

TSG AUDITIONS 2019

ARCHIE / MARY / LILY / ROSE SIDE

SCENE 2: THE BALLROOM

(Mary enters. The music stops and the waltz ends)

MARY

Are you my Uncle Archibald?

ARCHIBALD

Who's that?

MARY

It's Mary Lennox, sir. Are you my Uncle Archibald?

ARCHIBALD

Yes, I am. Good Morning Child.

MARY

Are you going to be my father now?

ARCHIBALD

I am your guardian. Though I am a poor one for any child. I offer you my deepest sympathy.....

*(MARY pulls the photograph she brought with her from India out of her pocket.
LILY enters)*

MARY

Is this my Aunt Lily, in this picture?

ARCHIBALD

Yes it is. Where did you get that?

MARY

It was on my dresser, in India. Maybe Mother put it there. I don't know.

ARCHIBALD

Your mother and my Lily...

(She grabs the photo back from him)

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ARCHIBALD

Please excuse me. Who dressed you, child?

MARY

Martha tried to, sir.

ARCHIBALD

Yes, I see

ROSE

Lily, you've been dancing with that gloomy Archibald all evening!

LILY

He's just shy, Rose. I think Archie has the tenderest heart I've ever known.

ROSE

Silly Lily. Have you been so busy looking into his eyes, that you've missed the hump on his back?

ARCHIBALD

I do hope you'll enjoy the gardens.

MARY

But I want to know what happens to dead people.

(He stops)

ARCHIBALD

Yes. Well. Quite natural that you should wonder that. We bury them. We put their things away, we remember things they said. We...talk to them, sometimes...in our minds, of course...

MARY

Can they hear us?

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ARCHIBALD

And then one morning, when we think we're over them at last, we find ourselves in the ballroom, knowing full well we have been here all night, and we draw the painful conclusion that we have been dancing with them again.

MARY

I don't understand.

ARCHIBALD

Nor will you ever. They're not gone, you see. Just dead.

MARY

Is my Aunt Lily a ghost now?

ARCHIBALD

Why, have you heard her?

MARY

I heard *someone* crying in the house last night. But I don't know anything about ghosts. Is my father a ghost now? Does everyone who dies become a ghost?

ARCHIBALD

They're only a ghost if someone alive is still holding onto them.

MARY

Maybe what I heard was Mother, telling me to be nice so you'll keep me.

ARCHIBALD

The house *is* haunted, child. Day and night. But it is yours to live in as long as I am master here. I offer you my deepest sympathies on your arrival.

MARY

Did my mother have any *other* family?