Jane Banks

SCENE 11: PLAYING THE GAME – Nursery

(JANE and MICHAEL enter the nursery.)

JANE

It's not fair! You're going out, and we get left on our own!

MARY POPPINS

You've plenty of toys to play with.

JANE

I don't want to. They're boring!

MARY POPPINS

They might say the same about you.

MICHAEL

Why does Daddy get so cross?

JANE

Fathers are supposed to look after their children, not yell at them all the time.

MARY POPPINS

Maybe, but have you asked yourself who looks after the fathers when things go wrong?

MICHAEL

The mothers, I suppose.

MARY POPPINS

Not the children?

JANE

Wouldn't that be rather upside-down?

(MARY POPPINS continues to primp herself ready for her "evening out.")

MARY POPPINS

Sometimes families are upside-down, for a while anyway.

JANE

I don't want to be in an upside-down family. I wish I could run away.

MICHAEL

Why don't you? Somebody might adopt you.

JANE

But you'd miss me.

MICHAEL

No, I wouldn't. I could have your toys.

JANE

No, you could not!

MICHAEL

Yes, I could, and I jolly well would!

(MICHAEL grabs the doll called VALENTINE.)

JANE

Give that to me!

(JANE seizes one arm of the toy while MICHAEL pulls the other, tearing VALENTINE's arm in the process.)

Now look what you've done!

MARY POPPINS

(turns to the CHILDREN)

That's no way to treat Valentine. What's he ever done to you?

MICHAEL

He's a doll, silly! He couldn't do anything.

MARY POPPINS

That's all, you two. Now, into bed. At once.

JANE

But we haven't had our milk—

MARY POPPINS

There'll be no buts. And no milk, either. If you can't be good, you may as well be sorry.

JANE

I wish you'd just leave us alone!

MARY POPPINS

Be careful of the things you wish for. Poor Valentine. Go inside and make yourself presentable.

#12 – Playing the Game   Mary Poppins, Valentine, Doll, Teddy Bear, Punch, Toys

(MARY POPPINS puts VALENTINE inside the dollhouse.)

MICHAEL

Well, I won't go to sleep, and you can't make me.

MARY POPPINS

In that, as in so many things...

JANE, MICHAEL

Your information...

MARY POPPINS

Is faulty.