**7:36**

**Emma:** Mr. Elton! Welcome to our party.

**Mr. Elton:** Miss Woodhouse, thank you indeed for including me. A party is a party. But a party on a summer's eve, mmm!

**Emma:** It relieves my mind very much that you are here. For there is someone new in our group. Her name is Harriet Smith. And she is a former pupil of Mrs. Goddard's. I had never met Miss Smith before this evening...and I'm already struck by her charm. I wondered if I might ask **you** to make certain she is at ease throughout the evening.

**Mr. EIton:** If helping Miss Smith would help Miss Woodhouse, then I'm happy to be of service.

**Emma:** Come. I shall make the introduction.

**Miss Bates:** Miss Woodhouse, we come quite overpowered.

**Emma:** Oh, Mrs. Bates, Miss Bates. So happy you could come.

**Miss Bates:** No! We are the happy ones. W-Well, how do you do, Mr. Elton? We are the happy ones, not only to be here tonight, but for the beautiful hindquarter of pork you sent us. It has been heaven itself. What a happy porker it must have come from! We're so obliged for your sending it to us. Pork! And we're so obliged for your having us tonight. Very much indeed. I was just saying to Mother, we should be obliged and indeed we are. Oh, doesn't your hair look pretty? Just like an angel. Angel, Mother! Oh, speaking of angels, Mr. Elton, your sermon on Daniel in the lion's den was so inspiring. So powerful in all its particulars. It left us speechless. Quite speechless, I tell you. We have not stopped talking of it since. Isn't this a lovely party? Lovely! Lovely! Lovely!

**Mr. Knightley:** Where will you live now that you've completed your education?

**Harriet:** Mrs. Goddard has been kind enough to let me stay on with her.

**Mrs. Goddard:** She's a great help to me. If you'll excuse me.

**Mr. Weston:** Mrs. Goddard can you settle this…

**Emma:** Mr. Knightley.

**Mr. Knightley:** Ah, Emma. I wondered where you were. But now I see you've been hard at work making Mr. Elton comfortable.

**Emma:** Yes, Mr. Knightley but I have been remiss in doing the one thing that should give him the greatest enjoyment. Mr. Elton! May I present Miss Smith?

**Mr. Elton:** Any friend of Miss Woodhouse is...

**Emma:** Mr. Weston, have you had any news of your son?

**Mr. Weston:** Oh, indeed! Miss Smith. I was married many years ago to a woman whose life was lost to illness just three years after the birth of our son, Frank. As I could not see to my business and care for the infant, I allowed him to be brought up by my wife's brother, and his wife, the Churchills. He lives in London, now a young man, and has never been here. His aunt is not well, and she does not care to be without him.

**Mrs. Weston:** His coming would be the final blessing for our marriage.

**Harriet:** How lucky to have been twice blessed in marriage! It has been my belief that one loves only once. I am happy to be wrong.

**Mr. Weston:** Not so happy as I, Miss Smith.

**Mrs. Weston:** I had the most pleasing letter from him on the occasion of our marriage. I have it here if anyone would care to see it.

**Miss Bates:** A most charming and kindly letter. Don't you think so, mother? Have you ever read such a letter, Mr. Knightley? Do you know, this reminds me of Jane's style, somewhat more delicate style. Which is more usual in a woman, but a good sign in a man, I think.

**Mr. Woodhouse:** Nicely expressed. But it sounds as though he eats a worrisome amount of custard!

**Mrs. Goddard:** It's not merely the feeling in it. The penmanship is so confident.

**Emma:** Isn't Miss Smith delightful? I watched her throughout the evening with continuous pleasure. She is uncertain of her surroundings, yet I thought perhaps I could be of service to her and undertake her introduction into Highbury society. I could never presume to guide her as you did me, but perhaps I might share a little of what I know.

**Mrs. Weston:** She could ask for nothing better. Come, Mr. Weston, I must write to your son. Good night, Mr. Woodhouse!

**Mr. Weston:** Good night, Mr. Woodhouse! Good night, Emma! Thank you for a wonderful dinner!

**Mr. Woodhouse:** Good night Miss Taylor!

**Emma:** Good night, Mrs. Weston! Mr. Weston!

**Mr. Weston:** Good night!