

SCENE ONE: THE SCHOOLROOM

Alice, Isobel & Beatrice enter carrying books

Isobel: After her encounter with miss Minchin, life for Sara Crewe completely changed.

Beatrice: Miss Minchin would not throw her out on the streets for fear of the reputation of the school, so she kept Sara – as a scullery maid.

Alice: Occasionally she was seen in the classrooms teaching the younger students French, but her own education had come to an abrupt end.

Isobel: Miss Minchin and Cook took great delight in using Sara in every waking moment.

Alice: They sent her on errands at any time and in all weathers. And the housemaids enjoyed ordering Sara about.

Beatrice: The work was very hard. She was not allowed to communicate with any of the young ladies and of course there were some.....

Isobel: *(interrupting)* ...Lavinia and Victoria...

Beatrice: ...who addressed her as an under-servant, and continually asked her to perform the most menial of tasks.....

Isobel: ...and took great delight in teasing Sara, laughing at her, and complaining to Miss Minchin as often as possible, so that Sara was constantly beaten and deprived of food.

Alice: Gradually, Sara began to look shabby as her dress, which was too small for her, now had holes in the sleeves, and her shoes afforded no protection.

Beatrice: Her bright looks began to fade and she became thinner and thinner.

Alice: Worst of all, she had to live in a garret; the attic room next to Becky, the scullery maid.

Enter Lavinia, Jessie & Victoria

Lavinia: Well she deserves everything she gets. To think that she was the girl with the diamond mines. She does look an object.

Enter Ermengarde, crying.

Jessie: What are *you* crying for? Pining after Sara?

Victoria & Lavinia giggle

Erm: I'm ..I'm not crying.

Victoria: You are! A great big tear just rolled down the bridge of your nose and dropped off the end of it. And there goes another.

Erm: Well, I'm miserable and no one need interfere. *(she takes her handkerchief and puts it over her face)*

She runs off

The girls shriek with laughter and all exit in varying directions.