

ArtsPower
"My Heart In A Suitcase"
Dec,'05

Anne & Dorit: (Walking Home)

Berlin, Nazi Germany, 1938.
The street in front of Anne's Apartment.

Anne & Dorit, both young girls, are the best of friends, even though they are of different religions – Dorit is Protestant; while Anne is Jewish. Now that the Nazis have come to power in Germany, life for Jews is becoming very hard. New laws are being passed that discriminate against Jews. Anne's father has lost his job because Jews are no longer allowed to work in banking. Things are growing more difficult for Jews. Still, the girls always love to be together, go to school together, play 'dress up' together.

Here, at the beginning of the play, Anne has just happily returned from a summer trip to her Aunt & Uncle's. Since both she & Dorit collect picture postcards of movie stars, Anne has just given Dorit a gift of the latest movie star postcards.

DORIT is lively, energetic, excitable, fun, and very likeable. Unfortunately, she is too easily swayed by all the latest fads and fancies. But at heart, she is a good person. ANNE is good-natured, intelligent, sensitive, and growing increasingly aware of the discrimination against Jews. Dorit doesn't seem to be aware that there could be a problem.

Both are fun, silly, relaxed with each other – the best of friends.

Note: No German accent wanted.

DORIT

(excited)(referring to her movie star postcards)(brags)

With my new postcards, I bet I have the best collection of movie stars in all of Berlin!
Even better than yours.

ANNE (has to laugh)(conceding the point)

Well, seeing as how I just gave you the newest ones.

DORIT (asks)

Didn't you buy some for yourself?

ANNE (shakes head 'no')(explains)

Not enough money.

DORIT

So - ask you father for some.

ANNE (shakes head 'no')(reluctant)

I don't think so. He doesn't even have a job.

DORIT

Still?

ANNE (wishful)

Hope he finds one soon. Things are getting pretty tough around our house.

DORIT (puzzled)

Really? My father says things are getting much better.

(changing the subject)(not sad)

... Oh, by the way – sad news.

ANNE

What?

DORIT (not upset)

Perry died.

ANNE (also not upset)

Our parakeet?

DORIT (nods yes)

Flew off to 'birdie heaven'.

ANNE

Oh well, he was looking pretty sick when I left.

DORIT

So I gave him a good burial.

ANNE (to be funny)

Well, I hope at least it was a good Jewish ceremony.

DORIT (laughs)(playfully)

And how do you know he was Jewish? He was half mine, you know. Could have been Protestant.

ANNE

So – what did you do?

DORIT (her solution)

A good non-denominational – cigar box!

(BOTH girls laugh.)

ANNE (laughs)

Doesn't really make any difference – we're not the most observant Jewish family around anyway.

DORIT (remembering)

Got to go. It's late.

ANNE (happily)

So – see you Monday so we can walk to school together.

DORIT (stops, turns to Anne)(complains)

I don't know why I have to go to school! I already know what I'm going to be when I grow up!

ANNE (heard this before)(laughs)

Okay – I give – what is it this month?

DORIT

Same as last – I'm going to be...

(with great dramatic flare)(strikes a pose)(to be funny)

... "a movie star"!

ANNE (to be funny)(mocking)

Well, if Shirley Temple ever decides to retire, we'll give you a call.

DORIT (plays the "star")

And I shall be ready!

(drops the 'star' act)(starts to exit - calls back)

... See you!

Anne (calls back)

See you!

END OF SCENE.