

TSG AUDITIONS 2019

ARCHIE / MARY SIDE 2

SCENE 4: ARCHIBALD'S LIBRARY

ARCHIBALD

Yes, child. Come in. Perhaps we can manage to have a moment before the storm carries us away. Take a chair.

MARY

(Takes a seat)

Thank you sir.

ARCHIBALD

Are you well? Do they take good care of you?

MARY

Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

ARCHIBALD

I'm sorry it's been so long since we've spoken. It's just I keep forgetting you. I intended to find you a school to go to or...

MARY

Oh no. Please don't send me away!

ARCHIBALD

No, of course not. But perhaps you would enjoy a governess, considering that you've had a chance to look around now and know there's nothing for you to do. What do you say to that?

MARY

Please don't make me have a governess, sir. There's everything for me to do here. There are so many gardens to walk around in, and so much to learn about them. Martha gave me a skipping rope, and Dickon gave me some seeds and...

(ALBERT appears upstage IN THE PAST)

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ALBERT

And here's a rose for you, Mary...

ARCHIBALD

Yes, all right then...

ALBERT

Happy birthday, darling.

(LILY enters)

ARCHIBALD

Play outside if you like, but is there anything you need? Would you like some toys, or books or dolls perhaps?

MARY

Might I...

ARCHIBALD

Speak up, child.

DR. CRAVEN

I don't think that is wise, Archie.

ARCHIBALD

A bit of earth...

DR. CRAVEN

Until you are ready to send her to a school...

ARCHIBALD

SHE WANTS A LITTLE
BIT OF EARTH
SHE'LL PLANT SOME SEEDS

DR. CRAVEN

It is my professional advice
that you continue to obey your
natural instincts and avoid her.

ARCHIBALD

THE SEEDS WILL GROW

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DR. CRAVEN

Archie...

ARCHIBALD

THE FLOWERS BLOOM
BUT IS THEIR BOUNTY
WHAT SHE NEEDS...

DR. CRAVEN

If I could have your signature on these leases

ARCHIBALD

HOW CAN SHE CHANCE
TO LOVE A LITTLE
BIT OF EARTH?

MARY

Might I have a bit of earth, sir?

ARCHIBALD

A bit of earth?

MARY

To plant seeds in, yes sir. A garden.

ARCHIBALD

Do you care about gardens so much, then?

MARY

I didn't know about them in India. I was always ill and tired and it was too hot. I sometimes played at making little flower beds, sticking things in the sand. But here, I might have a real garden if you would allow it, sir.

ARCHIBALD

Are you sure there's nothing else?

MARY

No, sir.

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ARCHIBALD

Allright then, you may have your earth. Take as much earth as you want.

MARY

Thank you very much, sir.

DR. CRAVEN

You may leave child.