

CHAPTER 3

The Second Book of the Series: Mary Poppins Comes Back

Mary Poppins Comes Back, the second book of the series (with 269 pages of text), is about 1.67 times longer than the first book, with ten chapters, compared with the first book's twelve chapters, so the episodes are significantly longer, as well.

At the opening of *Mary Poppins Comes Back*, the Banks' house, without Mary to give it order, has returned to its natural state of chaos. Mr. Banks complains, "I don't know what's come over this house ... Nothing ever goes right - hasn't for ages! Shaving water too hot, breakfast coffee too cold. And how - this!" Robertson Ay, the man of all work around the house (who does as little work as possible and sleeps as much as he can), has brushed Mr. Banks's hat with the boot-brush and polished it. "Oh, dear!" Said Mrs. Banks [as her husband left] 'It is quite true. Nothing does go right nowadays. ... Ever since Mary Poppins left without a Word of Warning everything has gone wrong.'"

But Mary Poppins is about to return. In the first book, she is lifted and borne by the East Wind into the house at Number 17, Cherry Tree Lane. In this second book, she literally descends from the sky. The children are in the park alone, as they have no nanny to keep an eye on them. Michael is flying his green and yellow kite, which goes up very high indeed. A cloud drifts across the sky and hides the kite from sight: "The taut string running up from