**24:55**

**Mr. Knightley:** Clearly, Emma, you have someone else in mind for your friend, but if the gentleman you dream of is Mr. Elton, your labor is in vain. As vicar, Elton is unlikely to make an imprudent match, especially to a girl of obscurity who may bring him disgrace. In unreserved moments, when only men are present, I have heard him speak of a large family of young ladies from Bath, who all have twenty thousand pounds apiece. Believe me when I tell you that he may talk sentimentally, but he will act rationally.

**Emma:** If I had my heart set on Mr. Elton, then your 'opening my eyes' would have been a kind service, but I care only to watch her grow, and-

**Mr. Knightley:** No more, please. No more.

**Mr. Elton:** Miss Woodhouse!

**Emma:** Oh! Mr. Elton, Harriet is collecting riddles for a book, and we knew you would come up with something cunning.

**Mr. Elton:** Oh, no, no, no. I'm not nearly clever enough.

**Mr. Knightley:** Emma, you didn't ask me to contribute a riddle.

**Emma:** Your entire personality is a riddle, Mr. Knightley. I thought you overqualified. Harriet, Harriet! This just came from Mr. Elton. He claims it is a riddle for your collection, but I think it is much better!

**Harriet:** Is it about sharks?

**Emma:** For heaven's sake, why would he write a riddle about sharks?

**Harriet:** Please, I'm in a tremor, tell me what it means!

**Emma:** We shall read it aloud so that we may decipher it. "For Miss…" I think we can safely put in 'Smith'. "Line 1: My first displays the wealth and pomp of

kings, lords of the earth, their luxury and ease." A king displays his

pomp in court.

**Harriet:** Court, yes.

**Emma:** "Next Line: Another view of man, my second brings, behold him there, the monarch of the seas." That is...?

**Harriet:** A mermaid?! A trident? Oh, do you think we shall ever know?

**Emma:** Ship, dear, the thing which brings the “king of the sea” is a ship.

**Harriet:** Ship...!

**Emma:** Now for the cream. "But are united." The two terms should be united!

**Harriet:** Yes...It's ship and court, court and-...Courtship! He writes to me about courtship! Oh!

**Emma:** Harriet! I think we can have no doubt as to Mr. Elton's intentions! You are his desire! The only thing remaining is for him to find the perfect opportunity to offer proof! We must find a way for the two of you to be alone!

**Harriet:** Oh, let's read it again and again!

**Emma:** I only wish Mr. Knightley would walk by so that he could read it.