**37:50**

**Emma:** Certainly the weather has…

**Mr. Elton:** Miss Woodhouse, please! Fate has left us alone for a reason!

**Emma:** What? What are you...? Release my hand!

**Mr. Elton:** I do not seize your hand so much as the opportunity to declare that I…

**Emma:** Good heavens. Go back!

**Mr. Elton:** Please! I am hoping...no, fearing...ready to die if you refuse me. Surely my ardent attachment to you, my love and passion cannot help but have made an impression, and now…

**Emma:** Mr. Elton! This is I, Miss Woodhouse!

**Mr. Elton:** Mm…Hmm…

**Emma:** The party spirit has confused you! I am happy to deliver your message to Miss Smith, but you must direct no more of it to me.

**Mr. Elton:** Miss Smith? What sort of message would I want to send to her? Miss Smith?!

**Emma:** Mr. Elton, the wine has weakened you, for you to-

**Mr. Elton:** If the wine has had any effect, it has to strengthen my will to tell you that I love you! And-

**Emma:** My astonishment is beyond anything I can express. For you to address me in this manner, after your behaviour to Miss Smith, is…

**Mr. Elton:** I never cared whether Miss Smith were dead or alive, except that she was your friend. Who can think of Miss Smith when Miss Woodhouse is near?

**Emma:** Oh, no!

**Mr. Elton:** Everything I’ve said or done has been to prove my adoration for you. Why else would I go to London to have your picture framed?

**Emma:** Oh, no...

**Mr. Elton:** Allow me to-! Allow me to interpret the silence. You have long understood me.

**Emma:** Sit back and kindly refrain from the intimacy of whispering. Am I to understand that you never sought to recommend yourself to Miss Smith?

**Mr. Elton:** How can you be surprised? Did you not understand the riddle I wrote?

**Emma:** That was for Harriet!

**Mr. Elton:** I most obviously did not address it to her and left it at your home!

**Emma:** But--oh...But--

**Mr. Elton**: She's a very good sort of girl, and I'm sure there are men who would not object to...Everybody has their level. But I need not so totally despair of an equal alliance as to address myself to Miss Smith...

**Emma:** Sir!

**Mr. Elton:** No! I sought to recommend myself to YOU through those visits.

**Emma:** Sir...I have seen you only as the admirer of my friend.

**Mr. Elton:** I cannot believe that!

**Emma:** It is well that the mistake ends where it does.

**Mr. Elton:** It is her mistake.

**Emma:** It is mine as well.

**Mr. Elton:** She will manage her disappointment. Leave her out of it. How do **you** feel about what I've said?

**Emma:** Mr. Elton, any hopes I had with regard to you were for Harriet … and Harriet alone.