

SCENE NINE: CARRISFORD'S SITTING ROOM

Scene changes to Carrisford's living room. (Cast bring on set)

Carrisford enters with Carmichael. Ram Dass follows with Mrs Carmichael, Janet, Nora, Jane, Sally & Donald.

Janet is holding Donald tightly

Janet: Donald, don't chirrup so loudly. When you come and cheer an ill person up, you don't cheer at the top of your voice.

Donald: *(shouting)* I'm going to be quiet. We'll all be as quiet as mice.

Nora: Mice don't make a noise like that.

Donald: A whole lot of mice might. A thousand mice might.

Sally: I don't believe fifty thousand mice would, and we have to be as quiet as ONE mouse.

Mr Carrisford turns and laughs.

Carrisford: Don't worry children. I like your jolly company. It stops me from thinking too much.

Jane: Mr Ram Dass. Can you tell us about the little lost girl.

Nora: We call her the little unfairy princess.

Ram Dass: That is strange. Why do you call her that?

Janet: It is because, though she is not exactly a fairy, she will be so rich when she is found, that she will be like a princess in a fairy tale.

Donald: Mr Ram Dass, did you take all those things to the-girl-who-isn't-a beggar?

Jane: You mean the Girl in the Attic.

Ram Dass: I did indeed. We transformed her garret into a beautiful room with a carpet, warm blankets, cushions, and we have been leaving her and her friend, food every day.

Carrisford: Ram Dass, did you deliver the parcel?

Ram Dass: Indeed Sahib. I have since seen the girl walking with her new things. She looks so much better. She smiled and waved. It was so good to see her cheeks looking rosy again. *(he exits as there is a ring of a doorbell off stage..)*

Carmichael: Carrisford, I have been thinking – and it is this little girl next door that has made me think – what about London?

Carrisford: Sorry old chap, not with you.

Carmichael: Sara Crewe. We have never looked for her nearer to home. We've searched in Paris, even as far as Russia, but we have never searched for her here, in London.

Carrisford: True, but there are so many schools, Where are we to begin?

Janet: Papa, what about next door.

Carmichael: Well, why not? We may as well start as close to home as we can!

Carrisford: There is a child who has interested me there. Ram Dass has been looking after her. But she is not a pupil. She is a dark, forlorn creature, as unlike poor Crewe as a child could be.

Ram Dass enters

Ram Dass: Sahib, the child herself has come – the child the sahib felt pity for. She has come to thank us for our kindness in giving her the gifts of clothing. I confess Sahib, that I left a note for her as she had written one to me.

Carrisford: Well bring her in Ram Dass.

Ram Dass exits

Carrisford: Carmichael, while you have been away we have been sending things to this poor child, just to try and make her life a little more comfortable. I am surprised that she is brave enough to visit us.

Janet: But Mr Carrisford, we have always said that she is different. She is not what she seems.

Sara enters with Ram Dass. She curtseys and looks around the room.