ACT ONE

#1 — Overture  (Orchestra)

Scene 1

#2 — Maybe  (Annie)

The OVERTURE ends and “Maybe” underscores the following scene. The CURTAIN rises on the New York City Municipal Orphanage — Girls’ Annex. At stage right is the front hallway and the dormitory covers the rest of downstage. Upstage, we can see a lamplit New York City street and, across the street, a row of tenements.

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

The stage is nearly dark. Asleep in the dormitory 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)

START

(Awaking from a dream and crying out)

Mama! Mama! Mommy!

PEPPER

(Sitting up)

Shut up!

DUFFY

Can’t anybody get any sleep around here?

MOLLY

Mama. Mommy.

PEPPER

I said, shut your trap, Molly.

(PEPPER shoves MOLLY to the floor, downstage center)

JULY

Ahh, stop shovin’ the poor kid. She ain’t doin’ nuthin’ to you.
PEPPER
She's keepin' me awake, ain't she?

JULY
No, you're keeping us awake —

PEPPER
I am not!

JULY
You are too!

(PEPPER and JULY fight)

JULY
Ah, ya think you're Jack Dempsey, do ya?

PEPPER
And you're lookin' for a knuckle sandwich.

TESSIE
(Whining)
Oh my goodness, oh my goodness they're fightin' and I won't get no sleep all night. Oh, my goodness, oh my goodness.

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

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

MOLLY
(Rubbing her eyes...still half asleep)
Mama, mommy.

ANNIE
(To MOLLY)
It's all right, Molly. Annie's here.

MOLLY
It was my Mama, Annie. We was ridin' on the ferry boat. And she was holdin' me up to see all the big ships. And then she was walkin' away, wavin'. And I couldn't find her no more. Any place.
(ANNIE holds a hanky for MOLLY)

ANNIE

Blow.

(Molly blows her nose loudly)

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

My note? Again?

MOLLY

PLEASE.

ANNIE

Sure, Molly.

PEPPER

Here it comes again. Aargh!

ANNIE

(ANNIE takes a crumpled note from her pocket, unfolds it and reads it to MOLLY)

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

DUFFY

(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 locket around her neck and kept the other half ...

(KATE and DUFFY Join PEPPER)

PEPPER, DUFFY & KATE

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

(They all laugh)
TESSIE
Oh my goodness, now they're laughing.

ANNIE

(To the OTHERS)
All right. Do you wanna sleep with your teeth inside your mouth or out!
(ANNIE 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.

ANNIE
I know.

(Fingering her locket)

(ANNIE and MOLLY cuddle together on the floor)

Somewhere, Somewhere.

(Sings)

MAYBE FAR AWAY,
OR MAYBE REAL NEARBY
HE MAY BE POURIN' HER COFFEE
SHE MAY BE STRAIGHT-NIN' HIS TIE!

MAYBE IN A HOUSE
ALL HIDDEN BY A HILL
SHE'S SITTIN' PLAYIN' PIANO,
HE'S SITTIN' PAYIN' A BILL!

BETCHA THEY'RE YOUNG
BETCHA THEY'RE SMART
BET THEY COLLECT THINGS LIKE
ASHTRAYS AND ART!

BETCHA THEY'RE GOOD
(WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE?)
THEIR ONE MISTAKE WAS GIVING UP ME!
ANNIE

(tough)
Yes, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN

Liar! What's the one thing I always taught you: Never tell a lie.
Well, what's the one thing I always taught you?

ANNIE

(tough)
Never tell a lie, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN

(Pacing, crazily)
For what you done I could get fired. Have the board of Orphans stickin' their nose
in here. Well, you'll pay for it. I promise.

(There is a knock at the door. HANNIGAN crosses to door and turns
back to ANNIE and talks to her as though she were a dog)

Stay

(Opening door)

GRACE

(Entering)
Good afternoon, Miss Hannigan?

MISS HANNIGAN

Yeah?

GRACE

(Extends HER hand)
Oh, good. I'm Grace Farrell

MISS HANNIGAN

(looks at HER hand)
So?

GRACE

...and the New York City Board of Orphans suggested that...
MISS HANNIGAN

(Panics)
Wait! Hold it!! I can explain everything!! It wasn’t my fault. It was Annie, you see, who got into Bundles’ laundry bag and …

GRACE
Miss Hannigan, I…

MISS HANNIGAN
... and, sure, I know I should of called Mr. Donatelli instead of the cops, but I …

GRACE
Miss Hannigan, I’m sorry, but I haven’t the slightest idea what you’re talking about.

MISS HANNIGAN
Wait a minute, hold it, sister, I get it.

(Referring to Grace’s briefcase)
If it’s beauty products you’re peddling, I don’t need any. Get out.

GRACE
Miss Hannigan, I am not “peddling” anything. I’m private secretary to Oliver Warbucks.

MISS HANNIGAN

(interrupting)
Oliver Warbucks? THE Oliver Warbucks?

GRACE
THE, Oliver Warbucks.

MISS HANNIGAN

(Crosses upstage of GRACE and offers her a seat)
Love the hat!

(Sitting)
I read in Winchell’s column that Oliver Warbucks is the world’s richest unmarried man.

(ANNIE positions herself behind HANNIGAN, sitting on the floor, able to make eye-contact with GRACE)
GRACE

(All business)

I wouldn't know, I don't read Mr. Winchell. Miss Hannigan, Mr. Warbucks has decided to invite an orphan to spend the Christmas holidays at his home.

MISS HANNIGAN

An orphan?

GRACE

Yes, an orphan.

MISS HANNIGAN

You sure he wouldn't rather have a lady? I got two weeks comin'.

(A long look from GRACE)

It's a joke. What sort of orphan did you have in mind?

GRACE

Well, she should be friendly.

(Unseen by Hannigan, ANNIE utters to GRACE)

And intelligent.

ANNIE

Mississippi.


GRACE

And cheerful.

(ANNIE laughs a big laugh)

MISS HANNIGAN

(To ANNIE)

You shut up. And how old?

GRACE

Oh, age doesn't really matter. Say, eight or nine.

(ANNIE gestures upward to indicate that SHE wants GRACE to say a higher age)

Ten.
MISS HANNIGAN

Yeah, season's greetings.

Yeah!

(ORPHANS circle around HANNIGAN screaming "yay!")

MISS HANNIGAN

SOMEDAY I'LL LAND IN THE NUT HOUSE,
WITH ALL THE NUTS AND THE SQUIRRELS.
THERE I'LL STAY,
TUCKED AWAY
'TIL THE PROHIBITION OF
LITTLE GIRLS.

(HANNIGAN finishes by lying down on table and being pulled off.
Stage Right song 2 with Scrum and Gallery coming in)

Scene 5

(The living room of the WARBUCKS' mansion. There is a marble fireplace stage left, and, opposite it, a large doorway to the foyer and front entrance of the mansion. The furnishings are clearly expensive.

A couple of hours later.

The SERVANTS of the house are bustling about at work. DRAKE, the English butler, is supervising the work of CECILLE and ANNETTE, a pair of French maids; MRS. GREER, the housekeeper; MRS. PUGH, the cook, are standing with pad and pen writing out a menu, and four "man" servants.

GRACE FARRELL and ANNIE enter through the door. ANNIE is wearing a new hat and a new fur-collarred coat)

START

Ah, good afternoon, Miss Farrell.

GRACE

Good afternoon Drake, everyone.
SERVANTS

(Bowing or curtsying)

Miss.

GRACE

Has Mr. Warbucks arrived yet?

DRAKE

No, Miss. His plane from Chicago landed at three thirty. So, we’re expecting him any minute.

ANNIE

Do you really live here or is this a train station?

GRACE

We really live here.

ANNIE

Oh boy!

GRACE

Mrs. Greer,

MRS. GREER

Yes, Miss.

GRACE

Has the carpet been put down in the dining room, Mrs. Greer?

MRS. GREER

Yes, Miss.

GRACE

And has the Steinway been tuned?

MRS. GREER

Yes, Miss.

DRAKE

Everything is in order, Miss. Mrs. Pugh has prepared his favorite dinner.
MRS. PUGH

(Reading off a menu)
New England Clam Chowder...

GRACE

Wonderful.

MRS. PUGH

Kentucky fried chicken...

GRACE

Wonderful.

MRS. PUGH

Idaho potatoes...

GRACE

And?

MRS. PUGH

(In triumph)
...Baked Alaska.

GRACE

Fine.

MRS. PUGH

(Knowingly, as to how Grace feels about Warbucks)
It will be good to see Mr. Warbucks again.

GRACE

(Avoiding her eyes)
Yes, six weeks is a long time.

MRS. PUGH

Yes, Miss.

GRACE

Now, would you all come here for a moment, please?

DRAKE

Quickly everyone. Everyone, quickly.
(ALL assemble)

GRACE
Everyone, this is Annie. She’ll be with us for the next two weeks. For Christmas.

SERVANTS
(MEN bow and WOMEN courtesy)
Miss.

GRACE
Annie, this is everyone.

ANNIE
Hi, everyone.

DRAKE
(As he would to a foreign dignitary)
May I take your coat, Miss?

ANNIE
(Making a fist)
Will I get it back?

GRACE
Of course, dear.

ANNIE
Gee, I really love my new coat, Miss Farrell.

GRACE
I’m glad, dear. Now, Annie, what do you want to do first?

ANNIE
(Looking around. She rolls up her sleeves)
Ummm, the floors. I’ll scrub them, then I’ll get to the windows...

GRACE
Annie, you won’t have to do any cleaning while you’re here.

ANNIE
I won’t?
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.

WARBUCKS

(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.

WARBUCKS

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?
(MISS HANNIGAN crosses to door and out, let's out a blood-curdling scream. We can see HER hands scraping down the windows in door. SHE reenters the room and crosses to desk.)

You got any more wonderful news?

GRACE

I told you about the coat, didn't I?

MISS HANNIGAN

Oh, you told me about the coat.

GRACE

Well then, good day. Miss Hannigan

MISS HANNIGAN

Yah, good day.

GRACE

(Meaning it)
And Merry Christmas.

MISS HANNIGAN

Yah, Merry Christmas.

(During final exchange, we see ROOSTER enter in singe left door. As GRACE exits SHE bumps into ROOSTER)

ROOSTER

Oops, pardon me, blondie.

(HE makes a clucking rooster noise. GRACE hurries out, just casually glancing at ROOSTER's face)

Hi ya, Sis. Long time no see.

MISS HANNIGAN

Rooster? Oh God, it never rains but it pours.

(ROOSTER crosses to HANNIGAN and kisses HER on the cheek. SHE wipes the kiss off)

They finally let you outta Sing-sing?

ROOSTER

I got six months off for good behavior.
MISS HANNIGAN
I’ll bet. What was it this time?

ROOSTER
Ahh, some old geezer from Yonkers said I swindled him outta eleven hundred bucks.

MISS HANNIGAN
Oh, yeah. Why’d he say that?

LILY
(Entering from the door. Dumb and Matter-of-factly.)
Because the Rooster swindled him outta eleven hundred bucks.

ROOSTER
Ah, Lil.

LILY
It’s true.

ROOSTER
Sis, I’d like you to meet a friend of mine from...

LILY
(Offended that Rooster has forgotten where he picked her up)
Jersey City!

ROOSTER
Jersey City. Miss Lily St. Regis.

LILY
(Proudly)
I’m named after the hotel.

MISS HANNIGAN
Which floor?
(LILY doesn’t get the insult)

ROOSTER
Don’t you just love Lily, Sis?

End
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 ... 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 Mrs. 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)
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.

— OPTIONAL CUT TO PAGE 72 —

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

# 14 — Why Should I Change a Thing? (Warbucks)

WARBUCKS
LIFE'S OVERFLOWING,
WHY SHOULD I CHANGE A THING?
LOVE HOW IT'S GOING,
GOT THE WORLD ON THAT STRING.
WHY DISTURB THE PEACE?
WHY NOT LET THINGS BE?
WHY RISK GETTING CLOSE?
CLOSE JUST ISN'T ME
I'D SAY I'M HAPPY,
WHY AM I TEMPTING FATE?
WHO NEEDS MORE HAPPY?
ANYWAY IT'S TOO LATE,
WHO NEEDS THE CLATTER THAT
A LITTLE GIRL WOULD BRING?
WHY CHANGE A BLESSED...
(DUFFY stomps on HANNIGAN’s foot. ORPHANS exit cheering.)

MISS HANNIGAN

(MISS HANNIGAN limps to a chair)

She never misses. A fifty-thousand-dollar reward. A fifty thousand dollar reward! What I couldn’t do with fifty thousand dollars. I hate that Annie so much you’d think I was her mother.

(ROOSTER and LILY, in disguise as RALPH and SHIRLEY MUDGE enter.)

ROOSTER

(Trying not to reveal their faces)

Excuse us, ma’am, we knocked upstairs but nobody answered. Are you the lady that runs this here orphanage?

MISS HANNIGAN

(Rubbing her foot)

Yeah.

LILY

Oh, Ralph, I’m scared. Somethin’ coulda happened to her.

ROOSTER

Hush, Shirley. It’s gonna be all right, Shirl. She’s gonna be here and she’s gonna be ours again.

(To MISS HANNIGAN)

Ma’am?

MISS HANNIGAN

Whatta ya want?

ROOSTER

Well, we had terrible troubles back then. We had to head North to Canada. Had to leave a baby here. On the front stoop.

LILY

Our little girl. Our Annie.
MISS HANNIGAN
(Stunned)
Annie. You’re Annie’s parents?

LILY
Please, nothin’s happened to her?

MISS HANNIGAN
I can’t believe it. Annie’s parents. Where’d you say you come from again?

ROOSTER
We come from a little farm up in Canada...

LILY
Manitoba...

ROOSTER
... where they’ve got lots of chickens...

LILY
... little chickens...

ROOSTER
... and ducks...

LILY
...ducks...

ROOSTER
... and geese...

LILY
...Oh you should see all the geese...

ROOSTER
...and roosters.

(ROOSTER crows and whips off HIS disguise and scares HANNIGAN who crosses downstage right to get a bottle of liquor out of fabric basket.)

Gotcha, Sis!

MISS HANNIGAN
Oh, God, Rooster, I never woulda knowed it was you in a hundred years.

End
GRACE

(Excited, SHE starts to go)
I’ll get them right away!

WARBUCKS

No, wait, Grace, I want you to stay for a moment.

(WARBUCKS stops GRACE and clumsily dances with HER.)

I haven’t waltzed since J.P. Morgan went bust. Annie, sit down.

(Pause. HE sits next to HER like a nervous bridegroom.)

Annie. I want to adopt you.

ANNIE

Adopt me?

WARBUCKS

Yes or no?

ANNIE

(After the tiniest beat)

If I can’t have my real mother and father, there’s no one in the world I’d rather have for a father than you, Mr. Warbucks!

(Big hug)

WARBUCKS

Drake!

DRAKE

Yes, sir?

WARBUCKS

Call Justice Brandeis and ask him to come over to sign those adoption papers

DRAKE

Yes, sir.

(DRAKE crosses off stage. The first part of the cross HE is very stiff then suddenly he jumps with a whoop of joy and exits)
WARBUCKS

(Each line grows with excitement.)
Grace, tell Mrs. Pugh that there’ll be a houseful of guests. We’ll need flowers...

GRACE

Flowers.

WARBUCKS

...caviar...

GRACE

Caviar.

WARBUCKS

...champagne.

GRACE

(As SHE exits stage right)
Champagne!

(SHE runs into the wings. Offstage SFX of her crashing into table and chairs. SHE calls from offstage)
I’m fine!

# 25 — I Don’t Need Anything But You

(Warbucks, Annie, Grace, Drake, Company)

WARBUCKS

(Picking up ANNIE and swinging her around)
Annie, this isn’t just going to be an adoption, it’s going to be a celebration! And you can have anyone in the world you want to come to it.
She’s a lot of fun.

ANNIE

Well, I guess I’d like Miss Farrell here. And Mr. Drake. And Mrs. Pugh and Cecile, Anette, Mrs. Greer. I guess I’d like everybody here.

WARBUCKS

(Softening a bit)
Of course. That’s who I’d like too. Drake.
DRAKE

(Re-entering)
Yes, sir.

WARBUCKS
Tell the staff to get spiffed up. They’re going to be the guests at Annie’s adoption party.

DRAKE
Yes, sir.

(DRAKE exits left)

ANNIE
Oh, and the kids.

WARBUCKS
No, no, it’ll be way past their bedtime. But I’ll tell you what, we’ll have everyone from the Orphanage here tomorrow for a big Christmas party.

ANNIE
Miss Hannigan, too?

WARBUCKS
(Generous)
Miss Hannigan, too. Why not?

DRAKE
(Re-enters)
Excuse me sir. Everyone is getting, and these are your words, sir, “spiffed up” for the party.

WARBUCKS
(Imitating DRAKE’s stuffiness)
Ah, good. I think Annie and I should get “spiffed up” too. Grace.

GRACE
(Rushing in from down right and looking great in a new dress.)

Yes, sir.

End
WARBUCKS

Yes. I'll see you, Annie.

ANNIE

(Brightly)

You're up early too.

WARBUCKS

We've been up all night, dear. And we've had quite a time of it—F.B.I. men coming and going. Annie, did you know that President Roosevelt is here?

ANNIE

Really!

WARBUCKS

(He signals to GRACE to usher FDR in)

I've got something very difficult to tell you and the President is going to help me tell it to you.

(Grace brings in ROOSEVELT and HOWE)

ANNIE

Merry Christmas, President Roosevelt.

ROOSEVELT

Merry Christmas, Annie. It's good to see you again.

ANNIE

It's good to see you, too, sir.

(There is an uncomfortable silence. Then—)

WARBUCKS

Franklin?

ROOSEVELT

(To ANNIE, treating her as an adult; not being sentimental)

Annie, early this morning F.B.I. Director Hoover telephoned me with some very sad news. Through the paper and the handwriting on your note, he succeeded in tracing the identity of your parents.

ANNIE

Yes, we already know that, Mr. and Mrs. Mudge.