

*The Secret Garden*  
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*(The NURSE, MRS. MEDLOCK, and MARTHA all come into the room.)*

NURSE 2: Perhaps he -- won't let me.

COLIN: *(Between sobs.)* Sh — show her! She -- she'll see then!

*(The NURSE turns COLIN and pulls up his night shirt. MARY inspects his back solemnly.)*

MARY: There's not a single lump there! There's not a lump as big as a pin, except backbone lumps, and you can only feel them because you're thin. I've got backbone lumps myself, and they used to stick out as much as yours do until I began to get fatter, and I'm not fat enough yet to hide them. There's not a lump as big as a pin! If you ever say there is again, I shall laugh!

NURSE 2: I didn't know that he thought he had a lump on his spine.

NURSE 1: His back is weak because he won't try to sit up. I could have told him there was no lump there.

COLIN: *(Pathetically.)* C. . . could you?

NURSE 1: Yes, sir.

MARY: There!

COLIN: Do you think, I could — live to grow up?

NURSE 2: You probably will if you get more exercise and not give way to your temper,

COLIN: I'll — I'll go out with you, Mary. I shan't hate fresh air if we can find the sec—

*(MARY signals for HIM to watch his words and he stops before blurting out "secret garden.")*

COLIN: *(Cont.)* I shall like to go out with you if Dickon will come and push my chair. I do so want to see Dickon and the fox and the crow.