

## Chapter 40

Elizabeth's impatience to acquaint Jane with what had happened could no longer be overcome;

and at length resolving to suppress every particular in which her sister was concerned, and preparing her to be surprised, she related to her the next morning the chief of the scene between Mr. Darcy and herself.

Miss Bennet's astonishment **was soon lessened by the strong sisterly partiality which made any admiration of Elizabeth appear perfectly natural**; and all surprise was shortly lost in other feelings.

She was sorry that Mr. Darcy should have delivered his sentiments in a manner so little suited to recommend them; but still more was she grieved for the unhappiness which her sister's refusal must have given him.

"His being so sure of succeeding, was wrong," said she; "and certainly ought not to have appeared; but consider how much it must increase his disappointment."

"Indeed," replied Elizabeth, "I am heartily sorry for him; but he has other feelings which will probably soon drive away his regard for me. You do not blame me, however, for refusing him?"

"Blame you! Oh, no."

伊丽莎白再也忍不住了，现在非把那桩事告诉简不可了。

最后她决定舍去与姐姐有关的细节，她早料定简听完一定会诧异。第二天上午，就把达西先跟她求婚的主要情节，说了出来。

班纳特小姐起初大为吃惊，很快便觉得不足为奇了。因为她对伊丽莎白手足情深，觉得妹妹被谁爱上都是理所当然的事情。因此，惊讶就被其他感情取代了。

她替达西先生惋惜，觉得他不应该用那种不得体的方式来倾诉衷情；但她更难过的是，妹妹的拒绝肯定给他带来了痛苦。

她说：“他不应该那么自信，以为十拿九稳；更不应该表现得这么直接。不过你想一想，这一来他会失望到什么地步啊。”

伊丽莎白回答道：“我也非常替他难过；可是，既然他还有那么些顾虑，他对我好感可能不久就会完全消失。你不会怪我拒绝了他吧？”

“怪你？噢，不会的。”

*“But you blame me for having spoken so warmly of Wickham.”*

*“No -- I do not know that you were wrong in saying what you did.”*

*“But you will know it, when I have told you what happened the very next day.”*

*She then spoke of the letter, repeating the whole of its contents as far as they concerned George Wickham.*

*What a stroke was this for poor Jane! who would willingly have gone through the world without believing that so much wickedness existed in the whole race of mankind, as was here collected in one individual.*

*Nor was Darcy's vindication, [though grateful to her feelings,] capable of **consoling her for** such discovery. Most earnestly did she labor to **prove the probability of error**, and seek to **clear** one without involving the other.*

*“This will not do,” said Elizabeth. “You never will be able to **make both of them good** for anything. Take your choice, but you must be satisfied with only one.*

*There is but such a quantity of merit between them; just enough to make one good sort of man; and **of late** it has been shifting about pretty much. For my part, I **am inclined to** believe it all Mr. Darcy's, but **you shall do as you chose.**”*

“可是你会怪我这么卖力帮威克姆说话。”

“不怪你；我看不出你那样说有什么错。”

“等我把隔天的事告诉你，你一定会发现我做错了。”

接着她就说起那封信，把威克姆那部分，又原原本本地说了一遍。

可怜的简听到后大感惊诧！她即使走遍天下，也不会相信**人间**竟会有这许多罪恶，而这些罪恶竟然集中在一个人身上。

虽说达西的辩白使她感到满意。可是既然发现其中有如此隐情，她就不觉得**安慰**了。她想**证明这些可能与事实有出入**，力求洗清一个人的冤屈，又不叫另一个受到委屈。

伊丽莎白说：“这不可能，你绝对没有办法**两全其美**。两个里面你只能拣一个。”

“他们两人总共就那么多优点，刚巧够得上一个好人的标准。**最近**，这些优点又在两人之间移来动去。对我来讲，**我偏向于**把这些优点都看作是达西先生的，**你可以**随你自己的意思。”

*It was some time, however, before a smile could be extorted from Jane.*

*“I do not know when I have been more shocked,” said she. “Wickham so very bad! It is almost past belief. And poor Mr. Darcy! dear Lizzy, only consider what he must have suffered.*

*Such a disappointment! and with the knowledge of your ill opinion too! and having to relate such a thing of his sister! It is really too distressing. I am sure you must feel it so.”*

*“Oh! no, my regret and compassion are all done away by seeing you so full of both. I know you will do him such ample justice, that I am growing every moment more unconcerned and indifferent.*

*Your profusion makes me saving; and if you lament over him much longer, my heart will be as light as a feather.”*

*“Poor Wickham; there is such an expression of goodness in his countenance! such an openness and gentleness in his manner.”*

*“There certainly was some great mismanagement in the education of those two young men. One has got all the goodness, and the other all the appearance of it.”*

*“I never thought Mr. Darcy so deficient in the appearance of it as you used to do.”*

过了好一会儿，简脸上才勉强露出笑容。

她说：“我最吃惊的事莫过于此，威克姆原来这样恶劣！简直叫人无法相信。达西先生真可怜！亲爱的丽兹，你想想他会是多么痛苦。”

“他遭受了这样的打击！而且又知道了你对他的偏见！还不得不把妹妹的私事讲给你听！这叫太痛苦了，你也有同感吧。”

“没有的事；看到你对他这样惋惜和同情，我反而没这种感情了。我知道你会竭力替他说公道话，因此我就越来越漠然视之。”

“你的慷慨造成了我的吝嗇；要是你继续为他叹惜下去，我就彻底轻松愉快了。”

“可怜的威克姆！他面容那么善良，风度那么坦率优雅。”

【威克姆风度优雅，实际却不学无术；达西表面冷峻，却富有教养。】

“两位青年在教养方面，存在严重的失调。一个是优点深藏，一个仅是徒有其表。”

“我可从不像你那样，认为达西在仪表上有什么缺陷。”

*“And yet I meant to **be uncommonly clever** in **taking so decided a dislike to** him, **without any reason**. It is such a spur to one's genius, such an opening for wit to have a dislike of that kind.*

*One may be continually abusive without saying anything just; but one cannot be always laughing at a man without now and then stumbling on something witty.”*

*“Lizzy when you first read that letter, I am sure you could not treat the matter as you do now.”*

*“Indeed I could not. I was uncomfortable enough. I was very uncomfortable, I may say unhappy.*

*And with no one to speak to of what I felt, no Jane to comfort me and say that I had not been so very weak and vain and **nonsensical** as I knew I had! Oh! how I wanted you!”*

*“How unfortunate that you should have used such very strong expressions in speaking of Wickham to Mr. Darcy, for now they do appear wholly undeserved.”*

*“Certainly. But the misfortune of speaking with bitterness is **a most natural consequence of** the prejudices I had been encouraging.*

*There is one point **on which I want your advice**. I want to be told whether I ought, or ought not, to **make our acquaintance in general understand** Wickham's character.”*

“我以为你这样对他深恶痛绝，虽说没有理由，却是非常明智的。这种厌恶，足以激励人的天才，启发人的智慧。”

“你不断地骂人，当然无法说出好话；但你要是常常取笑人，倒会偶然想到妙语。”

“丽兹，你最初读那封信的时候，我相信你对待此事的看法一定和现在不同。”

“当然不同，我当时十分难受。我非常难受……可以说是很不快活。”

“我找不到人可以倾诉，也没有简来安慰安慰我；说我并不象自己想象的那样懦弱、虚荣、荒诞！噢，我真少不了你啊！”

“你在达西先生面前说到威克姆的时候，语气那么强硬，这真是不幸！现在看起来，那些话实在有些过分。”

“的确如此，我确实不应该说得那么刻毒，可我既然事先存了偏见，**自然难免如此**。”

有件事我要请教你。你说我应该不应该把威克姆的人品**说出去**，让朋友们都知道？”

Miss Bennet paused a little and then replied, "Surely there can be no occasion for exposing him so dreadfully. What is your own opinion?"

"That it ought not to be attempted. Mr. Darcy has not authorized me to make his communication public.

On the contrary, every particular relative to his sister was meant to be kept as much as possible to myself; and if I endeavor to undeceive people as to the rest of his conduct, who will believe me?

The general prejudice against Mr. Darcy is so violent, that it would be the death of half the good people in Meryton to attempt to place him in an amiable light. I am not equal to it. Wickham will soon be gone; and therefore it will not signify to anybody here, what he really is.

Sometime hence it will be all found out, and then we may laugh at their stupidity in not knowing it before. At present I will say nothing about it."

"You are quite right. To have his errors made public might ruin him forever. He is now perhaps sorry for what he has done, and anxious to re-establish a character. We must not make him desperate."

The tumult of Elizabeth's mind was allayed by this conversation.

班纳特小姐顿了顿，才回答道：“当然用不着搞得他声名狼藉。你的意见如何？”

“我也觉得不必如此。达西先生没有允许我把他所说的话公之于众。”

“他反而一再叮嘱，凡是牵涉到他妹妹的，都要尽量保守秘密；至于威克姆其他方面的品行，我即使要对大家实话实说，又有谁会相信？”

“人们对达西先生成见太深，我要是将他说成是个和蔼可亲的人，梅里顿有一半人死也不会相信。我真的做不到啊。威克姆马上就要走了，他的真面目究竟如何，对谁都无关紧要了。”

“总有一天会真相大白，那时我们就可以讥笑人们为什么那么蠢，没有早些知道。眼下我先保持沉默。”

“你说的很对。要揭露他的错误，可能会断送了他一生。也许他已经后悔，痛下决心，重新做人。我们不能让他走投无路。”

这番话使伊丽莎白烦乱的心境平静了些。



*She had got rid of two of the secrets which had weighed on her for a fortnight, and was certain of a willing listener in Jane, whenever she might wish to talk again of either.*

*But there was still something lurking behind, of which prudence forbade the disclosure. She dared not relate the other half of Mr. Darcy's letter, nor explain to her sister how sincerely she had been valued by his friend.*

*Here was knowledge in which no one could partake; and she was sensible that nothing less than a perfect understanding between the parties could justify her in throwing off this last incumbrance of mystery.*

*"And then," said she, "if that very improbable event should ever take place, I shall merely be able to tell what Bingley may tell in a much more agreeable manner himself. The liberty of communication cannot be mine till it has lost all its value!"*

*She was now, on being settled at home, at leisure to observe the real state of her sister's spirits. Jane was not happy. She still cherished a very tender affection for Bingley.*

*Having never even fancied herself in love before, her regard had all the warmth of first attachment, and, from her age and disposition, greater steadiness than first attachments often boast;*

两星期来，这两件秘密一直压在她的心头，如今总算放下了。她相信，这两件事不论再次谈起其中哪一件，简都会愿意听。

可是这里面还有些隐秘，为了谨慎起见，她不便透露。她不敢叙述那封信另外一半内容，也不敢向姐姐说明：他那位朋友对姐姐是多么喜欢。

这事是不能让任何人知道的。她心里明白，只有双方完全取得谅解，她才可以抛下这最后一个秘密的包袱。

她心想：“这样看来，如果那件不大可能的事一旦变成现实，我便可以把这件秘密说出来。不过宾利先生自己会去跟简说的。只有等到事过境迁，才轮到我说呢！”

【我也没必要说了，宾利自己会表明心意的】

她回到家定下心来，就有闲暇来观察姐姐的真实心境。简并不快活。她对宾利仍然未能忘情。

她先前甚至没有想象过自己会对他钟情，因此她的柔情密意竟像初恋那么热烈，而且由于年龄和品性的关系，她比初恋的人还要坚贞不移。

and so fervently did she value his remembrance, and prefer him to every other man, that all her good sense, and all her attention to the feelings of her friends, were requisite to check the indulgence of those regrets which must have been injurious to her own health and their tranquillity.

“Well, Lizzy,” said Mrs. Bennet one day, “what is your opinion now of this sad business of Jane's? For my part, I am determined never to speak of it again to anybody. I told my sister Philips so the other day. But I cannot find out that Jane saw any thing of him in London.”

Well, he is a very undeserving young man -- and I do not suppose there is the least chance in the world of her ever getting him now. There is no talk of his coming to Netherfield again in the summer; and I have enquired of everybody, too, who is likely to know.”

“I do not believe that he will ever live at Netherfield anymore.”

“Oh, well! it is just as he chooses. Nobody wants him to come. Though I shall always say that he used my daughter extremely ill; and if I was her, I would not have put up with it. Well, my comfort is, I am sure Jane will die of a broken heart, and then he will be sorry for what he has done.”

But as Elizabeth could not receive comfort from any such expectation, she made no answer.

她痴情地眷恋着宾利，觉得他比任何男人都高出一等。幸亏她富有见识，很能照顾亲友们的情绪，才没有多愁善感，否则一定会毁了她的健康，扰乱亲友心境的安宁。

有一天，班纳特太太这么说：“喂，丽兹，你如今对简这件伤心事有什么看法呢？我可已经下定决心，再也不跟任何人提起。我那天就跟我妹妹这么说过。不过我知道，简在伦敦连他的影子也没有见到。”

“唉，他是个不值得钟情的青年，我看简也休想嫁给他了。也没有听人谈起他夏天会回到内瑟菲尔德来，凡是可能知道消息的人，我都一一问过了。”

“我看他不会住到内瑟菲尔德来了。”

“哼，随他的便吧。谁也没要他来；不过我永远会说，他太对不起我的女儿了，我要是简，才受不了这样的气呢。不过，我感到宽慰的是：简一定会伤心得把命送掉，那时他就会懊悔当初不该那么狠心了。”

伊丽莎白没有回答，因为这种非非之想，并不能使她得到安慰。

*“Well, Lizzy,” continued her mother soon afterwards, “and so the Collinses live very comfortable, do they?”*

*Well, well, I only hope it will last. And what sort of table do they keep? Charlotte is an excellent manager, I dare say.*

*If she is half as sharp as her mother, she is saving enough. There is nothing extravagant in their housekeeping, I dare say.”*

*“No, nothing at all.”*

*“A great deal of good management, depend upon it. Yes, yes. They will take care not to outrun their income. They will never be distressed for money.*

*Well, much good may it do them! And so, I suppose, they often talk of having Longbourn when your father is dead. They look upon it quite as their own, I dare say, whenever that happens.”*

*“It was a subject which they could not mention before me.”*

*“No. It would have been strange if they had. But I make no doubt, they often talk of it between themselves.*

*Well, if they can be easy with an estate that is not lawfully their own, so much the better. I should be ashamed of having one that was only entailed on me.”*

她母亲随即又接着说：“这么说来，科林斯夫妇日子过得很舒服啊，是吗？”

“好极了，愿他们天长地久。他们的饭菜怎么样？夏绿蒂准是个了不起的管家婆。”

“她只要有她妈妈一半精明，就够省俭的了。他们两人持家，决不会有什么浪费。”

“当然，丝毫也不铺张。”

“他们一定会精打细算的。不错，不错。他们才小心呢，不让支出超过收入；他们永远不愁没钱花。

“好吧，愿上帝保佑他们吧！据我猜想，他们一定常常谈论你父亲去世后，由他们接收朗本的事吧。真到了那天，他们真会把它看作自己的财产呢。”

“这件事，他们自然不便当着我的面提。”

“当然，要是当着你的面提，那才叫怪呢。可是我相信，他们自己一定常常议论。”

“要是他们能心安理得继承这笔不义之财，那是再好也没有了。若是叫我来接受这笔限定继承的财产，我才不好意思接受呢。”