

ACT ONESCENE ONE - PETER BREAKS THROUGH

We are in the nursery in the Darling household. John and Michael play in the background, Wendy picks up after their mess. The kids are all dressed for bed.

After a moment, John accidentally hits Wendy.

JOHN

Wendy! I'm so sorry-

Wendy, instead, joins in the fun.

Mrs. Darling enters in an evening gown.

MRS. DARLING

Now children, you must calm down or else you'll never get to sleep.

MICHAEL

But I don't want to go to sleep!

MRS. DARLING

Now, dear, you must. It's important for growing boys to get their rest.

MR. DARLING

(off)

Dear! Dear!

Mr. Darling rushes on like a tornado, holding a crumpled tie in his hand.

MRS. DARLING

Why what's the matter dearest?

MR. DARLING

Matter! Why the matter is that I cannot tie this tie! Not around my neck! Why twenty times I have tried, twenty! Around the bedpost sure, but not around my neck. I warn you if I cannot get this tie around my neck then we won't go to dinner, then I will never go to the office again, then we will have no money and the children will be flung to the streets!

MRS. DARLING

Let me try dear.

Mrs. Darling easily ties the tie.

MRS. DARLING

Michael, it's time for your medicine. Then to bed for all of you.

MICHAEL

But it's disgusting!

JOHN

Come on Michael be a man!

MR. DARLING

Yes, all boys must take their medicine before bed.

JOHN

Even you father?

MR. DARLING

Yes, and my medicine is the nastiest of them all.

Micheal, begrudgingly, takes his medicine.

WENDY

You both look rather nice, where are you going?

MR. DARLING

To an evening dinner.

WENDY

Oh how perfectly lovely! Might you dance while you're there?

MR. DARLING

Dinner's aren't for-

MRS. DARLING

My, we haven't danced in a while.

Mr. Darling and Mrs. Darling exchange smiles. They begin to waltz.

The kids join in the fun, Wendy dancing with Micheal. John dances on his own with a stuffed bear.

Nana, the nurse dog, enters, Mr. Darling, does not see this and trips on her. Mr. Darling falls.

WENDY
Oh Nana!

MICHAEL
Poor Nana!

JOHN
Nana!

MR. DARLING
How stupid! Having a dog for a nurse, why I never thought-

MRS. DARLING
(helping him up)
Now George, Nana is a treasure. She protects the kids when we have gone.

MR. DARLING
How utterly ridiculous! Dogs should be outside tied up!

Nana whimpers, Michael rushes to comfort her.

MRS. DARLING
How dreadful of him Nana...Dearest, remember the boy I mentioned.

MR. DARLING
Oh yes, the boy in the window, three stories up! It is preposterous! A dog getting more coddling than the very bread-winner of the family!

MRS. DARLING
George! Not so loud, the whole neighborhood will hear you.

MR. DARLING
Let them! Let the whole world come for all I care! I cannot stand to have that dog in this nursery any longer.

MICHAEL
She's not just a dog! She's our nurse.

WENDY
Oh, what will we do without her?

JOHN
That's unfair!

MRS. DARLING
Dear, remember that boy-

MR. DARLING
I am the master of the house and I shall run it the way I like! And Nana will not be in this nursery tonight.

WENDY
Father, who will protect us while you're away?

MR. DARLING

Such a silly notion, a dog as your protector? Why you should be old enough to know better.

WENDY

But Father-

MR. DARLING

I say, what is a girl of your age doing in the nursery?

WENDY

I watch after the boys,

MICHAEL

She plays with us too!

MR. DARLING

Playing? Wendy! You are much too old to play. A respectable young lady should never play pirates. This shall be your last night in the nursery!

WENDY
What?!

MICHAEL
But Father-

JOHN
Why?!

WENDY

But where shall I go?

MRS. DARLING

Dearest please-

MR. DARLING

We shall send you to finishing school, and you will learn to be a proper young lady. That is my final word.

MRS. DARLING

Dear, don't you think you are being a little harsh?

MR. DARLING

The world is harsh my dear. It is about time that Wendy here grows up.

JOHN

But-

MR. DARLING

That is the last I will hear of it!

Mr. Darling takes Nana by the scruff of her neck and drags her offstage.

MICHAEL
Goodbye Nana...

Mrs. Darling ushers the children to bed.

MICHAEL
How are we to sleep without Nana? Who's going to protect us?

WENDY
It will be okay Michael, I'm sure Nana will be fine.

JOHN
Oh, Wendy, how will we go on without you here?

MICHAEL
Who will tell us stories every night?

WENDY
Mother will still be here to take care of you silly.

MRS. DARLING
I can read a story every night.

WENDY
It will hardly be as if I am gone.

MRS. DARLING
I will light the night-light for you tonight. Nothing can harm you while it is lit.

(she lights the night-light)
Goodnight my darlings,

WENDY
Goodnight mother.

MICHAEL
Goodnight,

JOHN
Goodnight!

Mrs. Darling turns out the lights.
She moves to leave but hesitates,
looking at the window.

MR. DARLING
(off)
The car is here!

MRS. DARLING
Coming dear!

Wendy sneaks from her bed, sitting on the windowsill, her brothers are already fast asleep.

MRS. DARLING

(off)

Just one moment dear! I forgot my bracelet.

Mrs.Darling enters again.

MRS. DARLING

Wendy, you're still awake.

WENDY

I'm sorry Mother, I just couldn't-

MRS. DARLING

(joining her by the
windowsill)

I know, but, your Father only means the best for you. Perhaps school would be good for you, you'll meet new people, learn lots of new things.

WENDY

Did you go?

MRS. DARLING

Yes, I did.

WENDY

I just don't want to grow up...not yet at least. I feel as if I've barely been a child, how can it end already?

MR. DARLING

(off)

Dear! The cab is waiting!

MRS. DARLING

Can I tell you a secret?

WENDY

Anything.

MRS. DARLING

When I was a girl, I would sit all night at the window. My Mother had told me a story that if you wished on a star your wish was sure enough to come true-

MR. DARLING

(off)

We'll be late!

MRS. DARLING

Goodnight my dear,

WENDY

Goodnight, Mother.

MRS. DARLING

Coming dear!

Mrs.Darling exits.

Wendy looks out the window.

WENDY

I wish...I wish I don't ever have to grow up.

She returns to her bed, knocking the window ajar as she does.

The children are now all asleep. We hear the howling of wind and the night-light goes out. Then, the jingling of a bell.

Peter peeks out from behind the curtain.

PETER

(whisper-yelling)

Pssst...Tink!

(a pause, no response.)

Tink! Where are you? Oh come on out now Tink, we have to find my shadow.

Peter looks around the room, moving on light feet. He hears banging coming from beneath a bed. He smiles, and slowly lifts the sheets. His Shadow pops out from beneath.

He chases his Shadow around the room, eventually catching it.

PETER

Ah-hah! Now to stick you back on...hmm...

Peter looks around the room, spotting a bar of soap. He rubs the soap on his feet, attempting to stick the shadow back on.

He jumps up, the shadow doesn't stick. He tries again, still no luck. Peter begins to cry. This, wakes Wendy.