

ACT I

Scene 2

*The Wheeler Apartment, a simple square of light, Mrs. Wheeler enters carrying an empty laundry basket. She walks up to the pile of clothes and then places a load of laundry into the basket and starts to pull one piece of clothing out at a time. She is folding the wash when Reese Anne comes running in.*

REESE ANNE

Mother, I saw him. I saw him!

MRS. WHEELER

Saw who my dear?

REESE ANNE

Shell - I mean Mr. Moore!

MRS. WHEELER

Oh really, how is he enjoying his new school?

REESE ANNE

He is not teaching mother. He. Well, he.

*Reese Anne begins to cry.*

MRS. WHEELER

Reese Anne? What on earth is wrong?

REESE ANNE

It's Mr. Moore. We were on an Art field trip and there in front of the National Gallery. He was begging for money. He is homeless.

MRS. WHEELER

Now, what makes you think he is homeless?

REESE ANNE

I watched him, mother. He was asking people to pick a date in history, and for a quid, he would tell you what happened that year.

MRS. WHEELER

He might be busking for some extra money.

REESE ANNE

No, No! You don't understand. I talked to him!

MRS. WHEELER

You did what?

REESE ANNE

At least I tried to talk to him, but he would not listen to me, he walked away.

MRS. WHEELER

Reese Anne, I never like the way that man...

REESE ANNE

So, I followed him.

MRS. WHEELER

What?

REESE ANNE

I left my school group and watched him from the other side of Trafalgar Square. I stayed just within earshot so that I could hear his history lessons. Then at the end of the day, I tried to talk to him. But he packed up and wander down the street.

MRS. WHEELER

Reese Anne Wheeler! Ditching, a field trip!

REESE ANNE

Mother, not now. Listen, I followed him down the street, past the Drury Lane, back around Aldwych, then down another road and over to Surrey St. There, I saw him go into a ghost Station.

MRS. WHEELER

Ghost Station?

REESE ANNE

Yes, Ghost Station. That's what they are called, these old, abandoned tube lines. This station was the former Piccadilly line branch from Holborn. It's the Aldwych tube station. It's like walking back in time.

MRS. WHEELER

Reese Anne, don't you dare tell me you followed him in there?

REESE ANNE

I did not go in very far. I lost him inside. Or he lost me. I think he may have spotted me following him.

MRS. WHEELER

I want you to get down on your knees and swear to me, that you will never do anything like this again!

REESE ANNE

Please, Mother, Mr. Moore needs our help. Can't we take him in?

MRS. WHEELER

In this place? I'm doing everything I can to keep up with the rent. You think I need another mouth to feed around here?

REESE ANNE

Mother you're always telling me to do the Christian thing. This is the Christian thing, taking this man in.

MRS. WHEELER

No, Reese Anne, the Christian thing is for you to obey your Mother and I'm telling you never to go near that man or that ghost station! Do you hear me?

REESE ANNE

But Mother?

MRS. WHEELER

Do you hear me!

REESE ANNE

You have been parading men in and out of her for years. What's wrong with taking in someone with some class.

MRS. WHEELER

Whom, I date is my concern. Do you understand me? I'm tired of you running off every man that comes near me. You better start thinking about what you're going to do in this world, I'm not going let you continue sulking around here my whole life! As for a man with class then why is this teacher begging in Trafalgar Square? That's the kind-of lot you want to invite into this house?

*Mrs. Wheeler tosses the stack of her folded wash on the floor and points next to it.*

MRS. WHEELER

Down on your knees and get to praying, and I want you to think about what I'm saying. You will obey me. You will abide by our Lord. And tomorrow you will go back to school, turn yourself into the headmaster and apologize for your actions on this field trip!

*Reese Anne gets on her knees and recites prayers, aloud. Mrs. Wheeler exit as the lights fades to leave Reese Anne spotlighted on stage as she keeps praying but starts packing up her clothes into her backpack.*

*The sound of military drums, as one of the Refugees, appears wearing a stainless steel kitchen colander, tied with a piece of rope around their neck and using two drumsticks on it, is beating out a call to arms. The Band of Refugees enters crying out like roosters, crisscrossing in patterns around Reese Anne. One stands at attention like a drill instructor and crows out orders. The others quickly fall into a military formation of roosters. The drill instructor Cries out once more, and they all turn at once and march, strutting off stage. Reese Anne slips on her backpack and joins the formation and marching behind them as the exit.*

*BLACKOUT*