

## CHAPTER 38

*On Saturday morning Elizabeth and Mr. Collins met for breakfast a few minutes before the others appeared; and he took the opportunity of paying the parting civilities which he deemed indispensably necessary.*

*"I know not, Miss Elizabeth," said he, "whether Mrs. Collins has yet expressed her sense of your kindness in coming to us, but I am very certain you will not leave the house without receiving her thanks for it.*

*The favour of your company has been much felt, I assure you. We know how little there is to tempt any one to our humble abode.*

*Our plain manner of living, our small rooms, and few domestics, and the little we see of the world, must make Hunsford extremely dull to a young lady like yourself;*

*but I hope you will believe us grateful for the condescension, and that we have done everything in our power to prevent your spending your time unpleasantly."*

*Elizabeth was eager with her thanks and assurances of happiness. She had spent six weeks with great enjoyment; and the pleasure of being with Charlotte, and the kind attentions she had received, must make her feel the obliged.*

星期六吃早饭时，伊丽莎白和科林斯先生比别人早来了几分钟。科林斯先生趁机向她郑重话别，他认为这是决不可少的礼貌。

他说：“伊丽莎白，承蒙你光临敝舍，我不知道内人有没有向你表示感激；不过我相信她不会不向你表示谢意就让你走的。”

“老实说，我们非常感谢你来做客。我们自知舍下寒伦，无人乐意光临。”

“我们生活清苦，居室局促，仆人更是寥寥无几，再加上我们寡见少闻，你这样的年轻小姐，一定会觉得这地方枯燥乏味。”

“不过我希望你能相信，我们非常感激你这次赏脸，并且竭尽绵薄之力，使你过得不那么兴味索然。”

伊丽莎白急忙连声道谢，再三表示她很快活。这六个星期来她过得高兴极了。能跟夏绿蒂高高兴兴地待在一起，又有主人家殷勤恳切的招待，应该是她来表达感谢。

*Mr. Collins was gratified; and with a more smiling solemnity replied,*

*"It gives me the greatest pleasure to hear that you have passed your time not disagreeably. We have certainly done our best;*

*and most fortunately having it in our power to introduce you to very superior society, and, from our connection with Rosings, the frequent means of varying the humble home scene, I think we may flatter ourselves that your Hunsford visit cannot have been entirely irksome.*

*Our situation with regard to Lady Catherine's family is indeed the sort of extraordinary advantage and blessing which few can boast. You see on what a footing we are. You see how continually we are engaged there.*

*In truth I must acknowledge that, with all the disadvantages of this humble parsonage, I should not think anyone abiding in it an object of compassion while they are sharers of our intimacy at Rosings."*

*Words were insufficient for the elevation of his feelings; and he was obliged to walk about the room, while Elizabeth tried to unite civility and truth in a few short sentences.*

*"You may, in fact, carry a very favourable report of us into Hertfordshire, my dear cousin. I flatter myself, at least, that you will be able to do so.*

科林斯先生听了大为满意，立刻露出笑容，并慎重其事地回答道：

“听到你并没有过得不称心，我万分高兴。我们的确尽了最大努力；”

“而且最幸运的是，把你介绍给上流社会。幸亏我们攀上了罗新斯府，你住在寒舍，还可以经常跟他们来往。这倒使我能聊以自慰，觉得你这次来不能算索然无味。”

“凯瑟琳夫人对我们真是特别优待，这种机会，别人求之不得。你应该看出了我们之间关系多密切，我们总是受邀去作客。”

“说真的，这幢牧师住宅虽然简陋，还有诸多不便；但无论谁住到此地，如果他能和我们一样，与罗新斯也有亲密的交情，那就不算是可怜巴巴。这并非言过其实。”

【别看我们房子小，可我们交际的人层次高，别人还没有这个荣幸呢。】

他那个兴奋劲儿，实在非言语所能形容；伊丽莎白简单应了几句，尽量显得既客气又坦诚。他听了以后，快活得在屋里打转。

“亲爱的表妹，你可以把我们的好消息给带到哈福德郡去。我相信你一定办得到。”

*Lady Catherine's great attentions to Mrs. Collins you have been a daily witness of; and altogether I trust it does not appear that your friend has drawn an unfortunate --; but on this point it will be as well to be silent.*

*Only let me assure you, my dear Miss Elizabeth, that I can from my heart most cordially wish you equal felicity in marriage.*

*My dear Charlotte and I have but one mind and one way of thinking. There is in every thing a most remarkable resemblance of character and ideas between us. We seem to have been designed for each other.*

*Elizabeth could safely say that it was a great happiness where that was the case, and with equal sincerity could add that she firmly believed and rejoiced in his domestic comforts.*

*She was not sorry, however, to have the recital of them interrupted by the entrance of the lady from whom they sprung. Poor Charlotte! -- it was melancholy to leave her to such society!*

*-- But she had chosen it with her eyes open; and though evidently regretting that her visitors were to go, she did not seem to ask for compassion.*

*Her home and her housekeeping, her parish and her poultry, and all their dependent concerns, had not yet lost their charms.*

“凯瑟琳夫人对内人真是关怀备至，这你每天都能看到。总之，你的朋友没有做错选择——不过这一点还是不说为好。”

【你当初要是答应我，这一切就是你的】

“请听我说，亲爱的伊丽莎白小姐，我打心底里真诚祝愿你的婚姻也能同样幸福。”

“夏绿蒂和我真是心意相通，我们无论遇到什么事，都是意气相投、心心相印。我们真是天造地设的一对。”

伊丽莎白可以稳妥地说，他们这样相处，的确十分幸福；而且还可以用同样诚恳的语气接着说，她坚信他们过得很舒适。

她也为之感到欣喜。不过话才说到一半，被说到的那位太太走了进来，打断她的话。她倒并不觉得遗憾。可怜的夏绿蒂！丢下她跟这种男人朝夕相处，实在是一种痛苦。

可是这毕竟是她自己睁大了眼睛挑选的。她眼看着客人们就要走了，不免觉得难过，不过她似乎并不要求别人怜悯。

她有这个家，这个教区，操持家务，饲养家禽；以及许多附带的事情，都还没有使她感到完全乏味。

*At length the chaise arrived, the trunks were fastened on, the parcels placed within, and it was pronounced to be ready.*

*After an affectionate parting between the friends, Elizabeth was attended to the carriage by Mr. Collins, and as they walked down the garden, he was commissioning her with his best respects to all her family,*

*not forgetting his thanks for the kindness he had received at Longbourn in the winter, and his compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner, though unknown.*

*He then handed her in, Maria followed, and the door was on the point of being closed, when he suddenly reminded them, with some consternation, that they had hitherto forgotten to leave any message for the ladies at Rosings.*

*"But," he added, "you will of course wish to have your humble respects delivered to them, with your grateful thanks for their kindness to you while you have been here."*

*Elizabeth made no objection; -- the door was then allowed to be shut, and the carriage drove off.*

*"Good gracious!" cried Maria, after a few minutes silence, "it seems but a day or two since we first came! -- and yet how many things have happened!"*

马车终于来了，箱子给捆到了车上，包裹也放进车厢，一切都准备停当。

大家依依惜别以后，科林斯先生便送伊丽莎白上车。他们从花园往外走时，他托她回去代他向她全家问好；

而且没有忘记对去年冬天在朗本受到的款待表示感谢，还请她代问嘉丁纳夫妇好，其实他并不认识他们。

他随即扶她上车，玛丽亚也跟上去，正当车门快要关上的时候，他突然惊惶地提醒道，她们忘了给罗新斯的女士们留言告别。

“不过，”他又说，“你们自然希望找人代为传达，感谢她们这些日子来的殷勤款待。”

伊丽莎白没有表示反对，车门这才关上，马车就拉走了。

沉默了几分钟后，玛丽亚叫道：“天呀！我们好像才来了一两天，却经历了许多事！”

*"A great many indeed," said her companion with a sigh.*

*"We have dined nine times at Rosings, besides drinking tea there twice! -- How much I shall have to tell!"*

*Elizabeth privately added, "And how much I shall have to conceal."*

*Their journey was performed without much conversation, or any alarm; and within four hours of their leaving Hunsford, they reached Mr. Gardiner's house, where they were to remain a few days.*

*Jane looked well, and Elizabeth had little opportunity of studying her spirits, amidst the various engagements which the kindness of her aunt had reserved for them.*

*But Jane was to go home with her, and at Longbourn there would be leisure enough for observation.*

*It was not without an effort, meanwhile, that she could wait even for Longbourn, before she told her sister of Mr. Darcy's proposals.*

*To know that she had the power of revealing what would so exceedingly astonish Jane, and must, at the same time, so highly gratify whatever of her own vanity (she had not yet been able to reason away.)*

*was such a temptation to openness as nothing could have conquered but the state of indecision in which she remained as to the extent of what she should communicate;*

“确实。”伊丽莎白叹了口气。

“我们居然在罗新斯吃过九次饭，还喝过两次茶！回去有太多东西可讲了。”

伊丽莎白心里说：“我却有太多要隐瞒。”

她们一路上没说什么话，也没受什么惊。离开汉斯福德不到四个钟头，就到了嘉丁纳先生家里。她们要在那儿逗留几天。

简气色很好，可惜伊丽莎白没有机会仔细观察她的心情，因为承蒙舅母的一片好心，早就给她们安排好了各色各样的活动。

好在简就要跟她一块儿回去，到了朗本，有的是时间来仔细观察。

不过，达西先生求婚的事，她好不容易才忍住没讲。等到了朗本，再把事情告诉简。

她知道自己一透露此事，简准会大惊失色。还可以大大满足她的虚荣心，这种虚荣心已经很难从理智上加以克服。

她真恨不得把它说出来，只是拿不准应该说到什么地步。

*and her fear, if she once entered on the subject, of being hurried into repeating something of Bingley which might only grieve her sister farther.*

又怕一谈到这个问题，就不免牵扯到宾利，这会叫她姐姐更为伤心。