

**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 — some day, 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)*

**(WARBUCKS)**

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.

**(WARBUCKS)**

*(Softening just a bit)*

But, I've lately realized something. No matter how many Rembrandts or Duessenberg's 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.

**WARBUCKS**

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.

*(WARBUCKS exits left)*

**GRACE**

*(Trying to calm ANNIE, who is continuing to cry)*

Shh, shh. It 's going to be all right.

**DRAKE**

Miss Annie, you just see. If there's anyone who can find your parents, Warbucks is the man.

**GRACE**

*(Overstating this to cheer her up)*

Mr. Warbucks will find your mother and father. If he has to pull every political string there is to pull — up to and including the White House.

**DRAKE**

1,236.

**GRACE**

All liars. Drake, I never realized that there were so many dishonest people on the island of Manhattan.

**DRAKE**

*(Very matter-of-factly)*

Some of them were from the Bronx, Miss.

**WARBUCKS**

*(From offstage)*

Grace, we're back!

**ANNIE**

*(Running on)*

Where are they, Miss Farrell? Where are all the people?

**GRACE**

*(Taking ANNIE's coat)*

They're gone, dear. Come and gone. I'm sorry Annie, but they were all liars and fakes, after nothing but the \$50,000.

**WARBUCKS**

Are you certain?

**GRACE**

Yes, sir. None of them knew about the locket. I'm so sorry.

*(MRS. GREER enter with an envelope and hands it to DRAKE)*

**ANNIE**

Gee, I thought for sure somebody was gonna be my mother and father.

**DRAKE**

Mr Warbucks, this has just come by special messenger from the F.B.I.

**WARBUCKS**

Ah, finally.

*(Opening the envelope, taking out a letter, and reading it)*

**(WARBUCKS)**

Elliot Ness has located the manufacturer of Annie's locket.  
In Utica, New York.

*(ANNIE crosses to WARBUCKS, excited)*

**ANNIE**

Oh, boy!

**WARBUCKS**

*(Excited)*

That sort of locket was manufactured between 1918 and 1924.

**GRACE**

SORT of locket?

**WARBUCKS**

Yes.

*(Defeated)*

Over ninety thousand were made and sold.

**ANNIE**

Ninety thousand.

**WARBUCKS**

*(Finishes reading the letter)*

Annie, I'm afraid that the gist of it is that Ness doesn't think there's a chance in a million of tracing your parents through the locket. I'm sorry.

*(WARBUCKS takes the locket from the envelope and puts it on ANNIE)*

**ANNIE**

*(Not defeated. Realistic about life – until the last line)*

That's okay. I mean, gee, you did the best you could. If you can't find them, nobody can. Anyway, I guess a kid can get along without folks. You didn't turn out so bad ... you got everything ... all them Duessenbergs hangin' on the wall and everything.

*(WARBUCKS indicates to GRACE and DRAKE that he wants to be alone with ANNIE)*