

THE SECRET GARDEN

Scene One
Mary's Sitting Room

(MARTHA, a sturdy Yorkshire girl, enters carrying a breakfast tray and a skipping rope.)

[MUSIC NO. 06AA - "MARTHA'S DITTY"]

MARTHA.

ME MOTHER ASKED ME, LASSIE, TELL ME WHAT YOUR LAD MUN DO
BEFORE YOU GIVE YOUR HEART AWAY, AND MAKES A NEST, AND ALL THE REST
I TOLD ME DARLIN' MOTHER THERE'S SOMETHING HE MUN DO,
BUT I'LL SAY FIRST HOW HE MUN LOOK HIS EYES, THEY MUN BE TOO

MARY. Are you my servant?

(MARY's AYAH appears.)

START — MARTHA. Well there, Mary Lennox. Me name is Martha. And now tha'rt up, I'll make tha' bed.

MARY. Aren't you going to dress me first?

MARTHA. Canna tha' dress thyself, then?

[MUSIC NO. 06B - "INDIA STING NO. 01"]

MARY. In India, my Ayah dressed me.

MARTHA. Well then, it'll do tha' good to wait on thysel' a bit. 'Tis fair a wonder grand folks children don't turn out fair fools, bein' washed and took out to walk like they was puppies.

MARY. What is this language you speak?

MARTHA. Well, of course, you've not heard any Yorkshire, livin' in India, have ye? Mrs. Medlock said I'd have to be careful or you wouldn't understand what I was sayin'. But I didn't know what to expect from you either. When I heard you was comin' from Bombay, I thought you'd be a solid brown, I did. But you're not brown at all. More yellow, I'd say.

(MARY's hands fly up to her eyes, as she bursts into tears and doesn't want MARTHA to see it.)

Eh, now lassie, I didn't know you'd be so easy vexed. I'll help you on with your clothes this time, if you like. You just pretend you're back in India, and I'm your servant, and you just give me that little yellow foot.

MARY. I'm quite all right. Thank you.

MARTHA. Look there. Out the window. It's the moor, it is. Like a dull purple sea this morning. Do you like it?

MARY. I hate it.

MARTHA. Ah, you wait till spring, then. For the moor is fair covered in gorse and heather, and there's such a lot of fresh air. My brother Dickon goes off and plays on the moor for hours. He's got a pony that's made friends with him, and birds and sheep and such as eats right out of his hand.