

CHAPTER 29(02)

--Elizabeth felt all the impertinence of her questions, but answered them very composedly.--Lady Catherine then observed,

"Your father's estate **is entailed on** Mr. Collins, I think. For your sake," turning to Charlotte, "I am glad of it;but otherwise I **see no occasion for** entailing estates from the female line.

--It was not thought necessary in Sir Lewis de Bourgh's family. --Do you play and sing, Miss Bennet? "

"A little."

"Oh! then --some time or other we shall be happy to hear you. Our instrument is a capital one, probably superior to --You shall try it some day. --Do your sisters play and sing? "

"One of them does."

"Why did not you all learn? --You ought all to have learned. The Miss Webbs all play, and their father has not so good an income as your's. --Do you draw? "

"No, not at all."

"What, none of you? "

"Not one."

"That is very strange. But I suppose you had no opportunity. Your mother should have taken you to town every spring for the benefit of masters."

"My mother would have had no objection, but my father hates London."

伊丽莎白觉得她问得唐突,不过还是心平气和地回答了她。凯瑟琳夫人接着说:

“你父亲的财产是由柯林斯来继承吧?”说到这里,她又掉过头来对夏绿蒂说:“这事我为你感到高兴;除此以外,我看不出有什么理由不让女儿继承。”

“路易斯·德·包尔家就觉得没有必要这样做。你会弹琴唱歌吗,班纳特小姐?”

“略懂一二。”

“那好,什么时候能让我们听一听。我们的琴非常好,可能胜过——你哪天来试一试吧。你的姐妹们会弹琴唱歌吗?”

“有一个会。”

“怎么不大家都学呢?你们应该都去学。魏伯家的小姐就个个都会,她们父亲的收入还不及你们父亲多呢。你们会画画吗?”

“不,一点儿不会

“什么,一个也不会吗?”

“没有一个会。”

“这倒很稀奇。我猜你们是没机会学吧。你们母亲应该每年春天带你们进城访访名师才对。”

“我妈是不会反对,可是我父亲厌恶伦敦。”

"Has your governess left you ? "

"We never had any governess."

"No governess ! How was that possible ?
Five daughters brought up at home without
a governess !

--I never heard of such a thing. Your mother
must have been **quite a slave to your**
education."

Elizabeth could hardly help smiling, as she
assured her **that had not been the case.**

"Then, who taught you ? who attended to
you ? Without a governess you must have
been neglected."

"Compared with some families, I believe we
were; but **such of us as wished to learn,**
never wanted the means.

We were always encouraged to read, and
had all the masters **that were necessary.**
Those (who chose to be idle,) certainly
might."

"Aye, no doubt; but that is what a governess
will prevent, and if I had known your mother,
I should have advised her most strenuously
to engage one.

I always say that nothing is to be done in
education without steady and regular
instruction, and nobody but a governess can
give it.

“你们的女家庭教师走了吗？”

“我们从来就没有请过女家庭教师。”

“没有女家庭教师！那怎么可能？家里教
养着五个姑娘，却不请个女教师！”

“我从来没听到过这样的事！你母亲一定
是**很辛苦地**教育你们啦。”

伊丽莎白不禁笑了，对她说**事情并不是那样。**

“那么谁教导你们呢？谁照顾你们呢？没
有女老师，你们不就是没人照管了吗？”

“同有些人家比起来，我们家里对我们确实
比较懈怠；可是姐妹们中间，凡是好学的，决
不会没有办法。”

“家里总是鼓励我们好好读书，也能请到
必要的教师。要是存心偷懒，当然也可以。”

“那毫无疑问；不过，女教师的任务就是为
了防止这种事情；要是我认识你们的母亲，
我一定要**竭力**劝她请一位。”

“那毫无疑问”指的是“学习上偷懒”

“我总以为”缺少了系统正规的指导，教育
一事无成；这种指导只有女教师办得到。”

It is wonderful how many families I have been the means of supplying in that way. I am always glad to get a young person well placed out.

Four nieces of Mrs. Jenkinson are most delightfully situated through my means; and it was but the other day that I recommended another young person, (who was merely accidentally mentioned to me,) and the family are quite delighted with her.

--Mrs. Collins, did I tell you of Lady Metcalfe's calling yesterday to thank me? She finds Miss Pope a treasure."

"Lady Catherine," said she, "you have given me a treasure. Are any of your younger sisters out, Miss Bennet?"

"Yes, Ma'am, all."

"All!--What, all five out at once? Very odd!--And you only the second.--The younger ones out before the elder are married!--Your younger sisters must be very young?"

"Yes, my youngest is not sixteen. Perhaps she is full young to be much in company.

But really, Ma'am, I think it would be very hard upon younger sisters, that they should not have their share of society and amusement [because the elder may not have the means or inclination to marry early.]

--The last born has as good a right to the pleasures of youth, as the first. And to be kept back on such a motive!

“说起来也怪有意思,好多人家的教师都是由我介绍的。我总是希望能让年轻人得到很好的安排。”

【指的是给她们安排家庭教师的职业】

“姜金生太太的四个侄女,就是由我介绍,谋得了称心如意的位置;就在前几天,我又推荐了一个姑娘(她不过是人家偶然在我面前提起的),那家人对她非常满意。”

“--柯林斯太太,我有没有告诉过你,麦特卡夫夫人昨天来谢我? 她觉得波普小姐真是难得呢。”

“她跟我说,‘凯瑟琳夫人,你给了我如此优秀的姑娘。’班纳特小姐,你的妹妹们有没有哪一个已经出来交际了?”

“有,太太,全都出来交际了。”

“全都出来? 五个姐妹同时出来交际? 真奇怪! 你不过是个老二! 姐姐还没嫁人,妹妹就出来交际了! 你妹妹们一定很小吧?”

“是的;最小的还不满十六岁。或许她太小,并不适宜多交际。”

“不过,太太,要是因为姐姐们无法早嫁,或是不想早嫁,做妹妹的就不能有社交和娱乐活动,那实在是太苦了她们啦。”

“小妹和大姐同样有享受青春的权利。怎能为了这样的原由,就叫她们守在家里!”

--I think it would not be very likely to promote sisterly affection or delicacy of mind."

"Upon my word," said her ladyship, "you give your opinion very decidedly for so young a person. --Pray, what is your age?"

"With three younger sisters grown up," replied Elizabeth smiling, "your Ladyship can hardly expect me to **own** it."

Lady Catherine seemed quite astonished at not receiving a direct answer; and Elizabeth suspected herself to be the first creature (who had ever dared to **trifle with** so much dignified **impertinence**!)

"You cannot be more than twenty, I am sure, --therefore you need not conceal your age."

"I am not one and twenty."

When the gentlemen had joined them, and tea was over, the card tables were placed. Lady Catherine, Sir William, and Mr. and Mrs. Collins sat down to quadrille;

and as Miss De Bourgh chose to play at cassino, the two girls had the honour of assisting Mrs. Jenkinson to **make up her party**.

Their table was superlatively stupid. **Scarcely a syllable was uttered (that did not relate to the game,)** except when Mrs. Jenkinson expressed her fears of Miss De Bourgh's being too hot or too cold, or having too much or too little light.

“以为那样做不可能促进姐妹间的情感，也不可能养成温柔的心性。”

“真想不到，”夫人说，“你年纪不大，倒这样有主见。请问你多大啦？”

“我已经有三个成年的妹妹了，”伊丽莎白笑着说。“您总不会再要我招出年纪来吧。”

凯瑟琳夫人没得到直接的回答，很是惊奇；伊丽莎白觉得，恐怕自己是第一个敢嘲弄这种凭借身世显赫就盛气凌人的行为的。

“你不会超过二十岁，所以你不必瞒年纪。”

“我不到二十一岁。”

等男宾们都过来，一起用过茶后，便摆起了牌桌。凯瑟琳夫人、威廉爵士和柯林斯夫妇坐下来打“夸维”；

德·包尔小姐要玩“卡西诺”，两位姑娘就很荣幸地，连同姜金生太太给她凑足人数。

她们这一桌真是枯燥无味，除了姜金生太太问问德·包尔小姐是否觉得太冷或太热，是否感到灯光太强或太弱以外，就没有一句话不是说到打牌方面的。

【除了打牌的话之外，没什么闲谈】

A great deal more passed at the other table, Lady Catherine was generally speaking --stating the mistakes of the three others, or relating some anecdote of herself.

Mr. Collins was employed in agreeing to every thing her Ladyship said, thanking her for every fish he won, and apologising if he thought he won too many.

Sir William did not say much. He was storing his memory with anecdotes and noble names.

When Lady Catherine and her daughter had played as long as they chose, the tables were broke up, the carriage was offered to Mrs. Collins, gratefully accepted, and immediately ordered.

The party then gathered round the fire to hear Lady Catherine determine what weather they were to have on the morrow.

From these instructions they were summoned by the arrival of the coach, and with many speeches of thankfulness on Mr. Collins's side, and as many bows on Sir William's, they departed.

As soon as they had driven from the door, Elizabeth was called on by her cousin to give her opinion of all that she had seen at Rosings, (which, for Charlotte's sake, she made more favourable than it really was.)

But her commendation, though costing her some trouble, could by no means satisfy Mr. Collins, and he was very soon obliged to take her ladyship's praise into his own hands.

另外一桌可就活跃多了。一般都是凯瑟琳夫人在讲话,不是指出另外三个人的错处,就是讲些自己的趣闻轶事。

她老人家说一句,柯林斯先生就附和一句,他赢一次要谢她一番,如果觉得赢得太多,还得向她道歉。

威廉爵士不大说话,只顾把一桩桩轶事和一个个高贵的名字装进脑子里去。

等到凯瑟琳母女俩玩得不想再玩的时候,两桌牌就散场了,主人打发马车送柯林斯太太回去。柯林斯太太很感激地接受了,于是马上叫人去套车。

大家又围着火炉,听凯瑟琳夫人推断明天天气如何。

大家正受教着,马车准备好了,叫客人上车。柯林斯先生又说许多感激的话,威廉爵士则鞠了好几次躬,大家方才告别。

马车一驶出门口,柯林斯就缠着伊丽莎白,要她发表对于罗新斯的感想。看在夏绿蒂的面子上,她违心地勉强敷衍了他几句。

她颇费心思才挤出这些恭维话,却完全不能叫柯林斯先生满意。无奈之下,柯林斯只得亲自开口,把老夫人重新赞扬了一番。