

Monologue Mania!

The Secret Garden

Adapted by Gary Peterson

FEMALE / Teens / 1910s

About the play: The classic children's book, beloved by several generations, creates a gorgeous and charming play about love and transformation. Mary, a lonely and spoiled orphan girl, arrives at Misselthwaite Manor to no fanfare. Her uncle is almost always away, made bitter by the loss of his wife during childbirth ten years earlier. Left to her own devices to entertain herself, Mary discovers a secret garden, once her deceased aunt's favorite place, but now shut off from the world. Mary also discovers her cousin Colin, a sickly boy who's always kept isolated. Mary's attention and nurturing, both for the garden and for Colin, creates magical transformations. In secret, Mary and her new friend Dickon replant beautiful flowers and bring the garden back to life. In a touching climax, the garden's magic inspires the sickly Colin to walk and his stooped father to stand tall and learn to love again.

About the scene: *Mary has found herself on many adventures since arriving at Misselthwaite Manor, including discovering a key to a hidden garden that she is now secretly bringing back to life. In this monologue, Mary thinks aloud as she wanders around the manor, hearing strange noises coming from the walls. It sounds as though someone is crying, and she discovers a door behind a tapestry. (Note: This monologue also provides practice in miming the presence of props. Lighting cues are included to describe the mood being created onstage.)*

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MARY:

This key was the start of quite an adventure. Just a few days ago, I knew nothing about plants or flowers or the earth they grow in. Now, with Dickon's help, my little secret garden is coming back alive. All thanks to this key! *(Suddenly, there is a MOAN or CRY OFF RIGHT. It seems to come from behind the tapestry wall.)* That's not the wind. That's somebody crying. *(With decision.)* Well, I'm going to find out about it. If I didn't

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(continued)

have curiosity about this key, I never would've unlocked the secret garden. I'm going to unlock this mystery as well. *(Picks up the candle and begins to walk around with it. The LIGHTS DIM so that only MARY is illuminated, presumably by her candle. The MOANING CONTINUES, guiding her way.)* It's coming from this way, down this corridor. I'm sure of it. I think everyone else is asleep now, and I'm going to find out who does this crying. It's this way. I'm sure of it. *(Walks about the darkened STAGE, eventually coming up next to the tapestry wall. The crying is louder, just OFFSTAGE near where she is.)* My goodness, I think it's coming from behind this tapestry. Can that be? *(There is a MOAN. She is now very near.)* Wait a minute. Maybe this tapestry is like the ivy wall to the garden. Maybe there's a secret door hidden behind it! *(Feels along the wall.)* Why, it's like a carpet on the wall! *(Finds part that moves.)* Wait, wait! Here it is! There is a door behind here! *(Moves part of the tapestry, and it opens enough to let her EXIT RIGHT behind it. With surprise, from behind the tapestry.)* Oh!