

Miss M: Has Sara Crewe a black frock in her sumptuous wardrobe?

Miss A: A black one? A *black* one.

Miss Minchin glares but doesn't answer

Miss A: I believe she does have an old black velvet dress, which she has outgrown.

Miss M: Go and tell her to remove that ridiculous dress and petticoat she is wearing and put on the black dress. She is done with finery.

Miss A: Oh sister, what has happened?

Miss M: Captain Crewe is dead. He has died without a penny. That spoiled, pampered fanciful child is left a pauper on my hands. You must go and make her change her frock immediately. Tell her to come here and I will not have any crying or unpleasant scenes. (*she sits and stares with almost no movement*)

Miss Amelia exits and enters the schoolroom where the children are still chattering.

Miss A: Sara, dear. You must come with me. Miss Minchin has ordered you to change out of these clothes. I am so sorry my dear, but there has been a terrible tragedy. (*she begins to cry a little*)

The rest of the girls have stopped and are now listening. Becky has crept close to Sara.

Sara: What is it Miss Amelia? What on earth is the matter?

Miss A: Your Papa – Captain Crewe – he – he's dead Sara. He died of a terrible fever. He died penniless Sara. The diamond mines never happened. His friend disappeared, and your poor papa died without a single penny to his name.

Sara looks at Miss Amelia, and picks up Emily, but Sara can hardly speak. Ermengarde & Lottie start to cry, and Becky runs out of the room.

Sara: Papa is dead! My papa is dead. Emily, Emily – do you hear? Papa is dead. He is dead in India - thousands of miles away.

Miss A: You are to change, Sara, into your old black velvet dress and report to Miss Minchin at once. You are no longer an heiress Sara. No longer the privileged student of this seminary

Sara sinks to the floor, clutching Emily