

SCENE 3: PRACTICALLY PERFECT – Nursery

(The nursery is an airy room, light and full of optimism. The CHILDREN rush in to find that MARY POPPINS is already there.)

START

MARY POPPINS

Very tidy, I must say. Tidier than I was expecting. Who's responsible for that?

JANE

Mrs. Bri—

MICHAEL

Me. I am. I like to keep things neat.

MARY POPPINS

Do you indeed? Well, I look forward to making use of that. If there's one thing I appreciate, it's a child whose word I can depend on.

(scoops up a boy doll)

Who's he when he's at home?

JANE

That's Valentine. He's mine.

MARY POPPINS

From the look on his face, I'm not sure he'd agree with you.

JANE

He's just a doll and I don't want to play with him now.

(JANE throws the doll into a box.)

MARY POPPINS

Treat him like that and he might not want to play with you. Now, first things first. I always say the proper place to hang a hat is on a hat stand.

#4B – Magic Music 1

orchestra

(MARY POPPINS reaches in her bag and takes out a hat stand. JANE and MICHAEL look inside as they move the bag.)

JANE

There's nothing in it!

MICHAEL

We'd better keep an eye on this one. She's tricky.

JANE

Mary Poppins, how could you know what we wanted in a nanny... when we made our list?

MARY POPPINS

Your "list"? I'm not an item in the weekly shop, thank you very much.

#4C - *Magic Music 2*

orchestra

(MARY POPPINS takes another item, perhaps a plant, out of her bag and places it strategically in the nursery.)

JANE

How did you come then? It was as if the wind just blew you here.

MARY POPPINS

It did. Now, stand over there!

#5 - *Practically Perfect*

Mary Poppins, Jane, Michael

(MARY POPPINS pulls a measuring tape from the bag, holds it against MICHAEL, and reads the measure.)

(MARY POPPINS)

Just as I thought. "A noisy, mischievous, troublesome little boy."

MICHAEL

You're making that up!

(Without a word, MARY POPPINS holds the tape for MICHAEL to read.)

"A noisy, mischievous, troub—"

(Stunned, MICHAEL looks at JANE.)

MARY POPPINS

Now you.

(holds the tape against JANE and reads)

"Thoughtless, short-tempered and untidy."

JANE

I don't believe you. Let me see—

MARY POPPINS

BY THE TIME THE WIND HAS BLOWN
THE WEATHER VANE AROUND,

STOP

SCENE 14: FAMILY LIFE - Nursery

(MARY POPPINS appears in the nursery.)

MARY POPPINS

WITH EVERY JOB WHEN IT'S COMPLETE,
THERE IS A SENSE OF BITTER-SWEET,
THAT MOMENT WHEN YOU KNOW THE TASK IS DONE.
THOUGH IN YOUR HEART YOU'D LIKE TO STAY
TO HELP THINGS ON THEIR WAY,
YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THEY MUST DO IT ALONE.

There, practically perfect, and I hope it remains so.

(MARY POPPINS takes something from her pocket and places it on the floor. She picks up her umbrella and carpet bag and magically exits the nursery, taking one last look towards the room as the CHILDREN enter from the stairs.)

MICHAEL

What's happened? Something's changed. The bed's gone.

(An object on the floor attracts JANE's attention. She stoops and picks it up.)

JANE

Look! It's Mary Poppins's locket. Oh, the chain's broken.

MICHAEL

Don't you remember? "I'll stay 'til the chain breaks."

JANE

There's a note, too.

MICHAEL

What does it say?

JANE

"Michael had the telescope, so this is for you."

(JANE opens the locket. MICHAEL looks over her shoulder.)

It's a picture of the three of us.

MICHAEL

She's signed it. "From Mary Poppins with a good deal of love."

(WINIFRED and GEORGE enter.)

WINIFRED

Mary Poppins...?

JANE

She's gone.

WINIFRED

Gone? How peculiar.

GEORGE

She'll be back. Now, what do you think of this?

(From behind his back, GEORGE produces a magnificent kite.)

MICHAEL

It's the best I've ever seen.

GEORGE

Could we fly it together?

MICHAEL

Oh, Daddy!

(MICHAEL hugs GEORGE.)

JANE

(to GEORGE)

Mary Poppins won't be coming back. She's gone forever.

WINIFRED

My dear, how could you possibly know such a thing?

JANE

Because we don't need her... not anymore. And other families will. Won't they, Daddy?

GEORGE

(smiles and gives JANE a kiss)

They will.

WINIFRED

I wonder if she's right, George, and we really could do without a nanny from now on. What do you think?

GEORGE

I think you'd better come and dance with me!

WINIFRED

George, this is serious.

(GEORGE takes WINIFRED by the hand, and they dance. GEORGE spots something out the window.)

GEORGE

Look! Wasn't that a shooting star?

MICHAEL

You can borrow my telescope.

(The BANKSES move out of the nursery and stand on the parapet, the whole family united for the first time.)

GEORGE

I was right. Wish on it, children!

(WINIFRED closes her eyes and wishes as GEORGE kisses her gently and purposefully.)

My dearest love.

(JANE and MICHAEL keep their eyes fixed on a shooting star.)

JANE

We won't forget you, Mary Poppins.

MICHAEL

We'll never forget...

(MARY POPPINS flies away. GEORGE BANKS and his FAMILY laugh together for the first time in ages.)

(END OF PLAY.)

ALL

IF YOU REACH FOR THE STARS,
ALL YOU GET ARE THE STARS,
BUT WE'VE FOUND A WHOLE NEW SPIN.
IF YOU REACH FOR THE HEAVENS,
YOU GET THE STARS THROWN IN.

(ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN) ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN, IT'S A MARVEL.
(ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN) YOU CAN BE A BUTTERFLY
OR JUST STAY LARVAL.
STRETCH YOUR MIND BEYOND FANTASTIC.
DREAMS ARE MADE OF STRONG ELASTIC.
GO AND CHASE YOUR DREAMS, YOU WON'T REGRET IT.