

TSG AUDITIONS 2019

COLIN / MARY SIDE 1

SCENE 7: COLIN'S ROOM

(A GHOSTLY FORM lies on a bed, screaming. MARY is terrified.)

COLIN

Get out!

MARY

Who are *you*?

COLIN

Are you a ghost?

MARY

No I am not. I am Mary Lennox. Archibald Craven is my uncle.

COLIN

How do you know you're not a ghost?

MARY

I'll pinch you if you like? That will show you how real I am. Who are *you*?

COLIN

I am Colin. Archibald Craven is my *father*. I see no one and no one sees me.
Including my father. I am going to die.

MARY

How do you know?

COLIN

Because I hear everybody whispering about it. If I live, I may be a hunchback,
but I shan't live.

MARY

Well, I've seen lots of dead people, and you don't look like any of *them*.

COLIN

Dead people! Where did you *come* from?

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MARY

From India. My parents died there of the cholera. But I don't know what happened to them after that. Perhaps they burned them.

COLIN

My mother died when I was born. That's why my father hates me.

MARY

He hates the garden too.

COLIN

What garden?

MARY

Just a garden your mother liked. Have you always been in this bed?

COLIN

Sometimes I have been taken to places at the seaside, but I won't stay because people stare at me. And one time a grand doctor came from London, and said to take off this iron thing Dr. Craven made me wear, and keep me out in the fresh air. But I hate fresh air, and I won't be taken out.

MARY

If you don't like people to see you, do you want me to go away?

COLIN

Yes, but I want you to come back first thing tomorrow morning and tell me all about India. In the books my father sends me, I've read that elephants can swim. Have you ever seen them swim? They seem altogether too large to be swimmers, unless perhaps they use their ears to...

MARY

I can't come talk to you in the morning. I have to go outside and look for something with Dickon.

COLIN

Who's Dickon?

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MARY

He's Martha's brother. He's my friend.

COLIN

If you go outside with that Dickon instead of coming here to talk to me, I'll send him away.

MARY

You *can't* send Dickon away!

COLIN

I can do whatever I want. If I were to live, this entire place would belong to me someday. And they *all* know that.

MARY

Why, you little Rajah! If you send Dickon away, I'll never come into this room again.

COLIN

I'll make you. They'll drag you in here.

MARY

I won't even look at you. I'll stare at the floor.

COLIN

You are a selfish thing.

MARY

You're more selfish than I am. You're the most selfish boy I ever saw.

COLIN

I'm selfish because I'm dying.

MARY

You just say that to make people feel sorry for you. If you were a nice boy it might be true, but you're too nasty to die!

(MARY turns towards the door.)

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(The AYAH appears.)

COLIN

No, please don't go. It's just that the storm scares me so that if I went to sleep,
I'm afraid I might not wake up...

MARY

Then close your eyes, and I will do what my Ayah used to do in India. I will pat
your hand and stroke it and sing something quite low.

(The AYAH begins to hum)

COLIN

And I have such terrible dreams.

MARY

I have bad dreams too. Last night I dreamed about my father. Only he had this
lump on his back, like your father. And then when he turned around, he was
your father.