

Grace Farrell

The loyal private secretary to Oliver Warbucks. Grace is mature, calm and classy. She is businesslike when dealing with Miss Hannigan, yet maternal toward Annie.

She has over 100 lines and sings in 5 numbers. Vocal range: Lyric soprano

Acting age: 20-40

Libretto audition: A1 S4 : P34 to P39; A1 S5 : P47 to P50; A1 S7 : P60 to P63

Music audition: I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here: bars 64 to 100 (no repeat at 79)

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 waves to GRACE)

And intelligent.

ANNIE

Mississippi. Capital M-I-double S-I-double S-I-double-P-I. 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.

(ANNIE gestures still higher)

Eleven.

(ANNIE gestures to GRACE to stop and then points to her own hair)

Yes, eleven would be perfect. And oh, I almost forgot, Mr. Warbucks prefers red-headed children.

(ANNIE stands up, directly behind HANNIGAN)

MISS HANNIGAN

Eleven. A red-head. No, I'm afraid we don't have any orphans like that around here.

GRACE

What about this child right here?

(BOTH looking at ANNIE)

MISS HANNIGAN

(Grabbing ANNIE)

Annie? Oh, no, you wouldn't want her...

(Struggling for an excuse)

She's ... she's a drunk ... and a liar! A drunk and a liar.

(ANNIE struggles to get out from behind HANNIGAN)

GRACE

Yes. I'm sure she's a drunk and a liar. Annie. Come here. Annie, would you like to spend the next two weeks at Mr. Warbucks' house?

ANNIE

I would love to. I would REALLY love to.

MISS HANNIGAN

Hold it.

(Blows whistle. ORPHANS run on and stand looking at GRACE)

Now you can have any orphan in the Orphanage, but not Annie.

GRACE

Why?

MISS HANNIGAN

I just told you.

GRACE

(Deadly)

I assume, Miss Hannigan, that it has something to do with all that business about the laundry bag and the police. Perhaps I should call Mr. Donatelli at the Board of Orphans and...

(MISS HANNIGAN laughs)

(GRACE holding out an official-looking document)

Sign it.

MISS HANNIGAN

I'll sign it. I'm an easy gal to get along with. If it's Annie you want, it's Annie you get.

GRACE

(sing-songy)

It's Annie I want.

MISS HANNIGAN

(Sing-songy as SHE signs the paper)

It's Annie you get.

ANNIE

Oh, boy!

GRACE

So, if you'll get her coat, I'll take her along right now.

MISS HANNIGAN

(Almost like a bratty little kid)

Coat? She don't have no coat.

GRACE

All right. Then we'll buy her one.

ANNIE

Oh, boy!

GRACE

We'll go to Bergdorf's and get you a warm winter coat.

ANNIE

(sing-song-y)

I'm getting a coat.

ORPHANS

(together, bratty)

She's getting a coat!

GRACE

Come along, dear. Mr. Warbucks' limousine is waiting outside.

(Crosses to door)

ANNIE

Oh boy, I can hardly believe it.

MISS HANNIGAN

SHE can hardly believe it?

ANNIE

Hey kids, I'm getting out for Christmas. I'll write to ya.

ORPHANS

'bye, Annie!

ANNIE

'bye, kids.

MISS HANNIGAN

'bye, Annie.

GRACE

(Sincerely)

Good afternoon, Miss Hannigan.

(Meaning it)

And season's greetings.

Page 47 to 50

WARBUCKS

Messages.

GRACE

Yes, sir.

(Consulting a notepad)

President Roosevelt. He wants you to call him at the White House.

WARBUCKS

I'll get back to him tomorrow. Anyone else?

GRACE

John D. Rockefeller, Mahatma Gandhi and Harpo Marx.

WARBUCKS

Nothing urgent. What did Harpo want?

GRACE

He didn't say.

WARBUCKS

(As the TWO SERVANTS, led by MRS. GREER, begin to exit carrying the covered Mona Lisa, HE stops THEM)

Wait a minute.

(THEY flip back the velvet cover from the painting and WARBUCKS looks it over again)

WARBUCKS

Hmm. Maybe I could learn to live with this thing. Hang it someplace.

TWO SERVANTS

Yes, sir.

(The SERVANTS and MRS. GREER exit with the painting left)

GRACE

(Trying to introduce ANNIE to WARBUCKS)

Mr. Warbucks, I'd like you to meet the orphan ...

WARBUCKS

Oh, and Mrs. Pugh.

MRS. PUGH

(Eagerly)

New England Clam Chowder...

WARBUCKS

Wonderful.

MRS. PUGH

Kentucky fried chicken...

WARBUCKS

Wonderful.

MRS. PUGH

AND, Baked...

WARBUCKS

(Nicely. He doesn't want to get on HER bad side)

I won't be having dinner tonight. I've got hours of paperwork to get through.

MRS. PUGH

(Crumpling the menu)

Wonderful.

WARBUCKS

And, Grace, I'll need you for dictation.

GRACE

Yes, sir.

WARBUCKS

All right, good to see you all again.

SERVANTS

(Bowing or curtsying)

Sir.

WARBUCKS

Drake, dismiss the staff.

DRAKE

Yes, sir.

WARBUCKS

(The SERVANTS, not including GRACE, exit. WARBUCKS turns to speak to GRACE and for the first time notices ANNIE)

Grace, if you'll get your notebook and ... Who is that?

GRACE

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.

Page 60 to 63

(The door opens and GRACE FARRELL comes in)

GRACE

Good afternoon, Miss Hannigan.

MISS HANNIGAN

(Switching off the radio)

Oh, yeah, Farrell. You're early. Only one week.

(Loving this idea)

Whatsa matter, Warbucks fed up with Annie already?

GRACE

Oh, no, on the contrary, MR. Warbucks is delighted with Annie. And Annie is having the time of her life.

MISS HANNIGAN

(Choking on these words)

How nice.

GRACE

Yes, she and Mr. Warbucks are practically inseparable. They go everywhere together. To the Roxy, to the Stock Exchange. And, oh, guess where they had lunch yesterday?

MISS HANNIGAN

The Waldorf?

GRACE

The Automat.

MISS HANNIGAN

The Automat?

GRACE

And she just loves her new coat. She never takes it off.

MISS HANNIGAN

Never?

GRACE

Never. Miss Hannigan, I know you're busy, but this has to be signed and...

(Miss Hannigan hits a nit on desk with a magazine then flicks it off the desk.)

MOLLY

(Pointing at the nit, to GRACE)

That's mine.

GRACE

...sent back to Mr. Donatelli at the Board of Orphans by no later than 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

MISS HANNIGAN

What for?

GRACE

Because Mr. Warbucks is so taken with Annie that, guess what?

MISS HANNIGAN

What?

GRACE

He wants to adopt her.

(ORPHANS react noisily to this good news. HANNIGAN blows whistle and ORPHANS run off stage right.)

MISS HANNIGAN

(Really burning now, but still hiding it)

How nice. How wonderful. Now let me get this wonderful news straight. Annie is going to be Warbucks' kid? The daughter of a millionaire?

GRACE

Oh, no, no, no. The daughter of a billionaire.

MISS HANNIGAN

A billionaire?

GRACE

And Mr. Warbucks asked me to drop by in person to tell you Annie won't be coming back here, ever.

MISS HANNIGAN

(Controlling it.)

Ever? My, my, my, my. Would you excuse me for a moment, please?

(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 re-enters 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.

I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here: Audition
 Bars 64 - 100 (No repeat at 79)

64 (GRACE) CECILLE: Green is her best color, no blue, I think.

65 66 67
 Ce - cille will pick out all your clothes. ANNIE: Inside the
 The swim - ming pool is to the left. house? Oh boy!

MRS. GREER: Bubbles... no, soap, I think.

68 69 70 71
 Your bath is drawn by Mis - sus Greer. ANNIE: I never even
 The ten - nis court is in the rear. picked up a racket.

72 ANNETTE: The silk... no the satin sheets, I think.

73 74 75
 An - nette comes in to make your bed.
 Have an in - struc - tor here at noon.

GRACE: Oh, and get that Don Budge fellow if he's available.
 DRAKE: Yes, Miss.
 GRACE: Annie, ...

(ANNIE)

76 77 78 79
 I think I'm gon - na like it here!
 I think I'm gon - na like it here!

80 (GRACE)

81 82 83
 When you wake ring for Drake, Drake will bring your tray.

84 85 86 87 88
 When you're through Mis - sus Pugh comes to take it a - way.

89 (GRACE/SERVANTS) ANNETTE: That's okay, I haven't got any toys anyway. SERVANTS: Aww!

90 91 92
 No need to pick up an - y toys

(GRACE)

93 94 95 96
 No fin - ger will you lift, my dear.

97 (GRACE/SERVANTS)

98 99 100
 We have but one re - quest: please put us to the test.