

ANNE AND MARGOT FRANK – Scene 2
From REMEMBERING MARGOT
September 1941 – in the Frank Home
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(Lights up in MARGOT'S and ANNE'S shared bedroom. Family photos are everywhere. A photo of BETTINA is displayed. ANNE has cut out pictures from a magazine of the Dutch Royal Family, Fred Astaire, and Ginger Rogers. ANNE is deciding where to hang them on her wall. Photos of other movie stars may also be hung up. MARGOT enters.)

ANNE

Margot! Finally! I need your help.

MARGOT

Not now. I'm trying to get to a meeting.

ANNE

This won't take long. I need to decide where to put Fred and Ginger.

MARGOT

Fred and Ginger are not important right now. My books are. Where are they?

ANNE

I saw them ... somewhere. How about the Royal Family? They're always important.

MARGOT

They ran away. While the Nazis were devising new laws against the Jews, the Royal Family hopped over to London. But can we go to London? No. We're Jewish.

ANNE

You don't approve of the royal family?

MARGOT

I don't approve of abandoning your people. And I'm trying to get to the Zionist meeting at the synagogue but I need my Hebrew book.

ANNE

I thought you said the meetings were too argumentative.

MARGOT

They just get rowdy when they speak of going to Palestine. Not everyone agrees. But I'm starting to think Palestine may be in my future. Help me find my books.

ANNE

Look under the magazines. Look at Ginger. That will cheer you up. I like this pose.

(ANNE does a dance pose.)

I don't see my books.

MARGOT

Try under Fred.

ANNE

It's getting late.

MARGOT

You are grumpy.

ANNE

A bit. (Beat.) The rowing team disbanded. Jews can no longer do sports.

MARGOT

I'm sorry.

ANNE

It's not enough that we had to change schools, Father can't run his business, we can't leave the country – now – we're being robbed of the outside. I saw a new sign in the park on the way home. "No Jews or Dogs allowed."

MARGOT

Let Fred and Ginger cheer you up. Let's take a dance around the room.

ANNE

That solves nothing!

MARGOT

It makes me happy. Does your Hebrew book make you happy?

ANNE

It gives me a sense of belonging somewhere.

MARGOT

(MARGOT kicks something by the bed or a table.)

Ouch!

And your book just bit you. It was out in the open all along. Hiding in plain sight.

ANNE

MARGOT

Serves me right for getting all riled up. Getting mad accomplishes nothing.

ANNE

A good argument makes me feel better. I love to rail and complain and clear the air with nothing hanging in the air waiting to be said.

MARGOT

Some things are better left unsaid.

ANNE

If I kept things inside, I'd explode. How did Mother and Pim have such different children?

MARGOT

They're "jellyfish parents." Jellyfish let their children do what they want. Dolphins are a bit stricter. They steer their children in a particular direction. You would not like being raised by dolphins. Nobody can steer you anywhere. And don't get me started on the sharks. Because shark parents raise killers.

ANNE

Why are we discussing fish parents? We need to discuss my wall. It's much more important. Or your wall – let's discuss why your wall is empty.

MARGOT

I like it that way. I don't want to pigeon-hole my interests. Suppose you change your mind tomorrow and don't think Fred and Ginger should be the center of attention?

ANNE

Then I'd change it!

MARGOT

I have to go.

ANNE

Can I at least hang up the photo of Bettina on your wall? She's so lonely in that corner. Mother won't display her in the living room or dining room. Poor Bettina. She must feel all alone always in the background.

MARGOT

Funny you should mention that. I thought of her today. And when I thought of her, she seemed to appear.

ANNE

Was she a ghost?

MARGOT

No. It's hard to explain. It was like a faraway vision.

ANNE

Was it scary? Did she touch you with icy hands like this?

(ANNE touches MARGOT who shivers.)

MARGOT

Oh! Chilly fingers! It was nothing like that. It was – more like a ray of sun hitting your cheek. A little odd but comforting at the same time.

ANNE

Her smile is just like yours. When you smile. Let me check. Smile.

MARGOT

Stop! It's getting so late! I'm missing my meeting.

(ANNE sits MARGOT down and climbs in her lap. She tries to lift the corners of MARGOT'S mouth into a smile. MARGOT does smile.)

ANNE

You can go to the next meeting.

MARGOT

My lips are ticklish.

ANNE

Everything about you is ticklish. You are so sensitive.

(A small tussle and ANNE settles into MARGOT'S lap.)

ANNE

Remember Mother telling us about the fancy, dress balls her family hosted? They would have two hundred people come! Two hundred! That's more than our entire school. Everyone would be in pearls and silk. Mother would dance with Bettina and everyone would waltz and twirl as if they were in the royal ballroom. Wouldn't that be fun?

MARGOT

I'm not going to make my meeting, am I?

ANNE

Not today. *You* need dancing. Let's make-believe that Mother and Pim are hosting a ball tonight. And we are practicing for the dance. I'll be Fred. You're Ginger.

MARGOT

I should be Fred. I'm taller.

ANNE

But I like to lead.

(ANNE hums (*The Blue Danube?*”) and they do a waltz or a spin around the room jumping over books and magazines. They are light on their feet and credible dancers. In the background, we spy BETTINA – approving - maybe dancing or swaying. MARGOT stops and looks around.)

ANNE (cont'd)

What is it?

MARGOT

I just felt a warm breeze. Almost like a hug.

ANNE

It must be the dancing. Dancing makes you open yourself to everything.

(ANNE twirls MARGOT one more time and they curtsy. BETTINA curtsies in the background. The lights fade on MARGOT and ANNE but stay on BETTINA for a moment. Lights out.)