

**SCENE 2: MARY'S ARRIVAL - Parlor**

*(MARY POPPINS appears among them. She is wearing a hat with cherries in the brim and carrying an umbrella with a handle shaped like a parrot's head.)*

**MARY POPPINS**

Good morning.

**GEORGE**

*(approaching MARY POPPINS)*

Yes?

**MARY POPPINS**

I've come in answer to the advertisement.

**GEORGE**

What advertisement? We haven't placed any advertisement. Not yet.

**MARY POPPINS**

George and Winifred Banks live here, do they not?

**GEORGE**

Mr. and Mrs. Banks live here, yes.

**MARY POPPINS**

And you are looking for a nanny?

**GEORGE**

Well, I suppose—

**MARY POPPINS**

Very well then. Now, let's see.

*(From her pocket, MARY POPPINS takes a torn but now mended piece of paper.)*

"Play games, all sorts." Which I most certainly can. "Take us on outings, give us treats."

*(GEORGE casts an uneasy look towards the CHILDREN. This sounds very like... but it can't be! He stares at MARY POPPINS blankly. JANE and MICHAEL listen from the staircase.)*

**JANE**

Michael! It's our advertisement!

**MARY POPPINS**

"Rosy cheeks and fairly pretty."

*(to GEORGE)*

There's no objection on that score, I hope?

**GEORGE**

*(blushing)*

Oh, none at all.

**MARY POPPINS**

I'm glad to hear it.

*(MARY POPPINS stares at him so firmly that, for a moment, it is like a ray of light passing right through him.)*

**GEORGE**

But—oh, take it up with Mrs. Banks. She manages all that side of things. Nothing domestic has anything to do with me! And don't forget the references!

*(GEORGE is gone, leaving WINIFRED and the newcomer staring at each other. After a moment, MARY POPPINS speaks.)*

**MARY POPPINS**

I make it a rule never to give references.

**WINIFRED**

But I thought it was usual.

**MARY POPPINS**

A very old-fashioned idea to my mind. The best people never require them now.

**WINIFRED**

I see. You will have every third Thursday evening off from five until nine.

**MARY POPPINS**

The best people give every second Wednesday from six 'til late, ma'am, and that is what I shall take.

**WINIFRED**

Oh, I see... well... it's all settled then...

**MARY POPPINS**

As long as I am satisfied. I'll see the children now, thank you.

**WINIFRED**

Of course...

*(turns back nervously)*

You'll find they're very nice children...

*(JANE and MICHAEL come screaming down the stairs and stand in front of MARY POPPINS.)*

Now this is... oh.

*(WINIFRED is surprised to find that she has employed someone without knowing her name.)*

**MARY POPPINS**

Mary Poppins.

*(For a moment, MARY POPPINS looks at the CHILDREN as if she were reading their souls. They stare back.)*

Jane, don't stare. And close your mouth, Michael. We are not a codfish.

*(But MICHAEL is not so easily conquered as he continues looking at MARY POPPINS. She gives a sharp nod and starts up the stairs.)*

Best foot forward. Spit-spot.

#4A - Spit-Spot

orchestr

*(MICHAEL and JANE run up the stairs in front of MARY POPPINS as the relieved WINIFRED watches. MRS. BRILL has joined her.)*

**WINIFRED**

Mrs. Brill, we have a new nanny.

**MRS. BRILL**

She passed her interview, then?

**WINIFRED**

Or I did.

*(WINIFRED and MRS. BRILL exit.)*