

SCENE 3 – October 1941
The “Frank Home” from REMEMBERING MARGOT
MARGOT, HEINZ and JANNY are 15
ANNE is 12-13
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(MARGOT, HEINZ and JANNY are seated at a table playing cards –
Crazy Eights.)

HEINZ

Ha! Have a seven! Almost out.

MARGOT

You can't be! I have too many left. And now I have to take more.

JANNY

And BAM! Two “eights” and I'm out.

MARGOT

Why do you always have so many “eights?”

JANNY

Because no one at this table knows how to shuffle properly. Points.

HEINZ

Nine.

MARGOT

Twenty-four. I guess I'm not lucky today.

JANNY

This is a game of skill my friend.

MARGOT and HEINZ

Luck!

HEINZ

You always get a lot of “eights.”

JANNY

I hoard them at the beginning. I'll pick up cards and if I have an “eight,” I save them for the end. I don't squander them like you two do. From the first deal, I assess, I plan and I wait to see what comes. Skill.

(ANNE enters with a plate of cookies.)

ANNE

Mother thought you might want a cookie break after studying so hard. But what do I see? Are the hard-working students playing cards? If you're playing cards you do not need a cookie break. Now, I have been doing my homework, so I get all the cookies.

MARGOT

We spent thirty minutes on genetics.

HEINZ

Margot explained to us all that through the miracle of thousands of sugar snap peas, there is a reason why I have brown eyes but my sister has blue eyes.

ANNE

Fascinating. I'm still keeping the cookies.

(The "students" may make a play for the cookies, but ANNE is quick and they don't get any. HEINZ gets up and approaches ANNE or rather ... the cookies.)

HEINZ

And I did my spiel on how art isn't totally subjective ... and how you can approach it asking yourself, "What did the artist want to tell the viewer?" Why is the light "here" and not "there?"

(And as he acts this out, he tries to grab a cookie. It doesn't work.)

ANNE

Nice try. Janny, do you want to tell me how hard you worked this afternoon?

JANNY

I don't have to work hard. I'm a card sharp.

(ANNE may squeeze on the chair with her.)

ANNE

Now, that's interesting.

(Hands JANNY a cookie.)

ANNE (cont'd)

Do you play poker? Because I really want to learn that game. All the actors in Hollywood look so dreamy when they play poker.

JANNY

You'd be terrible at poker. You have a rubber face – you'd give yourself away. You know who would be really good at poker? Your sister.

MARGOT

You saw how bad I am at Crazy Eight's.

JANNY

You have that serene look. No matter what cards you were dealt – you would keep that look. Nobody would ever know if you had a good hand or a bad hand. You'd be really good at bluffing.

ANNE

Naturally. Margot's good at everything.

MARGOT

Not everything. I always lose at Crazy Eights. And as the loser of the game, I feel like I deserve a cookie.

ANNE

Winners get cookies.

JANNY

That's true. So I...

(Snatching the plate of cookies.)

... get the cookies!

ANNE

Sneak!

JANNY

And unlike some youngster who will remain nameless, I will share my winnings.

(MARGOT and HEINZ get cookies. Nothing is left.)

ANNE

My cookies!

MARGOT

You were supposed to share them.

ANNE

Just having a little fun. Remember fun? Or is there a new law saying, "Jews may no longer have fun."

JANNY

We're lucky there isn't a law saying, "Jews may no longer eat cookies."

HEINZ

Or “Jews may no longer play a musical instrument.” Or is that already a law?

JANNY

Watch. One of these days the Nazis will outlaw cards.

ANNE

They’ll never know what we do ... behind closed curtains.

JANNY

Ha! They’ll confiscate them just like they took our radios.

ANNE

I wonder what they’ll take away next.

MARGOT

Us. They’ll take away us.

HEINZ

We shouldn’t talk like this.

JANNY

Who’s to know?

HEINZ

Every time we discuss the Nazis, my heart beats faster and I get so anxious, I can’t calm down.

MARGOT

I’m the same way. I don’t know how to stop it. So I read.

HEINZ

I try to stop it with music. I just try to fill my head with notes and tricky chords so that the scary thoughts don’t have room.

MARGOT

Does that work?

HEINZ

Sometimes. I’ve been told I am too sensitive about things but I don’t know how to stop that either.

JANNY

Don’t! That’s one of the things I love about you.

(MARGOT and ANNE share a smile – must be nice to be in love.)

JANNY (cont'd)

Let's not get all down in the dumps about the new laws. We're in school. We're eating cookies and uh oh... the time. It's more important that I follow my parent's laws than the Nazis. Which is that dinner is served at 6 p.m. in my house and I had better not be late. Or else...

HEINZ

I'll walk you home.

JANNY

I like that plan. Thanks for the help with the homework. It was a good afternoon. Let's focus on that. And tell your mother the cookies were perfect.

(Amid "good-byes," HEINZ and JANNY exit. MARGOT piles up any books or homework and puts away the cards. MARGOT having a good time. MARGOT smiles to herself.)

ANNE

What is that secret smile about?

MARGOT

It *was* a good afternoon. Janny's right. I need to remember the good. And ... they're kind of sweet together, aren't they? Time to set the table for dinner.

(The SISTERS exit to set the table. The lights fade to black.)