

Chapter 21

The discussion of Mr. Collins's offer was now nearly at an end, and Elizabeth had only to suffer from the uncomfortable feelings necessarily attending it, and occasionally from some peevish allusion of her mother.

*As for the gentleman himself, his feelings were chiefly expressed, **not** by embarrassment or dejection, or by trying to avoid her, **but** by **stiffness** of manner and resentful silence.*

*He scarcely ever spoke to her, and the assiduous attentions (which he had been so sensible of himself,) were transferred for the rest of the day to Miss Lucas, [whose civility in listening to him, was a **seasonable** relief to them all, and especially to her friend.]*

The morrow produced no abatement of Mrs. Bennet's ill humour or ill health. Mr. Collins was also in the same state of angry pride.

*Elizabeth had hoped that his resentment might shorten his visit, but his plan did not appear **in the least** affected by it. He was always to have gone on Saturday, and to Saturday he still meant to stay.*

*After breakfast, the girls walked to Meryton, to inquire if Mr. Wickham were returned, and to **lament over** his absence from the Netherfield ball.*

*He joined them on their entering the town and attended them to their aunt's, where his regret and vexation, and the concern of every body **was well talked over**.*

第二十一章



关于科林斯先生求婚问题的讨论，差不多就要结束了。伊丽莎白不免感到委实不自在，何况偶尔还要听她母亲埋怨一两句。

至于那位先生本人，他倒没有感觉尴尬或者沮丧，也没有刻意要回避她，只是板着脸，愤懑无比，却默然无声。

他根本不搭理她，先前的百般热情，在接下来的时间里，都转移到卢卡斯小姐身上去了。夏洛特很有礼貌地听他讲，这叫大家都松了口气，更是让她的朋友大感欣慰。

seasonable 合时宜的，恰到好处的

第二天，班纳特太太心情还是不好，神经也没有舒缓。科林斯也还是一副又气愤又傲慢的样子。

伊丽莎白原以为他这样一气，就会提前离开；谁知道他的行程丝毫没受到影响，他一再说要星期六才走，那一定要待到星期六。

吃过早饭，小姐们上梅利顿去打听韦翰先生回来了没有，顺带着对他没有参加舞会表示惋惜。

她们刚到镇上就遇见了他，并由他陪着到了姨妈家。他述说了自己的遗憾和烦恼，她们则对他表示关心，大家谈了个畅快。

-- To Elizabeth, however, he voluntarily acknowledged that the necessity of his absence had been self-imposed.

"I found," said he, "as the time drew near, that I had better not meet Mr. Darcy;

-- that to be in the same room, the same party with him for so many hours together, might be more than I could bear, and that scenes might arise unpleasant to more than myself."

(1) She highly approved his forbearance, (3) and they had leisure for a full discussion of it, (4) and for all the commendation which they civilly bestowed on each other,

(2) as Wickham and another officer walked back with them to Longbourn, (5) and during the walk he particularly attended to her.

His accompanying them was a double advantage; she felt all the compliment it offered to herself, and it was most acceptable as an occasion of introducing him to her father and mother.

Soon after their return, a letter was delivered to Miss Bennet; it came from Netherfield, and was opened immediately.

The envelope contained a sheet of elegant, little, hot-pressed paper, well covered with a lady's fair, flowing hand;

不过他却向伊丽莎白主动承认，确实是有
意没去参加那次舞会。

他说：“当舞会日期临近时，我发觉还是不要与达西先生碰面为好；

同他在一间屋子里，在同一个舞会上，待上好几个钟头，那会叫我受不了。而且可能会发生争执，弄得彼此都不开心。”

(1) 她非常赞许他的宽容大度。

(2) 当韦翰和另一位军官送她们回郎本的时候， (3) 他们有空暇来充分讨论这个问题， (4) 而且还客客气气地彼此恭维了一阵。

(5) 这一路上他特别照顾她。

韦翰送她们，倒是有两个好处；一来可以让她们体会到自己的用心，二来可以利用这个机会，认识一下她的双亲。

她们刚回到家里，班纳特小姐就接到一封从内瑟菲尔德寄来的信，立刻就拆开了。

里面装着一张小巧精致、熨得很平滑的信笺，娟秀的字迹应该是出自一位小姐之手。
hand 字迹，字体

and Elizabeth saw her sister's countenance change as she read it, and saw her **dwelling** intently **on** some particular passages.

伊丽莎白看到姐姐读信时变了脸色，又看到她特意停留在某几段上面。

Jane recollected herself soon, and putting the letter away, tried to **join** [with her usual cheerfulness] **in** the general conversation;

不久，简恢复镇静，把信放在一旁，像平常一样，高高兴兴地跟大家聊天；

but Elizabeth felt an anxiety on the subject which **drew off** her **attention** even **from** Wickham; and **no sooner** had he and his companion taken leave, **than** a glance from Jane invited her to follow her up stairs.

可是伊丽莎白仍然为此担忧，因此对韦翰也分心了。韦翰和他的同伴一走，简便对她使了个眼色，叫她跟上楼去。

When they had gained their own room, Jane taking out the letter, said,

到了她们自己房里，简就拿出信来，说道：

“This is from Caroline Bingley; what it contains, has surprised me a good deal. The whole party have left Netherfield by this time, and are on their way to town; and without any intention of coming back again. You shall hear what she says.”

“这是卡罗琳·宾利写来的，信上的话真叫我大吃一惊。她们一家现在已经离开内瑟菲尔德上城里去了，而且没打算再回来。你看看她怎么说的吧。”

She then read the first sentence aloud, which **comprised the information of** their having just resolved to follow their brother to town directly, and of their meaning to dine that day in Grosvenor street, where Mr. Hurst had a house. The next was in these words.

她先从第一句念起，那句话是说，她们已经决定，立刻追随她们的兄弟上城里去，还要在当天赶到格鲁斯汶纳街吃饭；赫斯特先生就住在那条街上。接下去是这样写的：

“I do not pretend to regret any thing I shall leave in Hertfordshire, except your society, my dearest friend; but we will hope **at some future period**, to enjoy many returns of the delightful intercourse we have known, and in the mean while may lessen the pain of separation by a very frequent and most unreserved correspondence. I depend on you for that.”

“亲爱的朋友，离开哈福德郡，除了你的友谊以外，我真是一无留恋。不过，我希望**有朝一日**，还是可以一如既往，彼此愉快地来往；并希望能经常通信，无话不谈，以消离愁。临笔不胜企盼。”

To these high flown expressions, Elizabeth listened **with all the insensibility of distrust**; and though the suddenness of their removal surprised her, she saw nothing in it really to lament;

伊丽莎白对这些浮华的词藻，只是姑妄听之，并未相信；虽说她们突然迁走叫她感到惊奇，可是她并不觉得有什么值得惋惜的。

it was not to be supposed that their absence from Netherfield would prevent Mr. Bingley's being there; and as to the loss of their society, she was persuaded that Jane must soon cease to regard it, in the **enjoyment** of his.

她们离开了内瑟菲尔德花园，未必宾利先生便不会再在那儿住下去；至于说到跟她们没有了来往，她相信只要简跟宾利先生时常见面，简就会觉得“友情”也无所谓了。
enjoyment

“It is unlucky,” said she, after a short pause, “that you should not be able to see your friends before they leave the country.”

歇了片刻，伊丽莎白说道：“不幸得很，你朋友们临走以前，你没有来得及去告别。”

But may we not hope ① that the period of future happiness (to which Miss Bingley looks forward,) may arrive earlier than she is aware, and ② that the delightful intercourse (you have known as friends,) will **be renewed with yet greater satisfaction as sisters?** -- Mr. Bingley will not be detained in London by them."

“不过，既然宾利小姐还期待着将来重聚的欢乐，难道我们不能期望这一天比她意料的来得早些吗？将来做了姑嫂，不是比今天做朋友更满意吗？宾利先生不会被她们久留在伦敦的。”

be renewed with 被\.....代替/取代

“Caroline decidedly says that none of the party will return into Hertfordshire this winter. I will read it to you --”

“卡罗琳非常肯定说，她们一家，今年冬天是不会回到哈福郡来了。让我念给你听吧：

(1) “When my brother left us yesterday, he imagined that the business (which took him to London,) (2) might be concluded in three or four days, (3) but as we are certain it cannot be so, (4) and at the same time convinced that (5) when Charles gets to town he will be in no hurry to leave it again, (6) we have determined on following him thither, (7) that he may not be obliged to spend his vacant hours in a comfortless hotel.

‘(1) 我哥哥昨天和我们告别的时候，还以为他这次上伦敦去，(2) 只要三四天就可以把事情办好；(3) 可是我们认为办不到，(4) 同时我们相信，(5) 查尔斯一进了城，决不会急于离开。(6) 因此我们决定尾随前去，(7) 免得他冷冷清清住在旅馆里受罪。’

Many of my acquaintance are already there for the winter; I wish I could hear that you, my dearest friend, had any intention of making one in the crowd, but of that I despair.

making one in the crowd 成为他/她们其中的一员

我很多朋友都上伦敦去过冬了；亲爱的朋友，我本来还希望听到你进城去的消息，结果我失望了。

I sincerely hope your Christmas in Hertfordshire may abound in the gaieties (which that season generally brings,) and that your beaux will be so numerous as to prevent your feeling the loss of the three of whom we shall deprive you."

我真挚地希望你在哈福德郡，同样能够享受到圣诞节带来的种种愉悦；希望你有很多英俊的男士相伴，免得我们一走，你便会因为少了三个朋友而感到难受。’

"It is evident by this," added Jane, "that he comes back no more this winter."

"It is only evident that Miss Bingley does not mean he should."

“很明显，”简补充道，“他今年冬天不会回来啦。”

"Why will you think so? It must be his own doing. -- He is his own master. But you do not know all. I will read you the passage(which particularly hurts me.) I will have no reserves from you."

“这不过说明宾利小姐不想他回来罢了。”

“你为什么这样想法？那一定是他自己的意思。他自己可以作主。况且你还没有全部听完呢，我一定要把那特别叫我伤心的一段读给你听。我对你完全不必隐瞒。”

"Mr. Darcy is impatient to see his sister, and to confess the truth, we are scarcely less eager to meet her again. I really do not think Georgiana Darcy has her equal for beauty, elegance, and accomplishments;

“达西先生急着要去看他妹妹；说老实话，我们也有着同样热切的希望和她重逢。我以为乔治安娜·达西无论容貌、举止，还是才艺技能，都无人能与之媲美。

and the affection (she inspires in Louisa and myself) is heightened into something still more interesting, from the hope(we dare to entertain) of her being hereafter our sister.

still 更加

entertain 怀有，抱有

路易莎和我都喜欢她，还曾大胆地设想她以后会做我们的嫂嫂；这让我们对她越发关切了。

*I do not know whether I ever before mentioned to you my feelings on this subject, but I will **not** leave the country **without** confiding them, and I trust you will not **esteem** them unreasonable.*

esteem=consider=regard

我不知道,以前有没有跟你提起过我对这件事的看法。可是当此离别之际,我必须把这些说出来,你不会觉得这不合情理吧。(你应该能理解我的心情吧)

*My brother admires her greatly already, he will have frequent opportunity now of seeing her **on the most intimate footing**, her relations all wish the connection as much as his own, and a sister's partiality is not misleading me, I think, when I call Charles most **capable of** engaging any woman's heart.*

footing 交往的准则

engage 吸引; 赢得

我哥哥已经深深爱上了她,现在又可以时常去看她,他们自会更加亲密;双方家人都对这门亲事寄以厚望。查尔斯这个人,如果我说他最善于博取女人的欢心,这绝不是出于做妹妹的偏心而瞎说的。

*With all these circumstances to favour an attachment and nothing to prevent it, **am I wrong**, my dearest Jane, **in indulging** the hope of an event (which will secure the happiness of so many?)*

既然各方面因素都在促成这段姻缘,而且目前毫无阻碍;那么,亲爱的简,我衷心希望着这件事能够实现,人人都能满意,这有什么错吗?”

“What think you of this sentence, my dear Lizzy?” -- said Jane as she finished it. “Is it not clear enough?”

“亲爱的丽兹,”简读完了以后说。“你觉得这句话说得还不够清楚吗?”

-- Does it not expressly declare that Caroline neither expects nor wishes me to be her sister;

“这不是明确表示她们不希望、也不愿意我做她们的嫂嫂吗?”

*that she is perfectly convinced of her brother's indifference, and that if she suspects the nature of my feelings for him, she means (most kindly!) to **put me on my guard**? Can there be any other opinion on the subject?”*

“这不正说明她认定宾利对我没有意思吗?再说了,要是她觉得我对宾利先生有好感,这不正是在提醒我当心些吗?(真该谢谢她的好心!)这些话还能有别的解释吗?”

“Yes, there can; for mine is totally different. -- Will you hear it?”

当然可以有别的解释;我的理解就和你解释完全不同。你愿意听一听吗?”

“Most willingly.”

“非常愿意。”

“You shall have it in few words. Miss Bingley sees that her brother is in love with you, and wants him to marry Miss Darcy.

She follows him to town in the hope of keeping him there, and tries to persuade you that he does not care about you.”

Jane shook her head.

“Indeed, Jane, you ought to believe me. -- No one who has ever seen you together, can doubt his affection. Miss Bingley I am sure cannot. She is not such a simpleton.

Could she have seen half as much love in Mr. Darcy for herself, she would have ordered her wedding clothes. But the case is this.

We are not rich enough, or grand enough for them; and she is the more anxious to get Miss Darcy for her brother, from the notion that when there has been one intermarriage, she may have less trouble in achieving a second;

in which there is certainly some **ingenuity**, and I dare say it would succeed, if Miss de Bourgh were **out of the way**.

out of the way 不从中作梗

But, my dearest Jane, you cannot seriously imagine that because Miss Bingley tells you her brother greatly admires Miss Darcy, Jane,

(1) ① he is in the smallest degree less sensible of your merit than ② when he took leave of you on Tuesday. or (2) ① that it will be in her power to persuade him that [instead of being in love with you,] ② he is very much in love with her friend.”

“三言两语就能说明白。宾利小姐看出他哥哥爱上了你，可是却希望他娶达西小姐。

她跟着他到城里去，就是要把他绊在那儿，然后竭力来说服你，叫你相信他不喜欢你。”

简摇摇头。

“简，你应该相信我。凡是看见过你们俩在一起的人，都不会怀疑他对你的感情。我相信宾利小姐也不会，她并不是一个傻瓜。

要是她看到达西先生对她的爱有这样的一半，她就要办嫁妆了。可是问题是这样的：

我们不够有钱，也不够有势，高攀不上她们。她急于想把达西小姐配给她哥哥，其实还有一个打算，也就是说，两家结亲以后，亲上加亲就更省事了。

她为这事确实费了一些心机，我敢说，要是德·包尔小姐不从中作梗，事情是会成的。
ingenuity 精巧，巧妙

可是亲爱的简，你千万不要因为宾利小姐告诉你，她哥哥已经深深爱上了达西小姐，

你就以为 (1) 宾利先生②自从星期二和你分别以来，①对你的倾心有丝毫变卦；也别以为 (2) ① 她真有本事说服她哥哥 [不爱你]，②而去爱上她那位朋友。”

"If we thought alike of Miss Bingley," replied your representation of all this, might make me quite easy. But I know the foundation is unjust.

Caroline is incapable of willfully deceiving any one; and all that I can hope in this case is, that she is deceived herself."

"That is right. -- You could not have started a more happy idea, since you will not take comfort in mine. Believe her to be deceived by all means. You have now done your duty by her, and must fret no longer."

"But, my dear sister, can I be happy, [even supposing the best,] in accepting a man (whose sisters and friends are all wishing him to marry elsewhere?)"

"You must decide for yourself," said Elizabeth, "and if, upon mature deliberation, you find that the misery of disobliging his two sisters is more than equivalent to the happiness of being his wife, I advise you by all means to refuse him."

"How can you talk so?" -- said Jane faintly smiling, -- "You must know that though I should be exceedingly grieved at their disapprobation, I could not hesitate."

"I did not think you would; -- and that being the case, I cannot consider your situation with much compassion."

“假如我们对宾利小姐的看法一致，”简回答道，“那么，你的解释会让我大为安心。可是我知道你这种说法不是很公正。”

卡罗琳不会故意欺骗任何人，我对这件事只存一个希望，即这一切是她自己想错了。”

“这话说得对。既然我的想法不能安慰你，你能冒出这样的念头来，也是再好不过了。你就坚定地认为是她自己想错了吧。现在你算是对她尽了责任，不用再烦恼了。”

“可是，亲爱的妹妹，即使从最好的方面去着想——我嫁给了他，而他的姐妹和朋友们都希望他跟别人结婚，这样我会幸福吗？”

“那得看你自己怎么想了。”伊丽莎白说。
“如果你考虑成熟以后，认为得罪了他的姐妹们所招来的痛苦，比起做他的太太所得来的幸福还要大；那么，我劝你最好还是拒绝他吧。”

“你怎么说得这种话？”简微微一笑。
“你要知道，即使她们的反对使我万分难受，我还是不会犹豫的。”

“我也认为你不会犹豫；既然如此，我就可以不必再为你担心了。”

"But if he returns no more this winter, my choice will never be required. A thousand things may arise in six months!"

The idea of his returning no more Elizabeth treated with the utmost contempt. It appeared to her merely the suggestion of Caroline's interested wishes,

and she could not for a moment suppose that those wishes, however openly or artfully spoken, could influence a young man so totally independent of every one.

She represented to her sister as forcibly as possible what she felt on the subject, and had soon the pleasure of seeing its happy effect.

Jane's temper was not desponding, and she was gradually led to hope, [though the diffidence of affection sometimes overcame the hope,] that Bingley would return to Netherfield and answer every wish of her heart.

They agreed that Mrs. Bennet should only hear of the departure of the family, without being alarmed on the score of the gentleman's conduct;

but even this partial communication gave her a great deal of concern, and she bewailed it as exceedingly unlucky that the ladies should happen to go away, just as they were all getting so intimate together.

“倘若他今年冬天不回来，我就用不着左思右想了。六个月里会有多少变动啊。”

说他不会回来，伊丽莎嗤之以鼻。她觉得那不过是卡罗琳一厢情愿。

她瞬间认定这种愿望，无论说的是直白还是委婉，对于一个不肯受人左右的青年来说，都不会产生丝毫影响。

她把自己对这个问题的感想，详细解释给她姐姐听，一下子就有了很好的效果。她觉得非常高兴。

简的性子，本来就不会轻易消沉，此时更是渐渐产生了希望。尽管有时还是怀疑多于希望，但总认为宾利先生准会回到内瑟菲尔德花园，达成她的心愿。

最后姐妹俩决定，对班纳特太太，只说这家人已经离开此地，不必向她说明宾利的具体活动；

班纳特太太光是听到这点儿消息，已经大感不安，甚至还埋怨自己运气太坏，两位贵妇人刚刚跟她熟稔就突然不告而别。

After lamenting it however at some length, she had the consolation of thinking that Mr. Bingley would be soon down again and soon dining at Longbourn,

不过伤心了一阵以后，她又用这样的想法来安慰自己；宾利先生不久就会回来，到郎本来吃饭；

and the conclusion of all was the comfortable declaration that, though he had been invited only to a family dinner, she would take care to have two full courses.

最后她心安理得地说，即使只是邀他来吃便饭，她也要费些心思，准备两道大菜。