

Michael's hand seemed to link them all to the cloud, and the earth to the sky." They try to pull the kite back down, but it will not come. Then suddenly the kite string starts winding around the stick of its own accord. But what comes down at the end of the string is not the kite; it is Mary Poppins.

Mary Poppins takes the children home and puts them to bed. As she is changing her clothes, they notice a small golden locket on a chain around her neck. Michael asks what's in it, and she tells him a portrait. He asks, "Whose?" And she tells him that they'll know when she goes. They all beg her to stay forever, and she replies, "I'll stay till the chain breaks." "Chain" here refers not just to the physical one around her neck, but to the metaphorical one that connects her with this world, including Number 17, Cherry Tree Lane. Mary Poppins, as usual, emphatically rejects the children's account of her coming down out of the sky at the end of a kite string. But that night, the children spot her coat hung on a hook behind the door. "And dangling from the pocket were a row of paper tassels, the tassels of a green-and-yellow Kite."

A series of Poppins-esque adventures for the children follow. In chapter 2, Euphemia Andrew, Mr. Banks' governess when he was a little boy, comes for a visit. She is, in Mr. Banks' words, a Holy Terror, who trapped a lark and keeps it in a cage. Mary Poppins frees the lark and puts Miss Andrew in the cage instead, as a result of which she leaves posthaste. In chapter 3, Jane is having a bad Wednesday and ends up inside the world depicted on a Royal Doulton bowl that she has cracked. In that world, she is made into a servant until she calls on Mary Poppins, who comes to rescue her.

In chapter 4, Jane and Michael accompany Mary Poppins on a visit to her cousin, Arthur Turvey, who on the day they arrive is experiencing everything backwards, such as standing topsy-turvy on his head, as all his visitors do also. In chapter 5, a new baby, Annabel, is born to the Bankses. Like all newborns, she can talk with animals, and she tells a starling on the window sill, "I come from the Dark where all things have their beginning. ... I come from the sea and its tides ... I come from the sky and its stars. ... I heard the stars singing as I came and I felt warm wings about me. ... It was a long journey." Within a week of birth, however, all newborns forget how to talk with animals and where they came from. In chapter 6, Robertson Ay, the work-dodging man of all work at Number 17 turns out to have been a very wise Dirty