

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

(With a sudden thud, 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.)

Start

**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 on the staircase.)

**JANE**

Michael! It's our advertisement!

MARY POPPINS

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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 5 until 9.

MARY POPPINS

The best people give every second Wednesday from 6 '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.

STOP