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Dramatic Publishing

NUMBER THE STARS

A Musical Play

Adapted

by

SEAN HARTLEY

Based on the Book

by

LOIS LOWRY



Dramatic Publishing

Woodstock, Illinois • London, England • Melbourne, Australia

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NUMBER THE STARS was originally dramatized for the Poppy Seed Players, the resident theater company of the Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center in New York City.

NUMBER THE STARS

A Musical Play
For 6 Women and 7-13 Men
(doubling possible; chorus optional)

CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

ANNEMARIE..... a young girl
ELLEN her friend
KIRSTI her little sister
TWO GERMAN SOLDIERS*
MAMA Annemarie's mother
MRS. ROSEN..... Ellen's mother
PAPA..... Annemarie's father
PETER..... a young friend of Annemarie's parents
 who is secretly working for the Resistance
UNCLE HENRIK..... Annemarie's uncle, a fisherman
MAN..... a young man
WOMAN..... the man's wife, with a baby
MR. ROSEN..... Ellen's father

**TWO SOLDIERS appear four times during the play;
they can be played by different actors each time, or by the
same actors, or any combination.

Minimal set.

SCENE AND SONG SYNOPSIS

SCENE ONE: The Street - Annemarie, Ellen, Kirsti, 2 Soldiers

SCENE TWO: The Johansen's House - Kirsti, Mama,
Mrs. Rosen, Annemarie, Ellen
Song: "WHEN THE SOLDIERS GO"

SCENE THREE: The Johansen's House - Mama, Papa,
Peter, Annemarie
Song: "FRIENDS"

SCENE FOUR: The Johansen's/Henrik's House - Mama,
Annemarie, Kirsti, Ellen, Papa, 2 Soldiers, Uncle Henrik
Song: "WHEN THE MOON IS HIDDEN FROM THE SEA"

SCENE FIVE: The Train and the Station Platform - Mama,
Kirsti, Ellen, Annemarie, 2 Soldiers
Song: "CASTLE AT ELSINORE"

SCENE SIX: The Beach by Uncle Henrik's House - Ellen,
Annemarie
Song: "WHO'S TO SAY?"

SCENE SEVEN: Uncle Henrik's House - Mama, Kirsti,
Ellen, Annemarie, Henrik, Peter, Man, Woman, Mr. Rosen,
Mrs. Rosen, 2 Soldiers
Song: "GREAT-AUNT BIRTE" - "NUMBER THE STARS"

SCENE EIGHT: Uncle Henrik's House - Annemarie, Mama

SCENE NINE: The Woods - Annemarie, 2 Soldiers

SCENE TEN: The Dock - Annemarie and Uncle Henrik
Song: "WHEN THE SOLDIERS GO" (Reprise)

NUMBER THE STARS

SCENE ONE

SCENE: *The Street. ANNEMARIE and ELLEN are walking home from school.*

ANNEMARIE. Race you to the corner, Ellen. Ready?

ELLEN. You know I can't beat you. Can't we just walk like civilized people?

ANNEMARIE. We have to be ready for the race on Friday. I've been practicing all week. Come on, please?

ELLEN. Oh, all right. Ready.

ANNEMARIE. GO!

(They race off. KIRSTI enters and sees them.)

KIRSTI. Wait for me.

(She follows them. They race around the room until they come to TWO GERMAN SOLDIERS.)

SOLDIER 1. *Halte!* Why are you running?

ANNEMARIE. I was racing with my friend. We have races at school every Friday. and I want to do well, so I...

SOLDIER 2 *(looking at her backpack)*. What is in here?

ANNEMARIE. Schoolbooks.

SOLDIER 2. Are you a good student?

ANNEMARIE. Yes.

SOLDIER 2. What is your name?

ANNEMARIE. Annemarie Johansen.

SOLDIER 2. Your friend—is she a good student too?

ANNEMARIE. Better than me.

SOLDIER 2. What is her name?

ANNEMARIE. Ellen.

SOLDIER 1. And who is this?

ANNEMARIE. My little sister.

(SOLDIER 1 reaches down and strokes KIRSTI's hair.)

KIRSTI. Don't!

SOLDIER 1 *(laughs)*. She's pretty. Just like my own little girl. Go home, all of you. Go study your schoolbooks. And don't run. You look like hoodlums when you run.

(They walk off in one direction, the girls start off in another. Curtain opens to reveal...)

SCENE TWO

SCENE: *The Johansen's house. KIRSTI enters and goes to her MAMA, who is sitting next to MRS. ROSEN having coffee. ANNEMARIE and ELLEN enter behind her.*

KIRSTI. Mama, two soldiers made us stop on the street and one of them poked Annemarie's bookbag with his gun and the other one grabbed my hair. Annemarie and Ellen were scared too, but not me!

MAMA. Annemarie, what happened? What is Kirsti talking about?

ANNEMARIE. Don't worry, it was nothing. Just those two soldiers who stand on the corner by the post office.

KIRSTI. I slapped his hands and shouted at him.

ANNEMARIE. No, she didn't, Mama, she's exaggerating, like she always does.

MAMA (*to MRS. ROSEN*). They must be edgy because of all the bombings.

MRS. ROSEN. You girls walk a different way to school tomorrow. Promise me, Ellen?

ELLEN. Of course, Mother, but what does it matter? There are German soldiers on every corner.

MRS. ROSEN. They will remember your faces. It is important to be one of the crowd, always. Be one of many. Be sure that they never have reason to remember your face.

KIRSTI. He'll remember my face, Mama, because he said I look like his little girl. He said I was pretty.

MRS. ROSEN. If he has such a pretty little girl, why doesn't he go back to her like a good father? Why doesn't he go back to his own country?

KIRSTI. Mama is there anything to eat?

MAMA. Take some bread.

KIRSTI. With butter?

MAMA. No butter. You know that.

KIRSTI. I wish I could have a cupcake. A big yellow cupcake with pink frosting.

MAMA. For a little girl you have a long memory. There hasn't been any butter or sugar for cupcakes for a year, at least.

KIRSTI. When will there be cupcakes again?

MAMA. When the war ends. When the soldiers leave.

(SONG: "WHEN THE SOLDIERS GO")

KIRSTI (*sings*).

**WHEN THE SOLDIERS GO
I KNOW JUST WHAT I'LL DO
I'LL MAKE YOU BAKE A GREAT BIG CAKE
WITH SPRINKLES ON IT TOO**

ALL (*sing*).

**ON THAT GREAT DATE—
CAN'T WAIT!
WE'LL CELEBRATE, I KNOW,
WHEN THE SOLDIERS FINALLY GO**

ELLEN (*sings*).

**WHEN THE SOLDIERS GO
I KNOW JUST WHAT I'LL DO
I'LL SEE EACH PLAY AND MATINEE
AND BE AN ACTRESS TOO**

ALL (*sing*).

**ON THAT GREAT DATE—
JUST WAIT!
WE'LL CELEBRATE, I KNOW,
WHEN THE SOLDIERS FINALLY GO
OH, WHEN THE SOLDIERS GO AWAY
AND MAY IT BE TODAY, I PRAY
I DON'T REALLY CARE WHAT I DO
AS LONG AS I DO WHAT I DO
WITH YOU**

MRS. ROSEN (*sings*).

**WHEN THE SOLDIERS GO
I KNOW JUST WHAT I'LL DO**

**I'LL FIND A HEN
TO ROAST AND THEN
I'LL SERVE IT UP TO YOU**

MAMA (sings).

**WHEN THE SOLDIERS TO
I KNOW JUST WHAT WILL BE
I'LL SHINE EACH LIGHT ON
BRIGHT EACH NIGHT
FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE**

ALL (sing).

**WHEN THE SOLDIERS GO
I HOPE I'M THERE TO SEE
THE HAPPY DAY
THEY WALK AWAY
AND DENMARK WILL BE FREE
ON THAT GREAT DATE—
JUST WAIT!
WE'LL CELEBRATE, I KNOW,
WHEN THE SOLDIERS FINALLY GO
WHEN THE SOLDIERS FINALLY GO**

(Blackout.)