

TSG AUDITIONS 2019

MRS. WINTHROP SIDE

SCENE 7: THE LIBRARY

DR. CRAVEN and MRS. MEDLOCK are in the library awaiting the arrival of the headmistress from the school they have selected for Mary.

DR. CRAVEN

Well, Mrs. Medlock. What a fine morning this has turned out to be.

MRS. MEDLOCK

Yes, doctor.

DR. CRAVEN

I trust this headmistress will be quite impressed, riding cross the moor on such a day. Perhaps she could even join me for tea. I daresay she might relish a bit of civilised conversation, living as she does, in the company of spinsters and orphaned girls.

MRS. MEDLOCK

I'm sure she would be quite flattered by your attention, sir.

(JANE, a housemaid, appears with MRS. WINTHROP)

JANE

Beg pardon, doctor. It's Mrs. Winthrop, sir.

(JANE exits.)

DR. CRAVEN

Yes, Madam. Come in. Do come in. Please.

MRS. WINTHROP

Good day Doctor.

DR. CRAVEN

And this is our housekeeper, Mrs Medlock.

MRS. WINTHROP

How do you do?

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DR. CRAVEN

I trust you had a pleasant journey.

MRS. WINTHROP

Actually, not. I have always found scenery, by itself, to be very tiresome.

DR. CRAVEN

Well, then, you will be relieved to find we have contrived to keep all the scenery outdoors. Won't you sit down?

(Taking the forms from his jacket.)

I've completed all the forms you sent us, and I think you'll see my brother has included a contribution to the school's building fund. You didn't request it, of course, but as I told my brother, I'm sure you're in the planning stages of something or other.

(Then to MRS. MEDLOCK)

Mrs. Medlock, will you see what's keeping Mary?

MARY

I'm right here, sir

DR. CRAVEN

Quite right. Here's our girl. Mary Lennox, this is Mrs. Winthrop of the Aberdeen School for Girls.

MRS. WINTHROP

Good Morning, Mary.

MARY

I don't want to go to a school.

MRS. WINTHROP

Oh, but you do. A useless child never knows her worth, we say.

MARY

My Uncle Archibald said...

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DR. CRAVEN

Perhaps if you would tell Mary a little about the school, she'd see there is no reason to be...

MRS. WINTHROP

Certainly. And let me say from the start that you are not on trial here. The Board of Trustees has accepted your application.

DR. CRAVEN

Oh.....that's good news, indeed.

MARY

I won't go. You can't make me!

DR. CRAVEN

Mary Lennox!

MRS. WINTHROP

That's all right, doctor. This is exactly the type of behaviour we are best equipped to handle.

MARY

My Uncle Archibald is the only one who says where I'm going to go and he says I don't have to go to any stupid school.

DR. CRAVEN

She's just frightened, I'm sure. Children are quite often depressed after a tragedy such as she has suffered.

MRS. WINTHROP

Of course, doctor. Perhaps she would enjoy seeing some photographs of the girls at their work. I've brought several samples of the fine lace for which our girls are so...

MARY

I hate you! You're a horrible, ugly pig.

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DR. CRAVEN

That's quite enough, young lady!

MARY

Your school is a filthy rathole full of brats and dirty beds. And all anybody really does there is scrub floors! I hope you get hit by a lorry on the way home and your ugly head rolls off in a ditch and gets eaten by maggots! I hate you! I hate you! I hate you! And if I'm sent off with you, I'm going to bite your arm and you're going to die. Get out of here!

(She throws a chair)

Go away! Go Away! Go away!

MRS. WINTHROP

Well, we have had one or two cases of this severity.

(MARY stamps on MRS. WINTHROP's foot.)

DR. CRAVEN

Mary Lennox!

MRS. WINTHROP

Doctor, what you have here, is a medical problem.