

SCENE 4: CHERRY TREE LANE, PARLOR

(JANE, MICHAEL, and MARY POPPINS enter the house. GEORGE is working at his desk. WINIFRED helps JANE and MICHAEL take off their coats, then approaches GEORGE.)

WINIFRED

Jane and Michael want to say goodnight.

GEORGE

Tell them you've given me the message.

WINIFRED

George, please...

(GEORGE reluctantly stands up as JANE and MICHAEL assault him with news and questions.)

JANE

Oh, Daddy! We've had a fantastic day! We sang with a busker and danced with a statue! You wouldn't have approved but—

GEORGE

If you know that, then why did you do it?

MICHAEL

Daddy, could I have a kite? A proper one?

GEORGE

Could you fly it?

MICHAEL

You could always teach me.

GEORGE

When would I have the time to do that?

(MICHAEL accepts this with a sad nod. He's used to it. GEORGE becomes agitated.)

Now, would you please let me get on! Goodnight!

(JANE and MICHAEL hang their heads and exit to the nursery with MARY POPPINS. GEORGE takes up his work. WINIFRED approaches.)

WINIFRED

Poor Michael. All he cares about is flying kites.

GEORGE

I used to love flying kites at his age. But my nanny, Miss Andrew, soon frightened it out of me.

WINIFRED

Is it out of the question to do without a nanny?

GEORGE

Don't be absurd! All the best people have nannies... so the wives can do charity work and entertain. Which reminds me, how is your tea party coming on?

WINIFRED

I'm not sure. It seems so odd to send out invitations to people I hardly know.

GEORGE

But they're people you should know. Remember: "By your friends shall ye be judged."

WINIFRED

But that's the point. They're not my friends...

GEORGE

Winifred. Dearest. I'm only thinking of you. Are you going to say something to Mary Poppins about this afternoon?

WINIFRED

I don't think so.

GEORGE

Very well. But just make sure she's doing things our way and not her's.

(#12 – WINDS DO CHANGE.)

