



## Chapter 22

The Bennets were engaged to dine with the Lucases, and again during the chief of the day, was Miss Lucas so kind as to listen to Mr. Collins. Elizabeth took an opportunity of thanking her.

"It keeps him in good humour," said she, "and I am more obliged to you than I can express." Charlotte assured her friend of her satisfaction in being useful, and that it amply repaid her for the little sacrifice of her time.

This was very amiable, but Charlotte's kindness extended farther than Elizabeth had any conception of; -- its object was nothing else than to secure her from any return of Mr. Collins's addresses, by engaging them towards herself.

Such was Miss Lucas's scheme; and appearances were so favourable that when they parted at night, she would have felt almost sure of success if he had not been to leave Hertfordshire so very soon.

But here, she did injustice to the fire and independence of his character, for it led him to escape out of Longbourn House the next morning with admirable slyness, and hasten to Lucas Lodge to throw himself at her feet.

He was anxious to avoid the notice of his cousins, from a conviction [that if they saw him depart, they could not fail to conjecture his design.] and he was not willing to have the attempt known till its success could be known likewise;

这天班纳特全家都被请去卢府吃饭。卢卡斯小姐非常好心，大部分时间都陪着科林斯说话。伊丽莎白找了一个机会向她道谢。

她说：“你这样做让他心情好多了，我对你的感激真是难以言尽。”夏绿蒂说，她非常乐意替朋友分忧，虽然花了一点时间，却得到了很大的回报。

这看起来真是太好了。可是夏绿蒂的好意，远非伊丽莎白所想的那样；原来夏绿蒂有意要尽量引着科林斯先生跟自己谈话，免得他再去向伊丽莎白献殷勤。

她这个计谋看来进行得十分顺利。晚上大家分手的时候，夏绿蒂感觉到，要不是科林斯先生这么快就离开哈福德郡，事情十有八九已经成功了。

但她这样想，未免太不了解他那如火如荼、自我为尊的性格了。第二天一大早，科林斯就要了一些手段，溜出了郎本，赶到卢家庄来向她屈身求爱。

他非常小心地避开表妹们的注意，因为他认为，【假若让她们看见他走开，那她们必定会猜出他的打算。】而他不等事情有了十足的把握，是决不愿意让人家知道的。

for though feeling **almost secure**, and with reason, for Charlotte had been tolerably encouraging, he was comparatively diffident since the adventure of Wednesday.

**His reception** however was of the most flattering kind. Miss Lucas perceived him from an upper window as he walked towards the house, and instantly **set out to** meet him accidentally in the lane.

But little had she dared to hope that so much love and eloquence awaited her there.

**In as short a time as** Mr. Collins's long speeches **would allow**, every thing was settled between them to the satisfaction of both; and as they entered the house, he **earnestly** entreated her to **name the day** (that was to make him the happiest of men;)

and though such a solicitation must **be waived** for the present, the lady **felt no inclination** to **trifle with** his happiness. The **stupidity** (with which he was favoured by nature) must **guard his courtship from** any charm (that could make a woman wish for its **continuance**) ;

and Miss Lucas, who accepted him **solely** from the pure and **disinterested** desire of an **establishment**, cared not how soon that establishment were gained.

Sir William and Lady Lucas were speedily applied to for their consent; and it was bestowed with a most joyful alacrity. Mr. Collins's present circumstances made it **a most eligible match** for their daughter, (to whom they could give little fortune; ) and his prospects of future wealth were exceedingly fair.

虽说他觉得这事**十拿九稳**, 因为他看出夏绿蒂对他颇有情意; 可是有了星期三那番“冒险”举动后, 他终究不敢太鲁莽了。

不过人家倒很热情地**接待了他**。卢卡斯小姐从楼上窗口看见他向她家里走来, 便**连忙到**那条小道上去接他, 又装出是偶然相逢的样子。

她万万想不到, 科林斯这次竟带给她这么多的爱意和情话。(否定词引起倒装)

科林斯先生说了非常多的话; 就在这**短暂的一段时间里**, 两人便把一切都讲妥了, 而且双方都很满意。一走进屋子, 他就**诚恳地**要求她**择定吉日**, 举行婚礼。

虽说这种请求, 暂时应该**置之不理**, 可是这位小姐并**不想要拿**他的幸福**当儿戏**。他天生的愚钝, 使他求爱总是难以打动人心; 女人每逢他求婚, 一般都很难提起兴趣。

卢卡斯小姐所以愿意答应他, 纯粹是为了想**成家**, 至于何时可以实现, 她倒不在乎。

disinterested

(1) 不牵扯个人情感的

(2) 中立的, 不受个人偏见影响的

他们立刻就去请求威廉爵士夫妇的许可, 老夫妇连忙高高兴兴地答应了。他们本来也给女儿留不下什么财产; 目前境况的科林斯先生倒真是再适合不过的女婿人选, 更何况他将来还会继承一大笔财产。

Lady Lucas began directly to calculate [with more interest than the matter had ever excited before.] how many years longer Mr. Bennet was likely to live;

and Sir William gave it as his decided opinion that whenever Mr. Collins should be in possession of the Longbourn estate, it would be highly expedient that both he and his wife should make their appearance at St. James's.

The whole family, in short, were properly overjoyed on the occasion. The younger girls formed hopes of coming out a year or two sooner than they might otherwise have done;

and the boys were relieved from their apprehension of Charlotte's dying an old maid. Charlotte herself was tolerably composed. She had gained her point, and had time to consider of it.

Her reflections were in general satisfactory. Mr. Collins to be sure was neither sensible nor agreeable; his society was **irksome**, and his attachment to her must be imaginary. But still, he would be her husband.

-- Without thinking highly either of men or of matrimony, marriage had always been her object;

(1) it was the only honourable provision for well-educated young women of small fortune,  
(2) and however uncertain of giving happiness, must be their pleasantest preservative from want.  
**provision** 预备, 准备

卢卡斯太太立刻带着前所未有的兴趣, 开始盘算着班纳特先生还有多少年可活;

威廉爵士则一口断定道, 只要科林斯先生继承了郎本的财产, 他们夫妇俩就大有觐见国王的希望了。

总之, 这件事叫全家人都快活透顶。几位小女儿都满怀希望, 认为这样就可以早一两年出去交际了;

弟弟们再也不担心夏绿蒂会当老处女了。夏绿蒂本人倒是相当镇定。她现在已经初步达成所愿, 有时间来仔细思量一下了。  
**apprehension** 担忧, 忧虑

她想了一下, 大致满意。科林斯先生不善解人意, 也不讨人喜欢; 他与人相处的方式令人讨厌, 对她的爱也只是空中楼阁。固然有这些缺陷, 她还是要他做丈夫。

虽然对于婚姻和夫妻生活, 她的期望都不甚高; 可是结婚到底是她一贯的目标。

(1) 家境不好又受过一定教育的青年女子, 总是把结婚当作仅有的、不失体面的出路。  
(2) 尽管结婚并不一定会叫人幸福, 但总算是给自己上了个最可靠的“保险”。  
preservative from want 不会缺衣少食的保障

*This preservative she had now obtained; and at the age of twenty-seven, without having ever been handsome, she felt all the good luck of it.*

*The least agreeable circumstance in the business was the surprise (it must occasion to Elizabeth Bennet,) whose friendship she valued beyond that of any other person.*

*Elizabeth would wonder, and probably would blame her; and though her resolution was not to be shaken, her feelings must be hurt by such disapprobation.*

*She resolved to give her the information herself, and therefore charged Mr. Collins, when he returned to Longbourn to dinner, to drop no hint of what had passed before any of the family.*

*A promise of secrecy was of course very dutifully given, but it could not be kept without difficulty;*

*for the curiosity( excited by his long absence) burst forth in such very direct questions on his return, as required some ingenuity to evade, and he was at the same time exercising great self-denial, for he was longing to publish his prosperous love.*

*As he was to begin his journey too early on the morrow to see any of the family, the ceremony of leave-taking was performed when the ladies moved for the night;*

*and Mrs. Bennet, with great politeness and cordiality, said how happy they should be to see him at Longbourn again, whenever his other engagements might allow him to visit them.*

她现在就有了这样的保障。她觉得自己已经非常幸运了,因为她是27岁的老姑娘,人长得又不出挑。

只有一件事令人担忧,伊丽莎白·班纳特准会对这门亲事感到惊奇,而她又一向把伊丽莎白的交情看得比其他人的都重要。

伊丽莎白一定会诧异,说不定还要埋怨她。虽说她一经下定决心便不会动摇,但人家非难起来一定会使她难受。

于是她决定亲自把这件事告诉她,嘱咐科林斯先生回到郎本吃饭的时候,不要在班纳特一家面前透露任何风声。

对方当然唯命是从,答应保守秘密,其实秘密是很难保守。

他出去得太久,定会引起人家的怀疑。他一回到班府,大家就一拥而上,直接发问。他颇费了一番功夫,才遮掩过去;再说他当时也是拼命克制,因为他心里也想把自己情场的得意宣扬一番。

他明天一大早就启程,来不及向大家辞行,所以当夜太太小姐们就寝的时候,大家便相互话别;

班纳特太太极其诚恳、极有礼貌地说,若他的时间允许,非常欢迎他能够再来郎本,她们会为此高兴的。



"My dear Madam," he replied, "this invitation is particularly gratifying, because it is what I have been hoping to receive; and you may be very certain that I shall avail myself of it as soon as possible."

They were all astonished; and Mr. Bennet, who could by no means wish for so speedy a return, immediately said,

"But is there not danger of Lady Catherine's disapprobation here, my good sir? -- You had better neglect your relations, than run the risk of offending your patroness."

"My dear sir," replied Mr. Collins, "I am particularly obliged to you for this friendly caution, and you may depend upon my not taking so material a step without her ladyship's concurrence."

"You cannot be too much on your guard. Risk any thing rather than her displeasure; and if you find it likely to be raised by your coming to us again, which I should think exceedingly probable, stay quietly at home, and be satisfied that we shall take no offence."

"Believe me, my dear sir, my gratitude is warmly excited by such affectionate attention; and depend upon it, you will speedily receive from me a letter of thanks for this, as well as for every other mark of your regard during my stay in Hertfordshire."

他回答道：“亲爱的太太，承蒙邀约，不胜感激，我也正希望能领受这份盛意；请你放心，我一有空就来看你们。”

大家都吃了一惊，尤其是班纳特先生，根本不希望他马上回来，便连忙说道：

“贤侄，你不怕凯瑟琳夫人不赞成吗？你最好把亲戚关系看得淡一些，免得担风险，得罪了你的女施主。”

科林斯先生回答道：“先生，我非常感激你这样好心地提醒我。请你放心，不得到她老人家的同意，我决不会贸然去做这样重大的事。”

“还是多小心一些为好。其他事都不要紧，就是不能叫她老人家不高兴。要是你觉得再到这儿来会惹她不快（我觉得这是非常可能的），那你就老老实实待在家里。你放心，我们决不会因此而见怪的。”

“请相信我，先生，蒙你好心关怀，真让我感激不尽。你放心好了，你马上就会收到我一封致谢函，既感谢这一点，也感谢你们对我的种种照拂。”

*As for my fair cousins, though my absence may not be long enough to render it necessary, I shall now take the liberty of wishing them health and happiness, not excepting my cousin Elizabeth."*

*With proper civilities the ladies then withdrew; all of them equally surprised to find that he meditated a quick return.*

*Mrs. Bennet wished to understand by it that he thought of paying his addresses to one of her younger girls, and Mary might have been prevailed on to accept him.*

*She rated his abilities much higher than any of the others; there was a solidity in his reflections (which often struck her),*

*and though by no means so clever as herself, she thought that if (he was) encouraged to read and improve himself by such an example as her's, he might become a very agreeable companion.*

*But on the following morning, every hope of this kind was done away. Miss Lucas called soon after breakfast, and in a private conference with Elizabeth related the event of the day before.*

*The possibility of Mr. Collins's fancying himself in love with her friend had once occurred to Elizabeth within the last day or two;*

至于诸位表妹，虽然我去不了多少日子，没必要多礼，但还请恕我冒昧，就趁此机会祝她们幸福安康，伊丽莎白也不例外。”

太太小姐们便行礼如仪，辞别回房；大家听说他竟打算很快就回来，都感到惊讶。

班纳特太太满以为他是打算向她的哪个小女儿求婚，也许能劝说玛丽去应承他。

玛丽比任何姐妹都看重他的才能。他思想的稳重很叫她倾心；

他虽然比不上她自己那样聪明，是只要有她这样一个人作为榜样，鼓励他读书上进，那他一定会成为一个称心如意的伴侣。

可惜第二天早上，这种希望就完全破灭了。卢卡斯小姐刚一吃过早饭，就来拜访，私下聊天时跟伊丽莎白把昨天的事说了。

早在前一两天，伊丽莎白就一度想到，科林斯先生可能一厢情愿，自以为爱上了她这位朋友。

but that Charlotte could encourage him, seemed almost as **far from possibility** as that she could encourage him herself, and her astonishment was consequently so great as to overcome at first **the bounds of decorum**, and she could not help crying out,

“Engaged to Mr. Collins! my dear Charlotte, -- impossible!”

The steady countenance which Miss Lucas had commanded in telling her story, **gave way to a momentary confusion** here on receiving so direct a reproach;

though, as **it was no more than she expected**, she soon **regained her composure**, and calmly replied,

“Why should you be surprised, my dear Eliza? -- **Do you think it incredible that** Mr. Collins should be able to **procure** any woman's **good opinion**, because he was not so happy as to succeed with you?”

But Elizabeth had now recollected herself, and **making a strong effort for it**, was able to assure her **with tolerable firmness** that the prospect of their relationship was highly grateful to her, and that she wished her all imaginable happiness.

“I see what you are feeling,” replied Charlotte, -- “you must be surprised, very much surprised, -- **so lately as** Mr. Collins was wishing to marry you.

But when you have had time to think it all over, I hope you will be satisfied with what I have done. I am not romantic, you know. I never was.

可是，要说夏绿蒂会怂恿他，那未免太不可能，正如她自己不可能怂恿他一样。因此她大为惊讶，**连礼貌也不顾了**，竟大声叫了起来：

“跟科林斯先生订婚！夏绿蒂，怎么可能！”

卢卡斯小姐刚才叙述时，神色一直很镇定。乍听得这一声心直口快的责备，**霎时间变得慌张**起来。

好在这也是她意料中事，因此她立刻就**恢复了常态**，从容不迫地说：

“你为什么这样惊奇，亲爱的伊丽莎？科林斯先生不幸没有得到你的赏识，**难道他就**不可能被别的女人**看上眼**吗？”

伊丽莎白这时候已经镇定下来，便**竭力克制着自己**，用**相当肯定的语气**说她觉得**这是一桩美满的良缘**，并预祝她幸福无疆。

夏绿蒂回答道：“我明白你的心思，你一定会感到奇怪，而且是非常奇怪，因为**在不久以前**，科林斯先生还想跟你结婚。

可是只要你花时间细细想一下，我想你就会赞成我的做法。你知道的，我绝不是个憧憬浪漫的人。

*I ask only a comfortable home; and considering Mr. Collins's character, connections, and situation in life, I am convinced that my chance of happiness with him is as fair as most people can boast on entering the marriage state."*

*Elizabeth quietly answered "Undoubtedly;" -- and after an awkward pause, they returned to the rest of the family. Charlotte did not stay much longer, and Elizabeth was then left to reflect on what she had heard.*

*It was a long time before she became at all reconciled to the idea of so unsuitable a match. The strangeness of Mr. Collins's making two offers of marriage within three days, was nothing in comparison of his being now accepted.*

*She had always felt that Charlotte's opinion of matrimony was not exactly like her own, but she could not have supposed it possible that, [when called into action,] she would have sacrificed every better feeling to worldly advantage.*

*Charlotte the wife of Mr. Collins, was a most humiliating picture! -- And to the pang of a friend disgracing herself and sunk in her esteem, was added the distressing conviction [that it was impossible for that friend to be tolerably happy in the lot (she had chosen).]*

我只希望有一个舒舒服服的家。综合科林斯先生的性格、社会关系和身份地位来看，我觉得跟他结婚也能幸福，这种可能性并不下于大多数人结婚时夸耀的那样。”

伊丽莎白平静地回答道：“那当然。”她们俩别别扭扭地在一起待了一会儿，便回到家人中间。夏绿蒂没过多久就走了；伊丽莎白又把听到的那些话仔细想了一下。

她花了很长时间才甘心接受这件事，这门亲事真是太不合适了。说起科林斯先生三天之内求了两次婚，本就够稀奇了，如今竟会有人应承他，实在是更稀奇。

**reconciled to** 甘心于……，顺从……

她一向觉得，夏绿蒂关于婚姻问题方面的见解，跟她颇不一致，却不曾料想到事到临头，她竟会摒弃美好的感情，来屈就一些世俗的利益。

**sacrifice A to B** 牺牲 A 成全 B

夏绿蒂做了科林斯的妻子，这真是天下最丢人的事！她不仅为这样一个朋友的自取其辱、自贬身份而感到难受，而且她还十分痛心地点断，她朋友做的这个选择，决不会给她自己带来多大的幸福。

**lot** 命运

分析：

*The distressing conviction [that it was impossible for that friend to be tolerably happy in the lot (she had chosen).] was added to the pang of a friend disgracing herself and sunk in her esteem.*

The distressing conviction 是主语。[]内 that 引导同位语从句，解释 conviction (she had chosen) 为定语从句，修饰 lot。the pang of……为宾语，of 后是具体的内容。