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**GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS**

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**THE  
SECRET GARDEN**

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She Was an Orphan Now.

## Chapter 1

### Alone in a New Home

Ten-year-old Mary Lennox sat in the plush carriage with her hands folded tightly in her lap and her lips pressed together in an angry scowl. She was an orphan now, on her way to live with a rich uncle in England.

Mary's black dress and black hat made her look paler, thinner, and more sickly than she actually was. But Mary didn't care how she looked. Why should she? Her parents never did. They were dead now, dead from the terrible cholera epidemic that had spread throughout India, the hot country in Asia where Mary

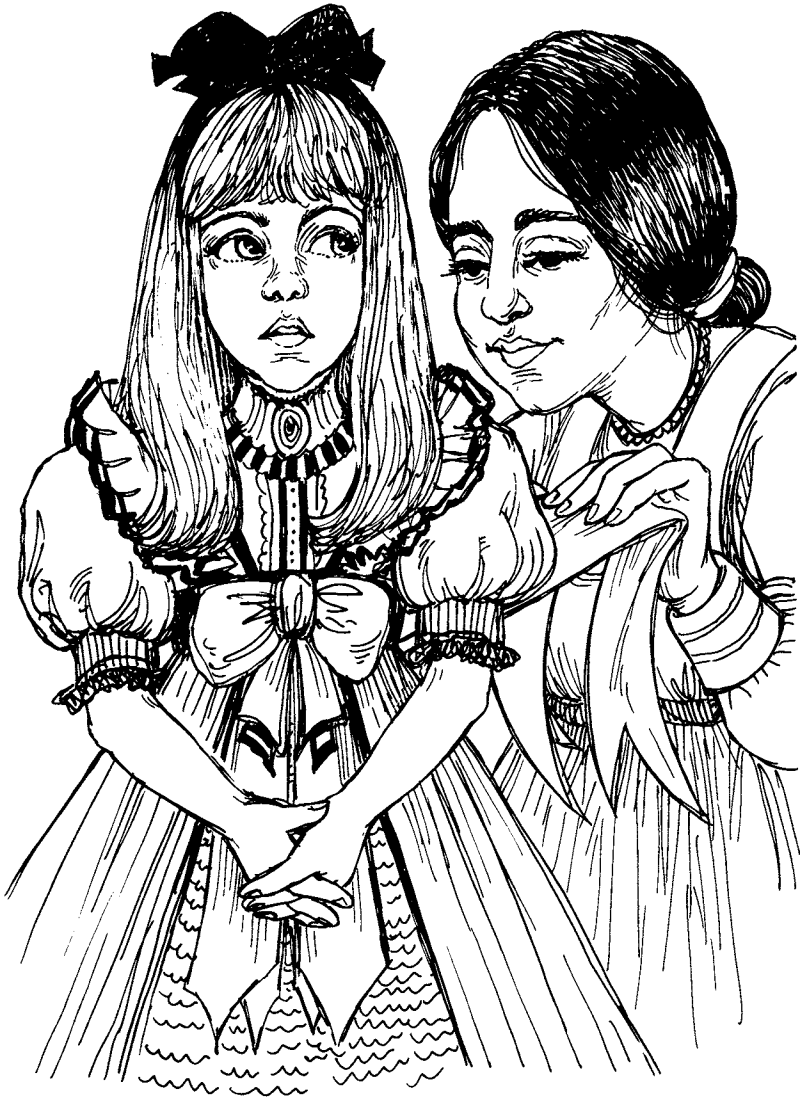
## THE SECRET GARDEN

had been born and where she had been living for all of her ten years.

Her father, an official of the British Government ruling India, had always been too busy with his work to care about Mary. And her mother, who had never wanted a child in the first place, had been concerned only with going to parties with her friends.

Mary had been raised by her *Ayah*, the Indian nurse who obeyed her orders and gave the child everything she wanted except love. The result was that Mary Lennox was a selfish, spoiled little girl whose tantrums got her her own way with everything she wanted.

But now, the tall, stout, beak-nosed woman who sat opposite Mary in the carriage as it rumbled over the darkness of the English moor had no intention of giving the child everything she wanted. As housekeeper to Mr. Archibald Craven, the girl's wealthy uncle and only relative, Mrs. Medlock was not bothered at all by the girl's angry frowns and scowls, or



*Raised by Her Ayah*