

Audition scene 2: Miss Minchin, Sara (after losing her fortune), Becky (cockney scullery maid), Lavinia (snobbish student and something of a bully), Ermengarde (sweet, sometimes picked on, student), Ram Dass (man from India who lives next door, caretaker of the ailing Mr Carrisford)

Sara: We'd better finish scrubbing this sidewalk. Otherwise, Miss Minchin will be angry.

Becky: She's always angry about something.

Miss M: Come along, girls. Keep your backs straight—heads high. (Sees Sara and Becky.) Sara!

Sara: Yes, Miss Minchin?

Lavinia: Oh, look. It's Princess Sara. I never saw a princess scrubbing cobblestones before.

Miss M: That will be enough, Lavinia.

Lavinia: We're going to the museum and we're going to look at all the beautiful pictures. Don't you wish you could come along, Sara?

Miss M: Another word from you, Lavinia, and you'll be locked in your room.

Lavinia: I'm sorry, Miss Minchin.

Ermengarde: Shouldn't Lavinia apologize to Sara, Miss Minchin?

Miss M: One does not apologize to servants, Ermengarde.

Erm: Why not?

Miss M: You ask far too many questions for a girl your age. Sara, go into the classroom with the younger students and see that they don't get into any mischief. Teach them some useful phrases in French.

Lavinia: Why should they learn useful phrases in French, Miss Minchin? We don't know any.

Miss M: Silence! Now come along. And as we walk, remember that you are England's future. (They exit)

Becky: That Miss Lavinia hasn't been nice, has she, miss?

Sara: No one's been very nice except for you, Becky. Sometimes I wonder how much longer I can go on. I'm hungry most of the time, and my attic room is cold. Some people laughed at me yesterday because my old shoes made me slip down in the mud.

Becky: Chin up, miss. I know most of the girls would be nice, if only Miss Minchin would let them.

Ermengarde: (As she runs back in) Sara, can I visit you this evening?

Sara: How did you get away from Miss Minchin?

Erm: My father sent me more books, and you know how I hate reading.

Sara: I love books.

Erm: I know. Can I, Sara? Can I visit and you read the books to me?

Miss M: (calling from off stage) Ermengarde!

Sara: Yes, but you mustn't tell anyone. Miss Minchin mustn't find out.

Erm: She won't.

Miss M: (calling again) Ermengarde!!

Erm: Coming, Miss Minchin! Thank you, Sara. (She exits.)

(Ram Dass enters.)

RD: I bid you good day.

Becky : (frightened of the man in a turban) Oh, miss, it's a heathen.

Sara: Don't be silly, Becky. This man is a lascar.

RD: How perceptive.

Sara: There are lots of lascars in India.

Becky: If you say so, miss. What's that funny thing on his head?

Sara: It's called a turban. (to Ram Dass) You're the servant of the gentleman who moved in next door.

RD: That's right, young miss. My name is Ram Dass. My employer's name is Mr Carrisford. I have the attic room across from where you reside.

Sara: The houses are close together. I can't help but notice how warm your room looks, and I've seen a monkey scampering about, climbing the drapes and jumping here and there.

RD: It is the monkey I wish to tell you about. He belongs to my master who is ill. Sometimes the monkey amuses him and makes him feel better. It would be most sad for my master if the monkey were lost. The little one likes to explore. If he should jump across to your room, don't be alarmed. He's easy to catch and means no harm.

Sara: If he pays me a visit, I'll catch him and return him. I'm quite fond of animals.

RD: I am forever in your debt. (Bows) Young ladies. (He exits)

Becky: Did you hear that, miss? He called us young ladies. I ain't never been called a young lady before.

Sara: Ram Dass seems pleasant.

Becky: Even if he does wear that funny hat.

Sara: I'd better get on with the French lesson.

Becky: And I'd better finish me chores. Otherwise, Cook will have me 'head.