



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 Düessenbergs 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 & ANNIE

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?~~