

SCENE FOUR: THE SCHOOLROOM

Alice & Beatrice, with Isobel & Victoria enter

Alice: Life in the seminary..

Beatrice: (interrupting) .for Young Ladies...

Alice: ...continued without much excitement.

Victoria: Except for the fact that Lavinia became more and more jealous of Sara Crewe..

Isobel: ..as Sara's beautiful velvet coats; silk dresses and petticoats, sable muffs and ostrich feathers, meant that Miss Minchin chose her above everyone else to head the line.

Alice: This, of course, having been previously the privilege of Lavinia.

Victoria: Yes, well Lavinia is beautiful and rich too.

Lavinia and Jessie enter.

Jessie: There's one thing about Sara Crewe; she's never 'grand' about herself the least bit, and you know she might be, Lavvie. I believe I couldn't help being—just a little—if I had so many fine things and was made such a fuss over.

Victoria: It's disgusting, the way Miss Minchin shows her off when parents come.

Lavinia: (*mimicking Miss Minchin*) 'Dear Sara must come into the drawing room and talk to Mrs. Musgrave about India'.

The girls start to giggle

Lavinia: 'Dear Sara must speak French to Lady Pitkin. Her accent is so perfect.'

Victoria: O Lavinia, you are funny!

Lavinia: She didn't learn her French at the Seminary, at any rate. And there's nothing so clever in her knowing it. She says herself she didn't learn it at all, and as for her papa, there is nothing so grand in being an Indian officer.

Jessie: *Well, he's killed tigers. He killed the one in the skin Sara has in her room. That's why she likes it so. She lies on it and strokes its head, and talks to it as if it was a cat.*

Victoria: She's always doing something silly.

Lavinia: My mamma says that way of hers of pretending things is silly. She says she will grow up eccentric.

Enter Miss Amelia, with a screaming Lottie at her side.