

Becky has entered and is sitting on the floor by the "fire grate". She is sweeping up the coal dust. Sara enters.

Becky: O beggin' yer pardon Miss. I thought I'd jus tidy up in here.

Becky has obviously been crying as her face is smudged and dirty

Sara: Oh Becky! I'm so sorry about Lavinia. We're not all like that you know.

Becky: I know Miss. It's jus.. well.. Cook heard the commotion and she won' let me 'ave any dinner. I'm starvin' cos I didn't get lunch either. I managed to burn the cabbage.

Sara: *(finding some cake from a tin)* Here Becky, have this. It's not much, but better than nothing.

Becky: Oh thank you Miss. Sponge cake's a 'evenly thing. *(laughing)* Oh Miss. It's so much nicer here than in my attic with the rats and mice and cockroaches!

Sara: Rats! Are there rats up there?

Becky: Lots of 'em, miss. There mostly is rats an' mice in attics. You gets used to the noise they makes scuttling about. I've got so I don't mind 'em s' long as they don't run over my pillar.

Sara: Ugh! Horrid! It's my Birthday soon Becky. Miss Minchin wants to have a big tea party. I do wish Papa could be here.

Becky: Will yer father send yer somethin' Miss?

Sara: Well I am getting a bit old now for I shall be twelve years old; but I have asked for my last doll. She will be very special and I know that all the girls will love her.