

JESSIE, NELLIE and LITTLE JAKE

I-2-36

1-2-37

WOO!
I'LL SHARE IT ALL.
WOO!
I'LL SHARE IT ALL WITH YOU!

(Applause segue as they ALL exit. From the other side ANNIE and LITTLE JAKE return.)

LITTLE JAKE

You shore made me eat fast, Annie.

ANNIE

We got work t' do, Little Jake. What'll Frank think if'n he knew I couldn't read?
(She hands him the clipping.)

LITTLE JAKE

All right – what's this first word right here?
(He points at the clipping.)

ANNIE

I dunno. I ain't never seen that one afore.

LITTLE JAKE

Sound it out, Annie.

ANNIE

(She struggles, letter by letter.)
Fff – Rrr – Aaa – Nnn – Kkk –
(She stops, exhausted by the effort.)
Now that I said it, what the hell is it?

LITTLE JAKE

(Taunting)
Ff-Rr-Aa-Nn –

ANNIE

Frank! Now, that's a right purdy word! Frank!

FRANK

(Entering)
You callin' me?

ANNIE

(Quickly recovering.)
I – I was jes' tryin' t' lam Little Jake here how t' do his readin'. But he shore is thick-headed. Ain't ya, Jake?

LITTLE JAKE

(Dutifully)
I shore am thick-headed.

ANNIE

Right. Now you go on t' the eatin' car an' git yore supper.

LITTLE JAKE

But I jes' ate!

ANNIE

Yer a growin' boy, go eat agin. Go on, git! Git!
(As he runs off.)
I was jes' lookin' at something 'bout you an' me in the paper. Wanna read it?

FRANK

Naw, you read it to me.

ANNIE

Naw. I wanna hear how it sounds when you speak it.

FRANK

(He takes it and reads.)
"Frank Butler's assistant –
(Mumbling)
– whose name is not on the program –
(Normally)
– performed only one trick, but she promises to become a fine marksman."

ANNIE

Real nice o' that paper man.

FRANK

Folks are beginning to notice you, Annie. The other day I talked Charlie into putting your name on the billboard.

ANNIE

And on the program, too?

FRANK

Hm? What the hell, why not? And I told him I was gonna let you shoot the egg off the poodle's head. Think you can handle that?

ANNIE

Kin I! I kin do it without breakin' the yolk!

FRANK

All right. I guess you can start in Minneapolis. But you don't want to be movin' up too fast.

ANNIE

All I wanna be is softer an' pinker, like the kinda girl ya said ya liked.