

SCENE ONE

JACK

London. Just like in the book.

ANNIE

Wow, these clothes are really fancy! And no hoopskirt!!

(ANNIE kicks her leg up, celebrating her freedom to move. JACK inspects his new velvet knapsack, which has replaced his backpack. He takes out the history book.)

JACK

But you better hide your pigtails.

ANNIE

Oh, right, I'm supposed to be a boy.

(As ANNIE tucks her pigtails under her hat, JACK reads from the history book.)

JACK

"Charles Dickens was born in England in 1812. He is one of the most famous writers of all time."

ANNIE

One of the most famous writers of all time? Well then, he shouldn't be hard to find. How do I look?

(JACK puts their research book, magic violin and bow inside his new knapsack.)

JACK

You look like Annie pretending to be a boy.

ANNIE

But if you didn't know me?

(JACK squints at her. ANNIE puts her hands in her pockets and walks around "like a boy." JACK laughs, smooths his jacket and reaches in his pockets.)

JACK

It's pretty hard to pretend that I don't know my little sister, but yeah, I guess you could pass for a boy.

(finding money in his pockets)

Hey, I have money!

(ANNIE pulls money out of her coat pockets.)

ANNIE

Me, too! Good, let's go!

(ANNIE climbs out of the tree house. JACK follows.)

NEWSIES

Examiner! Get your *Examiner* here! Queen returns from holiday, fit as a fiddle! *Examiner!*

JACK

(holding coins out to NEWSIE #1)
How much?

NEWSIE #1

Just a tuppence, sir.
(NEWSIE #1 takes two coins while handing JACK a newspaper and tips his hat.)
God bless.

JACK

Um... you're welcome.
(turns to Annie)
Okay. According to this newspaper it's the year 1843. Now all we have to do is find out where Charles Dickens lives.

(ANNIE approaches a small red carriage waiting on the street.)

ANNIE

Excuse me! Do you know where a Mister Charles Dickens lives?

CARRIAGE DRIVER

Indeed, sir! Mister Charles Dickens, *the* Charles Dickens, lives at One Devonshire Terrace in Regents Park. Climb into my cab, if you please... And we'll be there quicker than you can say, "God Save the Queen!"

(JACK and ANNIE climb into the horse-drawn carriage.)

CARRIAGE DRIVER

(as JACK and ANNIE climb aboard)
Always a pleasure to transport two fine gentlemen of means such as yourselves. Welcome aboard, sirs!

(#7 – TWO GENTLEMEN OF MEANS begins.)