

Side 1 - Annie, Orphans



(#1 – OVERTURE begins.)

SCENE ONE

(The curtain rises on the New York City Municipal Orphanage – Girls' Annex. Shortly after 3:00 a.m. on a chilly morning in early December 1933.)

(The stage is nearly dark. Asleep in the dormitory are ORPHANS – MOLLY, the littlest who is 6; KATE, the next-to-littlest, who is 7; TESSIE, the crybaby, who is 10; PEPPER, the toughest, who is 12; JULY, the quietest, who is 13; and DUFFY, the biggest, who is also 13.)

(#2 – MAYBE (UNDERSCORE) begins.)

MOLLY

(awaking from a dream and crying out)

Mama! Mama! Mommy!

PEPPER

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.)

JULY

Ahh, stop shovin' the poor kid. She ain't doin' nuthin' to you.

START

SCRIPT



PEPPER

She's keepin' me awake, ain't she?

JULY

No, you're keeping us awake—

PEPPER

You wanna make somethin' out of it?

JULY

How 'bout I make a pancake outta you?

(PEPPER and JULY fight.)

TESSIE

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.)

ANNIE

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

(to MOLLY)

It's all right, Molly. Annie's here.

MOLLY

It was my mama, Annie. We was ridin' on the ferryboat. And she was holdin' me up to see all the big ships. And then I couldn't find her no more.

(ANNIE holds a hanky for MOLLY.)

ANNIE

Blow. 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

Again?

MOLLY

Please?

ANNIE

Sure, Molly.

PEPPER

Here it comes again.

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



ANNIE

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

KATE

(mockingly; she has heard this note read a thousand times)

"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—"

PEPPER, DUFFY, KATE

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

TESSIE

Oh my goodness, oh my goodness, now they're laughing.

ANNIE

(to the others)

All right. Do you wanna sleep with your teeth insida 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.

(#3 – MAYBE begins.)

END

MAYBE

ANNIE: *(fingering her locket)* I know.
(ANNIE and MOLLY cuddle together on the floor.) Somewhere.

Sweetly (ANNIE:)

May - be far a - way or

