

**SCENE 1: NEW YORK CITY MUNICIPAL ORPHANAGE
DECEMBER 1933**

(The stage is dark. Asleep in the dormitory are MOLLY, the littlest, age 6; KATE, age 7; TESSIE, the cry baby, age 10; PEPPER, the toughest, age 12; JULY, the quietest, age 13; DUFFY, age 13.)

MOLLY

Mama! Mama! Mommy!

PEPPER

Be quiet!

DUFFY

Can't anybody get any sleep around here?

MOLLY

Mama. Mommy.

PEPPER

I said shut your trap, Molly.
(shoves Molly)

JULY

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

PEPPER

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

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, age 11, runs in.)

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.

ANNIE

It was only a dream, honey. Now you gotta go back to sleep.

MOLLY

Annie... read me your note.

ANNIE

Again?

MOLLY

Please?

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

ANNIE

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

KATE

(mockingly, they have 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..."

PEPPER, DUFFY, KATE

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

(PEPPER, DUFFY, KATE and the ORPHANS start to laugh.)

TESSIE

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

ANNIE

(to the others)

All right. Do you want to sleep with your teeth insida your mouth or out!

MOLLY

Gee, I dream about havin' a mother and father again. But you're lucky. You really got 'em.

ANNIE

(fingering her locket)
I know. Somewhere.