

*Sara and her father are left on stage.*

**Crewe:** Well my darling Little Missus, it is time for me to leave. Be happy Sara. We will not be apart for long.

**Sara:***(putting her hand into her Father's and then pulling him to her level, she traces her fingers over his face)* I will very much miss you Papa.

**Crewe:** Are you learning me by heart Sara?

**Sara:** No, Papa. I know you by heart.

*At that moment, Miss Minchin enters – it is as if a thunderstorm entered. Sara immediately shivers, and Captain Crewe seems almost to stand to attention*

**Miss M:** Ah, Captain Crewe. You found us? Good. And this, I take it, is your daughter, Sara.

**Crewe:** Er yes, and you I presume are Miss Minchin?

**Miss M:** Indeed you assume correctly Captain. I shall take charge of Sara now. I will look after her well – she will not want for anything. A motherless child always receives my special attention.

**Crewe:** Thank you Miss Minchin, but Sara will not need any special treatment. Indeed, I am not in the least anxious about her education, The difficulty will be to keep her from learning too fast and too much. She is always sitting with her little nose burrowing into books. She doesn't read them, Miss Minchin; she gobbles them up. She is always starving for new books to gobble, and she wants grown-up books French and German as well as English— history and biography and poets, and all sorts of things.

**Miss M:** It will be a great privilege to have charge of such a beautiful and promising child, Captain Crewe. A clever child is a great treasure in an establishment like mine. Come along Sara. *(to Crewe)* A short parting is always recommended in these circumstances Captain. *(calling)* Miss Amelia, come and take charge here if you please.

*Miss Amelia comes bustling in*

**Miss A:** Come along Sara dear. *(she begins to take Sara by the hand to lead her into the school but Captain Crewe stops them)*

**Crewe:** Wait, wait!....*(he kneels and puts his arms around Sara and she hugs him).* They remain like that as if they will never let each other go until Miss Minchin steps forward. She removes Sara from Crewe and hands her over to Miss Amelia who leads her into the school.

**Miss M:** Goodbye Captain Crewe. I am looking forward to hearing of your exploits in India, and your success in finding those diamonds!

**Crewe** Thank you Miss Minchin. I sail tomorrow morning. My solicitors Messrs Barrow & Skipworth will attend to all my affairs in England whilst I am away. Here is their card. They will pay all the bills and look after any expenses that my daughter should accrue. I will write to Sara twice a week. Please make sure that she is given everything that she wants and needs. She is a darling creature. Take great care of her for me Miss Minchin.

**Miss M:** Sara will be well taken care of Captain Crewe. Goodbye. *(she leaves him very abruptly)*

**Crewe:** Heigh-ho, little Sara. I don't believe you know how much your daddy will miss you.