

**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 butts. 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.

*(MARY POPPINS snaps her fingers, and JANE and MICHAEL fall instantly asleep.)*

PLAYING THE GAME,  
TAKING YOUR TURN,  
SOME CHILDREN LOSE,  
SOME CHILDREN LEARN.

TREAT THE TOYS NICELY  
AND MAYBE THEY'LL TREAT YOU THE SAME,  
PLAYING THE GAME.

Are you feeling any better, Valentine?

*(VALENTINE emerges from the dollhouse, now human-scale.)*

**VALENTINE**

Much better, thank you.

**MARY POPPINS**

TEMPERS ARE FRAYED.  
TEMPERS ARE LOST.  
NOBODY STOPS TO THINK OF THE COST.

**VALENTINE**

But they tore my arm... again!

**MARY POPPINS**

Oh dear, children who lose their temper will lose everything else in the end.

**VALENTINE**

THEY'RE NOT... PLAYING THE GAME,  
NOT PLAYING FAIR,  
NOT WITH THE DOLL,  
NOT WITH THE BEAR.

*(A DOLL and a TEDDY BEAR emerge from the doll's house.)*

**VALENTINE, DOLL, TEDDY BEAR**

THROWN ON THE FLOOR