

Miss M: ...I will see to it that she returns immediately with me.. Ah, there you are Sara. And what do you think you are doing coming uninvited to this house?

Sara: I'm sorry Miss Minchin I –

Carmichael: (*interrupting*) Ah, so this is Miss Minchin.

Miss M: (*turning to address Mr Carrisford*) I am sorry to disturb you Mr Carrisford. I am Miss Minchin, the proprietress of the Seminary for Young Ladies next door.

Carrisford: Well Miss Minchin, you have arrived at exactly the right time, for my solicitor here, Mr Carmichael, was on the point of seeing you.

Miss M: Your solicitor? I do not understand. I have come as a matter of duty as one of my pupils – well charity pupils – has intruded upon you. (*turning to Sara*) Go home AT ONCE. You shall be severely punished. GO!

Carrisford: (*drawing Sara close to him and putting his arm around her*) She is not going home – if you give your house that name. Her home for the future is with me.

Miss M: With *you* sir? What does this mean?

Carmichael: Mr Carrisford, madam, was an intimate friend of the late Captain Crewe. The fortune, which Captain Crewe supposed he had lost, has been recovered, and is now in Mr Carrisford's hands.

Miss M: The *fortune*? Sara's fortune?

Carmichael: Yes Miss Minchin, Sara's fortune, which is considerably more now as the diamond mines have retrieved themselves.

Miss M: Well! I – I – (*trying to recover*) the child was found under *my* care; but for me, she would have been starving in the streets. Captain Crewe left her in my charge. She must return to the seminary where she will, once again, become a parlour boarder. The law will interfere on my behalf.

Carmichael: The law will do nothing of the sort. If Sara herself wishes to return to you – well..

Miss M: (*interrupting*) Well Sara. I have not spoiled you, perhaps; but you know that your papa was pleased with your progress. And (*coughs*) I have always been fond of you.

Sara: Have you Miss Minchin? I did not know that.

Miss M: Amelia and I have always said you were the cleverest in the school.

Sara: You know why I will never return to the seminary Miss Minchin. You know quite well.

Miss M: (*angry*) You will never see your companions again. I will see that Lottie and Ermengarde are kept away –

Carmichael: *(interrupting)* The parents of Sara Crewe's friends are not likely to refuse her invitations to her guardian's house.

Carrisford: Indeed no!

Miss M: *(now very angry)* You have not undertaken an easy charge. You will discover that very soon. The child is neither truthful nor grateful. *(turning to Sara)* I suppose that you feel now that you are rich enough to laud it over all of us, like a princess.

Sara: I was never like that Miss Minchin and you know it..

Miss Minchin storms out, furious.