

“You’ll Never Walk Alone”

In the chapter “You’ll Never Walk Alone” John Green starts the reader off by talking about an old play from 1909 called *Liliom* by a Hungarian writer named Ferenc Molnar. John Green explains how the play by itself flopped when it was performed in Budapest but Molnar did not give up. He kept performing the play throughout Europe then the United States. When the play was in the United States in 1921, a translation of the play started getting good reviews. This caught the attention of a composer named Giacomo Puccini. Puccini wanted to make the play into an opera but Molnar did not want to sell the rights to him. Molnar wanted “You’ll Never Walk Alone” to be remembered as a play not an opera. Instead Molnar sold the rights to a musician duo by the names of Rodgers and Hammerstein. Molnar sold the rights to Rodger and Hammerstine because they ensured the play would be remembered as a musical not an opera. Rodger and Hammerstine’s son “You’ll Never Walk Alone” is sung twice throughout the play during times when the characters need encouragement. John Green explains how the lyrics of the song work for him. For example the repetition of the words “walk on” made him think of two fundamental facts. He lists that the first one is “We must go on” and the second is “None of us never walk alone, we may feel alone but even in the crushing grind of isolation, we aren’t alone.” Green then explains how after the first play with “You’ll Never Walk Alone” was a part of, the song gained a lot of traction. The song has been covered by Frank Sinatra, Johnny Cash, Aretha Franklin, and many more, but the biggest cover was from Gerry and the Pacemakers in 1963. This cover caused the song to go number one in the UK. Green explains that fans of soccer started singing the song together during games. It became so big that even today “You’ll Never Walk Alone” is etched in wrought iron above the gates of Anfield, Liverpool’s stadium. Green then goes on to say that the song is cheesy but it’s not wrong because it does not claim the world is a happy place it just asks us to walk with hope in our hearts. Green’s overall review

of "You'll Never Walk Alone" is four and a half stars. I think Green was inspired to write " You'll never walk Alone" because it's crazy that the number one Soccer chant song comes from musical theater. I also think he wrote about it because it's an example of many songs that draw thousands of people together. It's amazing that no matter the issues that are happening in a community all differences can be put aside so everyone can join together and sing along to a song. In my opinion, this topic doesn't really help John Green find a life of significance but It does help the people who come together to sing the song. It doesn't matter your race, religion, or age if you take part in singing the song there are no arguments or fights for the next two minutes and thirty seconds and I think that small moment of peace is part of what life of significance means. My own thoughts on this topic is I think it's very powerful that a song can cause this many people to come together and how it came from a musical from over a century ago. My overall rating of this chapter is four stars because all though it's very significant. it only helps people that participate in it find a life of significance.