

not be home for dinner, which greatly alarms the children because he is the one who sets off the fireworks for them on Guy Fawkes Day. As he is leaving, the chimney-sweep arrives and offers to shake hands with him because it is lucky to shake hands with a Sweep; but Mr. Banks will have none of that. But the Sweep offers to take the children to the Park and set off some fireworks for them. So off they go.

In the Park, they have a fine time with splendid loud and colorful fireworks, but as closing time approaches, they set off the last rocket. It goes off and upward but does not end with the shower of sparks all the others did. Instead it creates only one tiny spark. The children watch it, and unlike the others it does not go out, but grows larger and brighter; and, as it comes down, it turns into Mary Poppins, with her carpetbag and parrot-headed umbrella. The Park Keeper is very upset at this irregularity and flings out his hand to stop her, but Mary Poppins puts into his hand a small piece of cardboard, which she says is her Return Ticket. She ushers the children home, where Mrs. Banks is delighted to see her, but complains, "You left me Without a Word, Mary Poppins ... I think you might tell me when you're coming and going, I never know where I am." Mary Poppins replies, "Nobody does, ma'am." Then her carpetbag slides up the bannisters to the Nursery, and her umbrella spreads itself like a bird and follows.

Mary Poppins is back, and the house is again orderly. The children want her to stay permanently. She says only, "I'll stay until the door opens." What door she refers to is unclear. To their observation that she came down from the sky from a spark that a rocket produced, she respond with her usual outrage at the impropriety of their observation. But when they are in bed, they see in the folds of her umbrella a mass of colored stars of a kind a rocket produces when it explodes in the sky.

In chapter 2, Mary, Jane, and Michael go to visit Mary's cousin, Fred Twigley, to get him to tune the Banks' piano. They are admitted, reluctantly and rudely by his housekeeper, Sarah Clump, who wants to marry him. Mr. Twigley's Godmother gave him seven wishes, of which he has used up two and is trying to save the other five, but he keeps on carelessly squandering them. Mr. Twigley is making a music box, into which he will put all the sounds of the Park, including "the slow, soft murmur of trees as they grow." Michael protests, "But you can't hear trees growing ... There's no music for that!" And