

17 **BERT, SWEEPS:**

f Spe - cial de - liv - 'ry, step in time.

Spe-cial de-liv - 'ry, step in time. Nev-er need a rea - son,

nev-er need a rhyme. Spe-cial de-liv - 'ry, step in time.

(The MESSENGER, who is the last of the sweeps, hands GEORGE a letter.)

BERT: Time to go now. Goodnight, Guv'nor.

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(The SWEEPS dance out past the dazed GEORGE through the open front door, carrying the MESSENGER with them. BERT lingers in the shadows.)

SWEEPS: *(greeting GEORGE variously)* Goodnight, Guv'nor.

Cheerio, Guv'nor. G'night, Guv'nor.

MICHAEL: *(disguised as a SWEEP)* Cheerio, Guv'nor.

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GEORGE

Not so fast. To the nursery... now! Jane, you too. Mary Poppins, would you be good enough to explain?

MARY POPPINS

First of all, I would like to make one thing clear.

GEORGE

Yes?

MARY POPPINS

I never explain anything. Come along, children.

(MARY POPPINS exits with JANE and MICHAEL. BERT lingers. GEORGE has opened the letter. WINIFRED comes over. He looks up.)

GEORGE

It's happened. The Chairman wants to see me at the close of business tonight.

WINIFRED

Tonight?

GEORGE

We might as well face it. In just a few hours I will have joined the ranks of the unemployed.

WINIFRED

Are you quite sure?

GEORGE

Quite sure. So we'd better make some plans.

(WINIFRED exits. MARY POPPINS appears, unseen by GEORGE, and topples over a vase, spilling gingerbread stars onto the floor. MARY POPPINS exits. He notices the stars.)

Well, I never. So that's where I put them.

(BERT emerges from the shadows, helping GEORGE collect the gingerbread stars.)

BERT

What are they?

GEORGE

Gingerbread stars I hid once from my nanny. I used to dream that when I grew up I'd learn everything there was to know about the stars. Funny, I haven't thought about all that in years. I'm not usually sentimental.

BERT

S'good to look back sometimes.

GEORGE

It's that Poppins woman! She's responsible for all this!

SCRIPT