRACE**

Shh, shh, baby.

## **WARBUCKS**

(Not knowing what to say or do)

I'll ... I'll get her a brandy.

# #24 - Something Was Missing







# #24 - Something Was Missing

## Alternate Key - E





