

**ENTRE'ACTE**

*Sara enters Through Audience?? sits on stage*

**Sara:** Oh Papa; what a long time it seems since I was your Little Missus. It is so so cold, and I am so hungry and so tired.

*Becky enters and ??sits?? beside Sara.....*

**Becky:** Oh Miss... I'm jus' so so cold. That Miss Minchin's been on at me all day...she's more like the 'ead jailer every day she lives. I can jest see them big keys you say she carries. Cook's given me no end of beatin's. I'm so 'ungry - she wouldna give me a morsel. Jus' a bit of cold tea and water.

**Sara:** Let's get under this coverlet and wrap ourselves up in it. We have to try and think of something else then we won't feel so cold and hungry.

**Becky:** Has the Jailer stopped your dinner too miss?

**Sara:** Yes - she chose to punish me for no reason.

*They hugged together for a moment or two and then Sara got up, pulling Becky up with her.*

**Sara:** Come on - let's go to my attic and we can pretend being in the Bastille again. Things are never so bad when we are pretending.

**SCENE SEVEN: SARA'S ATTIC**

*They move across to Sara's "attic" and the both gasp at what they see..*

*She comes into the "room" and suddenly realises that things are different.*

**Sara:** I - I must - be - dreaming? *(she rubs her eyes deliberately)* This cannot be possible. Magic.. this is the magic I have always pretended about. But this is *real!* BECKY!

**Becky:** Oh my miss.. Oh - oh - my .. I - I - I dunno what to say miss. Who'd do a thing like this? It is magic, jus' like one of yer stories. And there's FOOD! *(she is touching everything to check that it is all real)*

**Sara:** We must find Ermengarde and Lottie. They can be guests at our party - just like it was before - before..

**Becky:** *(interrupts)* I'll go and fetch them Miss. I knows where they are. *(she rushes off)*

**Sara:** Oh Papa! This is *your* magic, I know it. *(she sits and starts to arrange everything for the "party")*

*Becky returns with Ermengarde & Lottie.*

**Erm:** Sara, this is wonderful. Where did it all come from?

**Lottie:** It's magic Ermengarde, like Becky said. Sara is so clever, she has made her stories come true!

**Sara:** Well I simply can't explain this, but it is so wonderful I think we should just be glad that we can enjoy it, and with our best friends.

**Becky:** Do yer think it could melt away, miss? Hadn't we better be quick? *(she grabs a sandwich and eats it very quickly)*

**Erm:** It looks real enough to me! *(she too grabs something to eat, followed quickly by Lottie)*

**Lottie:** Mmm, delicious. Come on Sara, tuck in!

**Sara:** *(while eating a sandwich)* I don't think I have been so happy. Here I am with my dearest friends, eating the most delicious food, in a room that now looks fit for a princess to live in! *They all laugh.*

*As they chat and eat, they become unaware of a noise coming from offstage. It is Miss Minchin, followed by Cook.*

*They enter ... ?? Through audience?? They are having a conversation as they walk in*

**Miss M:** Are you saying, Cook, that that wretched scullery maid, Becky, is actually stealing food?

**Cook:** Well Mum. There is no doubt in my mind that someone stole part of a meat pie. An' there warn't anyone else who could've done that without my seein' them. And that's not the only time, mum.

**Miss M:** Is Becky on her own in the kitchen then?

**Cook:** While she's scrubbing floors Mum, we all gets out of 'er way see. So it must've been 'er.

**Miss M:** Well she will regret this. It's time we showed her a bit more discipline. Beating her clearly isn't working.

*They are now standing in the attic and they gasp at the sight of the four girls talking and laughing and eating!!*

**Miss M:** Sara Crewe!

*All the girls get up, terrified. Ermengarde grabs Sara's hand, and Lottie starts to cry.*

**Cook:** Well I never! 'ere's yer food!

**Miss M:** I have been suspecting something of this sort. I didn't dream of such audacity. It seems that Lavinia was telling the truth.

**Cook:** Well Becky! What 'ave yer got ter say fer yerself? Stealin' food eh?

**Becky:** I – I – never I ...

**Miss M:** Cook tells me she has missed things repeatedly.

**Becky:** ‘Twarn’t me, mum. *(she begins to sob)* I could ‘ave; I’m ‘ungry enough, but ‘twarn’t me mum, never.

**Miss M:** You deserve to be sent to prison. Picking and stealing! Half a meat pie amongst other things.

**Becky:** ‘Twarn’t me *(she is really sobbing)*

*Sara goes to her to comfort her.*

*Miss Minchin moves towards Becky, pulls Sara out of the way, making her fall, and hits Becky repeatedly.*

**Becky:** *(desperately trying to defend herself)* I never took no food, mum. ‘Twas Cook give it to ‘er policeman.

**Cook:** Lies as well, eh, young whipper – snapper! I’ll teach you. *(she starts towards Becky to join in the beating)*

*Sara goes over and pulls Miss Minchin away and stops Cook from beating Becky.*

**Sara:** STOP! Stop it!

**Miss M:** *(turning on Sara)* You impudent creature. *(turning to Ermengarde)* Ermengarde, I will write to your papa. I wonder what *he* would say if he knew what you had been up to. Fraternising with the scullery maids. Go back to your room. Lottie, leave this instant. You will both be severely punished. Becky, go with Cook. She will find suitable punishments for you.

*Cook grabs Becky and drags her off*

*Ermengarde tries to say something, but finds she can’t. Lottie bursts into tears again, and runs off, followed by Ermengarde.*

**Miss M:** Well Sara Crewe. What have you to say for yourself ?

**Sara:** I was wondering what my papa would say if he knew where I am tonight.

*Miss Minchin is furious, and grabs Sara and shakes her violently, then starts to beat her violently.*

**Miss M:** You insolent, unmanageable child! How dare you! HOW DARE YOU!

*She pushes Sara on to her bed and sweeps her hand across the table sending everything flying. She then leaves the room*