

From the full length play:
A Little Princess
Adapted from Frances Hodgson Burnett by Tracy Wells

SARA CREWE, *new student at Select Seminary for Young Ladies.*; female

BECKY, *scullery maid and friend of Sara's*; female

AT RISE: Interior of schoolroom. Desks are moved aside and it is a sort of "recess".
BECKY is laying down, curled into a ball, sleeping. After a moment, SARA enters.

SARA
(Surprised by BECKY)

Oh! That poor thing!

(Walks over to BECKY and bends to wake her, then stops)

I wish she'd wake up herself. I don't want to have to wake her, but Miss Minchin would be cross if she found out. I'll just wait a few minutes.

(SARA sits on nearby chair. After a moment, BECKY wakes up suddenly. She looks around quickly and sees SARA)

BECKY
(Upset, standing suddenly, in broken English)

Oh, miss! I beg yer pardon! Oh, I do! I do!

SARA

Don't be frightened. I promise you, it's quite all right. You looked so tired.

BECKY

I didn't mean ter do it, miss. I was so tired an' I jus rested me head fer a minute.

SARA

You were tired. You couldn't help it. I doubt you are really even awake yet.

BECKY
(Looking at SARA, surprised)

Ain't—ain't yer angry, miss? Ain't yer goin' ta tell the missus?

SARA

No, of course I'm not!

BECKY

Oh, tank ya, miss! Tank ya!

SARA

Why, we are just the same, you and I. I am just a young girl like you. It was just an accident that I am not you, and you are not me.

BECKY

(Fearful)

An accident, ya say? I promise, I didn't cause no accident!

SARA

I know you didn't. I only meant that if we had been born to different parents, you and I might be standing in each other's shoes right now.

BECKY

(Looking at SARA'S shoes)

I sure do like yer shoes.

SARA

(Laughs, then looks at BECKY)

Are you hungry?

BECKY

Oh, miss, I sure am. I'm always a bit hungry.

SARA

Come to my room after you're done with your chores. I have some cake in my cupboards that I'd love to give you.

BECKY

Miss, you're mighty kind. Cake would sure fill my achin' belly.

SARA

Then be sure to come up and see me this evening.

BECKY

Ya know, Miss, once I done saw a princess. I was standin' in the street and a crowd o' people were goin' into the opery hall. Someone said, "that's the princess". When I looks I tink that you look just like that princess I done saw that day.

SARA

I've often thought that I would like to be a princess. I wonder what it feels like to be one.

(Lost in thought for a moment)

I believe I will begin pretending I'm one.

(Thinking it over, then looking at BECKY)

Becky, were you listening to the story I was telling earlier?

BECKY

Yes, miss. I know I hadn't oughta, but it was so beautiful—I couldn't help it.

SARA

I should like to tell you the rest of it, but I know you haven't the time to hear it now. Each day when you are done with your chores, come to my room. I will tell you a little bit at a time until it's finished. And after that I'll tell you more stories, for stories are meant to be shared.

BECKY

Oh, tank ya miss! If I have yer stories to look forward too, I won't mind how hard my work is or how empty my belly is.

SARA

You'd better get going now. Miss Minchin will be wondering where I am and come looking for me. I don't want her to find you here. But don't forget to come to my room later. I have a story to tell and a big slice of cake with your name on it.

BECKY

(Grabbing broom and starting to exit)

Tank ya, miss.

SARA

Please call me Sara.

BECKY

How about Princess Sara, cause ya sure are a princess to me.

(Exits)

SARA

(Thinking it over)

Princess Sara.

(After a pause, smiles)

I think I like the sound of that.

(End of scene.)