

Besides,' he rumbled, 'she's the Guest of the Evening! It was she who left the books open.'" Everyone is dancing. Everyone has a partner. No one is left out. Everyone is happy. Then the strokes of the clock begin again, up to "Eleven! O fleeting moment! O time on the wing! How short is the space between the years! Let us be happy - happy ever after! / Twelve!" Then the dancing ends. All the characters seem to melt into the moonshine, as all the bells all over London ring in the New Year.

Jane and Michael open their eyes and find they are back in their beds, and Mary Poppins asks who wants crumpets for breakfast. "'Is today the New Year, Mary Poppins?' asked Michael. / 'Yes,' she said calmly, as she put the plate down on the table. / Michael looked at her solemnly. He was thinking about the Crack. / 'Shall we too, Mary Poppins?' he asked, blurting out the question. / 'Shall you, too, what?' she enquired with a sniff. / 'Live happily ever afterwards?' he said eagerly. / A smile, half sad, half tender, played faintly round her mouth. / 'Perhaps,' she said thoughtfully. 'It all depends.' / 'What on, Mary Poppins?' / 'On you,' she said quietly, as she carried the crumpets to the fire."

In chapter 8, "The Other Door," Mary Poppins leaves as she said she would. When she and the children are out and about, all her friends are saying good-by to her. At first, the children think that the friends are going somewhere, but when they get back to the nursery, they find that her camp bed is gone, and they realize that it is Mary Poppins who is leaving. They look out the window and see reflected in it an image of the nursery in all details, including the nursery room door. It is the "Other Door," and they see Mary Poppins carrying her carpet bag and umbrella walking through the reflected room and opening the Other Door. She walks through it and into the sky, from which she came. "We'll never forget you, Mary Poppins!" the children exclaim, as they look up at the sky. "Her bright shape paused in its flight for a moment and gave an answering wave. Then darkness folded its wing about her and hid her from their eyes." So ends the third and last of the three basic Mary Poppins books.