

The Secret Garden
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Script Samples

SCENE ONE

Lights up on a sour faced little girl. She speaks with a forthright conviction.

MARY

My name is Mary Lenox.

Swift Indian drum music begins and the company dances on stage representing Mary's servants. Each actor is wearing a sheer white fabric over their costume. In this sequence the fabric is used to swirl around Mary as she transitions from moment to moment and is also any prop they need. As Mary makes demands to individuals or groups of servants, they bow and swirl around her. Eventually they peel off, leaving her alone on stage.

Get my breakfast!

COMPANY

Yes, Missie Sahibe.

MARY

Cut my food.

COMPANY

Yes, Missie Sahibe.

MARY

Wash my hands.

COMPANY

Yes, Missie Sahibe.

MARY

Bring my clothes.

COMPANY

Yes, Missie Sahibe.

Button my sleeves. MARY

Yes, Missie Sahibe. COMPANY

Put on my shoes. MARY

Yes, Missie Sahibe. COMPANY

Brush my hair. MARY

Yes, Missie Sahibe. COMPANY

Fetch my bonnet. MARY

Yes, Missie Sahibe. COMPANY

Tie my ribbons. MARY

Yes, Missie Sahibe. COMPANY

Find my dolly. MARY

There is no response, everyone has left.
Find my dolly. Ayah, find my dolly, I want my dolly! AYAH! AYAH! Ayah? Ayah?
Where are you? Where is everyone? Where... where...

The Robin flies on stage.

Hello. I've never seen a bird like you before.

Robin circles Mary and then flies off

Wait, wait please!

A British colonial soldier enters holding a cloth over his face.

The soldier is shocked to see Mary because everyone else in the house is dead.

SOLDIER

What? A child is alive? Who are you?

MARY

My name is Mary Lenox. Why was I forgotten? Why does no one come?

SOLDIER

Because there is no one left to come.

MARY

Explain yourself.

SOLDIER

They were all taken by the cholera.

MARY

Everyone?

SOLDIER

Everyone.

MARY

But who will get my breakfast?

Sound of a steam boat. Soldier exits as Mrs. Medlock enters...

SCENE FOUR

Dickon enters playing a reed flute with several animals, including the Robin, following him. Mary enters and listens. Note that it is a very windy day.

DICKON

He stops piping to whisper.

Don' tha' move. It'd flight 'em.

Mary stands still as a statue as Dickon continues to play. He walks over to Mary and the animals follow. Eventually they gather around and on her, as if she was a real statue.

MARY

You're a real magician.

DICKON

No, magic is inside of every living creature. It just takes gentleness and care to coax it out.

MARY

You're Dickon.

He nods.

Can you keep a secret?

DICKON

Dickon takes one of the animals into his arms. The other animals slowly climb off Mary, except for the Robin.

If tha' was a missel thrush an' showed me where thy nest was, does tha' think I'd tell any one?

The Robin whistles "no."

Not me, tha' art as safe as a missel thrush.

MARY

I've found the key to the secret garden. I found it weeks and weeks ago and I've been looking everyday for the door, but I can't find it.

DICKON

The secret garden? Do you mean Mistress Craven's rose garden?

MARY

You know about it?

DICKON

Ay, folks round here know the story of Mistress Craven. But I've walked over every part of the moor and never seen her garden door. But then, I'm only a human, might be that one of our friends here can show us.

MARY

Throughout the following monologue the wind picks up and plants begin to sway. Magical chimes are heard swirling in the wind with the sounds of animals.

Please, please, could one of you show us the door to the secret garden? I don't want to hurt it, I want to love it and care for it and make it grow again. I've never loved anything before, I've never had anything to love. But I know that I could take care of it, and make it a place where all of you could come and play and be safe. Please friends, please be my friend and show me the door!

The magical sounds increase and the winds part some ivy to reveal a door.

DICKON

Tha' hast done it Mary! Tha' hast worked the magic!

Mary inserts the key into the door. It swings open and she and Dickon enter, closing the door behind them. The garden is dead from winter cold and neglect. There is a tree, The Garden Tree, in a prominent area. She is covered by dead vines and her eyes are closed. As Mary and Dickon talk, she wakes up and reacts to them. Her movements are subtle and the children do not notice them.

MARY

Whispers

Thank you.

DICKON

I wonder all th' birds on th' moor don't build their nests here.

MARY

Will there be roses this spring? Things look so cold and quiet. Can you tell?

DICKON

This garden is as wick as you or me.

MARY

Wick? What's that?

DICKON

Alive. A garden that's wick has green life underneath the brown just waiting to show its true nature. Look here,

He peels back two branches of roses climbing on The Garden Tree.

When it looks a bit greenish an' juicy like that, it's wick. When the inside is dry and breaks easy, it's done for. You've got to cut off the old wood and make room for the new.

MARY

If I came and worked here everyday, could I make it all wick?

DICKON

If we work together, there'll be fountains o' roses all over this tree by summer.

The Garden Tree reacts with pleasure.

MARY

Fountains of roses, fountains of roses!

Mary starts to twirl around and laugh as The Garden Tree twirls a small branch at the same time.

Fountains of roses, fountains of roses!

DICKON

Laughs

You're getting more and more wick yourself.

MARY

Dickon, I like you and you make the fourth person I like.

DICKON

Only four folks as tha' likes? Who is the other three?

MARY

Martha, and the robin and Ben Weatherstaff.

DICKON

Laughs

I think tha' art the strangest lass I ever saw.

MARY

Tries to speak Yorkshire

Does tha' like me?

DICKON

Eh, that I does. I like thee wonderful, an' so does th' robin.

MARY

That's two then, that's two friends for me!

SCENE EIGHT

This scene takes place the day after Colin and Mary first meet. Colin is screaming in his bed. Mrs. Medlock and Martha are trying to calm him down.

COLIN

Ahhhh!

He continues to scream and pound his pillows throughout the next lines.

MRS. MEDLOCK

Martha, do something!

MARTHA

Please Master Colin, please don't get yourself in such a state. You know it's not good for your health!

COLIN

I want Mary! I want Mary! I want Mary!

MRS. MEDLOCK

What did you say?

COLIN

I want Mary right now! Get her here or I'll hold my breath!

MRS. MEDLOCK

Who told you about Mary?

MARTHA

Is wasn't me, honest!

COLIN

I'm holding my breath!

MARTHA

Let me get her, please Mrs. Medlock!

MRS. MEDLOCK

Well hurry up!

Martha runs from the room. Colin can't hold his breath any longer so he starts screaming again. Mary and Martha enter.

MARY

You stop! You stop! I hate you! I wish everyone would run out of the house and let you scream yourself to death! You will scream yourself to death in a minute and I wish you would!

Colin stops, dumfounded.

If you scream another scream, I'll scream too—and I can scream louder than you!

COLIN

Sobs

You said you would come and visit me, and I woke up and you weren't here!

MARY

I said I would come after I met Dickon in the gar – outside. I only just came in and heard you screaming.

COLIN

But I wanted you to come right away. And when you didn't come, I started to feel the lump on my back. I felt it growing and growing and I knew I should have a hump on my back and die!

MARY

You didn't feel a lump! There is nothing wrong with your back! Martha, come here and show me his back!

COLIN

No, no, no, no!

MARY

Do it!

Martha lifts the back of his shirt.

Look, feel, there's not a lump as big as a pin! And if you ever say there is again, I shall laugh!

COLIN

Really?

MARTHA

Nothin' there Master Colin.

COLIN

Do you think—I could—live to grow up?

MARTHA

There's no reason you couldn't.

MRS. MEDLOCK

All right, that's enough of that. Mary, go back to your room and have your tea.

COLIN

No, I want Mary to stay.

MRS. MEDLOCK

Colin, I must insist –

COLIN

No, I insist. Mary is my friend and you are my housekeeper. You have to do what I please or I'll tell my father to send you away.

MRS. MEDLOCK

Of course, Master Colin. You should get some rest now Master Colin. You mustn't forget how sick you still are.

COLIN

But I want to forget it. Mary makes me forget. She makes me want to live. I command that Mary stay and have tea with me and that tomorrow Dickon take me outside to see the sec – to see the grounds.

MARY

Well aren't you like a Rajah, an Indian Prince, giving commands? I don't take commands from my friends.

COLIN

Are you really my friend?

MARY

Yes.

COLIN

Then, please Mary, will you stay and have tea with me?

MARY

Yes.

COLIN

And tomorrow could you please ask Dickon if he would take me out to the garden?

MARY

Yes.

COLIN

Thank, thank you.

MARY

You're welcome.

MARTHA

That's magic indeed.