

**ENTRE'ACTE: MISS M'S OFFICE**

*Miss Amelia & Miss Minchin have entered Miss Minchin is pacing, angry. Miss Amelia is sitting on chair*

**Miss M:** I blame you for this Amelia. You are too soft. You treat those girls, and Sara in particular, as if they were your own children – ridiculous, sentimental nonsense.

**Miss A:** That is harsh, sister. I am not as clever as you, and I am afraid to say things for fear of making you angry. I have often thought it would have been better if you had been less severe with Sara Crewe. I know that she was worked too hard for a child of her age, and I know she was only half fed –

**Miss M:** How *dare* you say such a thing!

**Miss A:** I don't know how I dare, but now I've begun, I may as well finish. The child is a clever and a good child – and she would have paid you for any kindness you might have shown her. The fact is, she is too clever for you and you have always disliked her for that reason. She used to see through us both –

**Miss M:** Amelia! *(she is now in a state of fury, and goes towards Amelia as if she is going to hit her)*

**Miss A:** *(now hysterical, protecting herself)* She did! She did!. She saw you were a hard-hearted, worldly woman and that we were both vulgar and mean enough to grovel on our knees before her money, and behave disgracefully to her because it was taken from her. She behaved with such dignity– even when she was a beggar.

*Miss Minchin is so taken aback, she stands mouth open, unable to speak.  
Miss Amelia starts to laugh and cry*

**Miss A:** And now you've lost her and it serves you right. You will never have her money! You are a hard woman Maria Minchin, a selfish, horrible woman.