

AUDITION SCENES for GIRLS

The children's roles are all of elementary school age. The children playing those roles *don't have to be* in elementary school, but they should *look as though they could be*.

The main girl's role is that of Suzie Walker. She is in elementary school, but is very mature for her age. She is also very bright and well-spoken. Her mother has raised her without exposing her to the usual fairy tales and stories that many children read or have read to them by their parents. Suzie avoids the company of many other children of her age because they play games that require pretending and using the imagination and she considers this "silly". She is a very no-nonsense, practical little girl, but sadly she has missed much of the joy and fun of being a child.

AUDITION SCENE 1

SUZIE is in her mother's office. SUZIE's mother works for Macy's Department Store in New York city and she is responsible for running the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. With SUZIE is DREW ROBERTS, a next door neighbour, who has brought her to her mother's office.

SUZIE: *(To DREW)* We can watch the parade on that big screen. Mother has cameras all along the parade route and you can switch from one to another with this. *(She picks up a remote from her mother's desk)*

DREW: That's convenient.

SUZIE: You can see the whole parade in just a few minutes from right here. It's like magic.

(SUZIE takes her coat off and settles into her mother's desk chair)

DREW: *(taking his coat off and wandering over to a chair and sitting)* You know, we could go downstairs and see the magic of Toyland.

SUZIE: There's no magic happening there, Mr. Roberts. It's just retail.

DREW: Really! And where did you ever hear that?

SUZIE: My mother. Oh! The parade is starting. *(Using the remote on her mother's desk she brings a camera's view of part of the parade up on the big screen.)*

DREW: Oh, wow, look at that balloon!

SUZIE: He was a clown last year. They just changed the head and painted him different. My mother told me.

DREW: He certainly is a giant, isn't he?

SUZIE: Not really. There are no giants, Mr. Roberts.

DREW: Maybe not now, Suzie, but in olden days, there were a lot of...

(SUZIE turns to him and shakes her head, "No".)

DREW: Well ... what about the giant that Jack killed?

SUZIE: Jack? Jack who?

DREW: Jack... *(He realizes that that storybook character never had a last name.)* ... Jack! "Jack and the Beanstalk."

SUZIE: I never heard of that.

DREW: You must have. Most kids love that fairy tale.

SUZIE: Ohhhh, one of those. *(Turning her attention back to the TV and changing to another camera view)* I don't know any fairy tales.

DREW: Your mother and father must have told you a fairy tale.

SUZIE: No. My mother thinks they're silly. I don't know whether my father thinks they're silly or not. I never met my father. My father and mother were divorced when I was a baby.

DREW: Well, that balloon sure looked like a giant to me.

SUZIE: People sometimes grow very big, but that's abnormal.

DREW: And you were told that by...

SUZIE: } My mother
(Simultaneously)
DREW } ...your mother

AUDITION SCENE 2

Memorize SUZIE' s lines in this scene

SUZIE is talking to KRIS KRINGLE who plays Santa Claus in Macy's toy department. No one knows that KRIS is actually the real Santa Claus.

KRIS: What sort of games do you play with the other children?

SUZIE: I don't play much with them. They play silly games.

KRIS: They do?

SUZIE: Like today. They were in the basement playing zoo and all of them were animals. When I came down, Robert...he was the zookeeper...he said, "What animal are you?" I said, "I'm not an animal, I'm a girl." And he said, "Only animals allowed." So I came upstairs.

KRIS: Why didn't you tell him you were a lion or a bear?

SUZIE: Because I'm not a lion or a bear.

KRIS: But the other children were only children and they were pretending to be animals.

SUZIE: That's what makes the game so silly.

KRIS: I don't think so. Sounds like a wonderful game to me. Of course, in order to play it, you need an imagination. (*SUZIE reacts as if she heard a criticism in KRIS's words.*) Do you know what the imagination is?

SUZIE: Oh, sure. That's when you see things, but they're not really there.

KRIS: That can be caused by other things, too. No, to me the imagination is a place all by itself...a separate country. You've heard of the French or the British nation. Well, this is the imagine-nation. It's a wonderful place. (*SUZIE gradually stops decorating and takes more interest in what she is hearing.*) How would you like to make snowballs in the summertime? Or drive a big bus right down 5th Avenue? How would you like to have a ship all to yourself that makes daily trips to China and Australia? How would you like to be the Statue of Liberty in the morning, and in the afternoon fly south with a flock of geese? It's very simple. Of course, it takes practice. The first thing you've got to learn is how to pretend. And the next time Robert says, "What kind of animal are you?" Tell him, you're a monkey.

SUZIE: But I don't know how to be a monkey.

KRIS: Sure you do. Here, I'll show you. (*HE stands up to demonstrate and she imitates what he does.*) Now just bend your body over a little. Let your arms hang loose, see? Now put your right hand up here... under here (*Indicating the area of the ribs.*). Now scratch yourself, see? That's right. Put your tongue under your lips, over your teeth.

SUZIE: Like this?

KRIS: That's right. Now scratch yourself and chatter, see?

KRIS: }
SUZIE: } (*Together*) OOH..OOH...OOH!... Eeek! ...Eeekerk