

Take Note Troupe Audition Side 1

JACK

Where you going? Morning bell ain't rung yet. Get back to sleep.

CRUTCHIE

I wanna beat the other fellas to the street. I don't want anyone should see; I ain't been walkin' so good.

JACK

Quit gripin'. You know how many guys fake a limp for sympathy? That bum leg of yours is a gold mine.

CRUTCHIE

Someone gets the idea I can't make it on my own, they'll lock me up in The Refuge for good. Be a pal, Jack. Help me down.

(loses his footing and almost falls, yelps)

Whoa!!!

(JACK rushes to CRUTCHIE's rescue, pulling the boy back from danger.)

JACK

You wanna bust your other leg, too?

CRUTCHIE

No. I wanna go down.

JACK

You'll be down there soon enough. Take a moment to drink in my penthouse high above the stinkin' streets of New York.

CRUTCHIE

You're crazy.

JACK

Because I like a breath of fresh air? 'Cause I like seein' the sky and the stars?

CRUTCHIE

You're seein' stars all right!

JACK

Them streets down there sucked the life right outta my old man. Years of rotten jobs, stomped on by bosses. And when they finally broke him, they tossed him to the curb like yesterday's paper. Well, they ain't doin' that to me.

CRUTCHIE

But everyone wants to come here.

JACK

New York's fine for those what can afford a big strong door to lock it out. But I tell you, Crutchie, there's a whole other way out there. So you keep your small life in the big city. Give me a big life in a small town.

JACK

Well, hello again.

KATHERINE

This is a private box.

JACK

(moving closer)

Want I should lock the door?

(moving closer still)

Twice in one day. Think it's fate?

KATHERINE

(dismissive)

Go away. I'm working.

JACK

A working girl, huh? Doin' what?

KATHERINE

Reviewing the show for the *New York Sun*.

JACK

Hey! I work for the *World*.

KATHERINE

Somewhere out there someone cares. Go tell them.

JACK

The view's better here.

KATHERINE

Please go. I am not in the habit of speaking to strangers.

JACK

Then you're gonna make a lousy reporter. The name's Jack Kelly.

KATHERINE

Is that what it says on your rap sheet?

JACK

A smart girl. I admire smart girls.

(admiring KATHERINE)

Beautiful. Smart. Independent.

KATHERINE

(getting too loud)

Do you mind!?

SCENE THREE: A Street Corner

(JACK leans against a building as DAVEY attempts to peddle papers to PASSERSBY.)

DAVEY

Paper. Paper. Evenin' pape here.

JACK

Sing 'em to sleep why dontcha?

(snatches a paper from DAVEY and hawks it)

Extra! Extra! Terrified flight from burnin' inferno. You heard the story right here!

(A MAN snatches the paper from JACK, hands him a coin, and exits.)

Thanks, mister.

DAVEY

You just made that up.

JACK

Did not. I said he heard it right here, and he did.

DAVEY

My father taught us not to lie.

JACK

And mine taught me not to starve.

(LES comes up empty-handed.)

LES

Hey! Just sold my last paper.

DAVEY

I got one more.

JACK

Sell it or pay for it.

LES

Give it here.

(takes the paper, sidles up to a WOMAN passing by, and puts the saddest look on his face)

Buy a pape from a poor orphan boy?

(LES coughs gently.)

Take Note Troupe Audition Side 4

(KATHERINE has discovered JACK's drawings stuffed in an air vent pipe and opens them up. JACK arrives.)

KATHERINE

That was some speech you made.

JACK

How'd you get here?

KATHERINE

Specs showed me.

JACK

(snatches his drawings)

He say you could go through my stuff?

KATHERINE

I saw them rolled up, sticking out of there. I didn't know what they were. These drawings...? These are drawings of The Refuge, aren't they?

(takes the drawings back and studies them closer)

Is this really what it's like in there: three boys to a bed, rats everywhere, and vermin?

JACK

A little different from where you were raised?

KATHERINE

Snyder told my father you were arrested stealing food and clothing. This is why, isn't it? You stole to feed those boys.

(JACK, embarrassed, turns away.)

I don't understand. If you were willing to go to jail for those boys, how could you turn your back on them now?

JACK

I don't think you're anyone to talk about turning on folks.

KATHERINE

I never turned on you or anyone else.

JACK

No. You just double crossed us to your father. Your father!!

KATHERINE

My father has eyes on every corner of this city. He doesn't need me spying for him.
And I never lied. I didn't tell you everything...

JACK

If you weren't a girl you'd be trying to talk with a fist in your mouth.

KATHERINE

I said that I worked for the *Sun*, and I did. I told you my professional name was
Plumber, and it is. You never asked my real one.

JACK

I wouldn't think I had to unless I knew I was dealing with a backstabber.

KATHERINE

And if I was a boy, you'd be looking at me through one swollen eye.