

TSG AUDITIONS 2019

BEN / MARY SIDE

THE GREENHOUSE

(MARY enters the greenhouse carrying her skipping rope.)

MARY

Good morning, Ben.

BEN

Back again today, are you? What ave you been doin' out there?

MARY

Just wondering around. I don't have anybody to play with and nothing to do.

BEN

Dickon's here. Why don't you go talk to him? I saw him myself not five minutes ago, conjurin' with that stick of his.

MARY

I haven't met Dickon. I'm not sure he even exists. I think you and Martha just made him up.

BEN

Well, then, i'll give you a spade if you want to dig a little hole somewhere.

MARY

A little hole for what?

BEN

You and me are a good bit alike. We're neither of us good looking, and we're both as sour as we look.

MARY

I saw that robin again today.

BEN

Well, of course you did. There never was his like for bein' meddlesome. He's the real head gardener around here. Chirpin at me to come see some bush needs prunin'.

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MARY

I know where he lives too. It's that walled garden with the tall hedge all around it, and no door, and that funny tree growing out over the top of the wall. I think that tree is the same one my Aunt Lily's sitting in, in this picture.

(MARY pulls the photo out to show him.)

MARY

Am I right?

BEN

That's the one, missy. That it is. That was Miss Lily's garden.

MARY

Her garden? But I want to see it. Can you show me the door?

BEN

No I can't. When she died, your Uncle Archibald locked the door, said nobody was ever to go in that garden again, and buried the key. And now the ivy's grown up over the door such that I don't even know where it is now.

MARY

But aren't you worried that the garden is all dead with nobody taking care of it?

BEN

Of course I am. But if I so much as set foot in there...

MARY

Maybe the real reason the robin is chirping at you is he wants you to climb over his garden wall and work on it.

BEN

Maybe he does, but I can't go losin' my job on the advice of a bird, now can I? And the same goes for you.

MARY

My Uncle Archie said...

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BEN

Your Uncle Archie is gone most of the time, missy, and who's to say what might happen if he weren't here to stop it.

(The FAKIR appears)

MARY

Do you believe in spirits?

BEN

Old place like this there's more of them than there are of us.

MARY

I heard that crying in the house again last night.

BEN

That could well be a spirit you heard. They like a tall ceiling and a long hallway to swoop around in.

MARY

In India, once

I saw a Fakir pull a big dead snake right up out of a basket and make him dance.

BEN

I'm sure you think you've seen just about everything, Missy, except the inside of that garden...and you keep it that way. You hear me?

(MARY hears the sound of the ROBIN)

MARY

Good day, Ben