

Chapter 39



It was the second week in May in which the three young ladies set out together from Gracechurch-street for the town of XXX in Hertfordshire;

and, as they drew near the appointed inn where Mr. Bennet's carriage was to meet them, they quickly perceived, in token of the coachman's punctuality, both Kitty and Lydia looking out of a dining room upstairs.

These two girls had been above an hour in the place, happily employed in visiting an opposite milliner, watching the sentinel on guard, and dressing a salad and cucumber.

After welcoming their sisters, they triumphantly displayed a table set out with such cold meat as an inn larder usually affords, exclaiming, "Is not this nice? is not this an agreeable surprise?"

"And we mean to treat you all," added Lydia; "but you must lend us the money, for we have just spent ours at the shop out there."

Then showing her purchases: "Look here, I have bought this bonnet. I do not think it is very pretty; but I thought I might as well buy it as not. I shall pull it to pieces as soon as I get home, and see if I can make it up any better."

And when her sisters abused it as ugly, she added, with perfect unconcern, "Oh! but there were two or three much uglier in the shop;

到了五月的第二周，三位年轻小姐一起从天恩寺街出发，到哈德福郡镇上去。

班纳特先生事先跟她们约定，打发马车到镇上客栈接她们。刚到那儿，她们就看到，凯蒂和丽迪雅从楼上餐厅里往外张望，这表明车夫已经准时到了。

两位姑娘已经待了一个多钟头，满怀兴致地光顾了对面的女帽店，又打量了站岗的哨兵一阵，还调制了一盘黄瓜沙拉。

她们迎接两位姐姐后，便得意洋洋地摆出一桌小客栈常备的冷食；一面大声嚷道：“这些还不错吧？你们没有想到吧？”

丽迪雅说：“我们特意做东，可是你们得借钱给我们，我们的钱在那边商店花光了。”

说到这里，她便把买来的东西拿给她们看。“瞧，我买了顶帽子。我并不觉得很漂亮；可是我想，买一顶也好。一到家我就要把它拆开来重做，看会不会做得好一些。”

等姐姐们说这顶帽子很难看时，她又毫不在乎地说：“店里还有两三顶，比这一顶还要难看得多；”

and when I have bought some prettier colored satin to trim it with fresh, I think it will be very tolerable.

Besides, it will not much signify what one wears this summer after the XXX shire have left Meryton, and they are going in a fortnight."

"Are they indeed?" cried Elizabeth, with the greatest satisfaction.

"They are going to be encamped near Brighton; and I do so want papa to take us all there for the summer!

It would be such a delicious scheme, and I dare say would hardly cost anything at all. Mamma would like to go too, of all things! Only think what a miserable summer else we shall have!"

"Yes," thought Elizabeth, "that would be a delightful scheme, indeed, and completely do for us at once. Good Heaven!

Brighton, and a whole campful of soldiers, to us, who have been upset already by one poor regiment of militia, and the monthly balls of Meryton."

"Now I have got some news for you," said Lydia, as they sat down to table. "What do you think? It is excellent news, capital news, and about a certain person that we all like."

“待我去买点儿颜色漂亮的缎子来，把它重新装饰一下，我想那就很成样子了。”

“再说，民兵团再过两周就要离开梅里顿，他们一走，这个夏季穿戴什么都无所谓。”

“真的吗？”伊丽莎白有些宽慰地问道。

“他们就要驻扎到布莱顿去；我真希望爸爸带我们大家到那儿去消暑！”

“这是个不错的打算，兴许还花不了多少钱。妈妈一定也很想去。你们想想，不然我们这个夏天过得要多苦闷呀！”

“是啊，”伊丽莎白想道；“这倒真是个好计划，我们马上就会忙死了。老天爷啊！”

“梅里顿只有这一个可怜的民兵团，每个月开几次舞会，就弄得我们晕头转向了，更何况布莱顿有那一整营的官兵！”

大家坐定以后，丽迪雅说：“我有条消息要告诉你们，你们猜猜是什么消息？这是个天大的好消息，非常重要的消息，有关我们大家都喜欢的某一个人。”

Jane and Elizabeth looked at each other, and the waiter was told that he need not stay. Lydia laughed, and said, "Aye, that is just like your formality and discretion."

You thought the waiter must not hear, as if he cared! I dare say he often hears worse things said than I am going to say. But he is an ugly fellow! I am glad he is gone.

I never saw such a long chin in my life. Well, but now for my news: it is about dear Wickham; too good for the waiter, is not it? There is no danger of Wickham's marrying Mary King.

There's for you! She is gone down to her uncle at Liverpool; gone to stay. Wickham is safe."

"And Mary King is safe!" added Elizabeth; "safe from a connection imprudent as to fortune."

"She is a great fool for going away, if she liked him."

"But I hope there is no strong attachment on either side," said Jane.

"I am sure there is not on his. I will answer for it he never cared three straws about her. Who could about such a nasty little freckled thing?"

简和伊丽莎白面面相觑，便打发堂倌走了。丽迪雅笑笑说：“嘿，你们真是刻板谨慎。”

“你们以为不能让堂倌听到，好像他多想听似的！也许他平常听到的好多话，比我还说还要不堪入耳。不过他是个丑八怪！他走开了，我倒也高兴。”

“我从没见过他那样长的下巴。现在我来讲讲新闻——这是关于可爱的威克姆的事；堂倌不配听，是不是？威克姆不会再跟玛丽·金结婚了，这个危险排除了。”

“你的机会来了！金小姐上利物浦她叔叔那儿去了，再也不回来了。威克姆安全了。”

“应该说玛丽·金安全了！”伊丽莎白说，“她逃过了一段只为求财的冒失姻缘。”

“她要是喜欢威克姆而又走开，那才真是个大傻瓜。”

“我但愿他们双方感情都不深，”简说。

“威克姆的感情不会深的。我可以担保，他根本就没有把她放在心上。谁看得上这么一个满脸雀斑的、讨厌的小东西？”

not to care a straw
毫不关心;满不在乎

Elizabeth was shocked to think that, however incapable of such **coarseness** of expression herself, the coarseness of the sentiment was little **other than her own breast had formerly harbored and fancied liberal!**

As soon as all had eaten, and the elder ones paid, the carriage was ordered; and, **after some contrivance**, the whole party, with all their boxes, workbags, and parcels, and the unwelcome addition of Kitty's and Lydia's purchases, **were seated in it.**

"How nicely we are crammed in!" cried Lydia. "I am glad I bought my bonnet, if it is only for the fun of having another bandbox!"

Well, now let us be quite comfortable and snug, and talk and laugh all the way home. And in the first place, let us hear what has happened to you all, since you went away.

Have you seen any pleasant men? Have you had any flirting? I was **in great hopes** that one of you would have got a husband before you came back. Jane will be quite an old maid soon, I declare. She is almost three and twenty!

Lord, how ashamed I should be of not being married before three and twenty! My aunt Philips wants you so to get husbands, you can't think. She says Lizzy **had better** have taken Mr. Collins; but I do not think there would have been any fun in it.

伊丽莎白心想，她自己固然不会说出这样粗俗的言语，可是心里却有过这样的想法；而且还自以为宽宏大度。这让她很是惊愕。

吃过饭，姐姐们付了帐，便吩咐准备马车；经过一番安排，几位小姐，带着自己的箱子、针线袋、包裹，以及凯蒂和丽迪雅所买的那些讨厌的东西，总算都放上了车。

“我们挤在一起，多带劲！”丽迪雅叫道。
“我真高兴买了这顶帽子，哪怕只是添了一只帽盒，也很有意思！”

“好吧，让我们再靠紧点儿，有说有笑地回到家里去。首先，请你们讲一讲，你们离家以后遇到了些什么事情。”

“你们见到中意的男人了吗？有过攀谈没有？**我还真希望**，你们哪位能带个丈夫回来呢。我说，简马上就变成老处女了。她都快二十三岁啦！”

“天哪，我要是不能在二十三岁以前结婚，那该多丢脸啊！你们想不到，菲利普姨妈多么想要你们赶快找丈夫。她说，丽兹**要是嫁给科林斯先生就好了**，不过我可觉得那一点趣味也没有。”

*Lord! how I should like to be married before any of you; and then I would **chaperon** you about to all the balls. Dear me! we had such a good piece of fun the other day at Colonel Foster's.*

Kitty and me were to spend the day there, and Mrs. Forster promised to have a little dance in the evening (by the bye, Mrs. Forster and me are such friends!);

and so she asked the two Harringtons to come, but Harriet was ill, and so Pen was forced to come by herself; and then, what do you think we did?

*We **dressed up** Chamberlayne **in** woman's clothes, on purpose to **pass for** a lady, -- only think what fun! Not a soul knew of it but Col. and Mrs. Forster, and Kitty and me, except my aunt, for we were forced to borrow one of her gowns;*

*and you cannot imagine how well he looked! When Denny, and Wickham, and Pratt, and two or three more of the men came in, they did not know him **in the least**.*

*Lord! how I laughed! and so did Mrs. Forster. **I thought I should have died.** And that made the men suspect something, and then they soon found out what was the matter."*

*With such kind of stories of their parties and good jokes did Lydia, assisted by Kitty's **hints and additions**, endeavor to amuse her companions all the way to Longbourn.*

“天哪！我真想比你们哪一个都先结婚！那样，我就可以领着你们到处去参加舞会。哎呀！那天在福斯特上校家里，我们玩得真是开心啊！”

“凯蒂和我准备在那儿玩个整天，福斯特太太答应晚上办个小型舞会。（顺便说下，福斯特太太跟我非常要好）”

“于是她请哈林顿家两姐妹来参加。可惜海丽病了，因此萍不得不独自前来；这时，你们猜我们怎么办？”

“我们给张柏伦穿上女人衣服，让他**扮成**女人。你们想想，这多有趣啊！除了上校、福斯特太太、凯蒂和我以及姨妈等人以外，谁也不知道。至于姨妈，那是因为我们向她借了件长裙，她才知道的。”

“你们想不到他扮得有多么像！丹尼、威克姆、普拉特和另外两三个人走进来时，他们**根本**没认出是他。”

“天哪！可笑坏我了，福斯特太太也笑得够呛。**我简直要笑死了。**这才引起男士们的疑心，他们不久就识穿了。”

丽迪雅就这样说着舞会上的故事，又讲讲笑话，还有凯蒂从旁给她**添油加醋**，使得大家一路上很开心。

Elizabeth listened as little as she could, but there was no escaping the frequent mention of Wickham's name.

Their reception at home was most kind. Mrs. Bennet rejoiced to see Jane in undiminished beauty; and more than once during dinner did Mr. Bennet say voluntarily to Elizabeth, "I am glad you-are come back, Lizzy."

Their party in the dining-room was large, for almost all the Lucases came to meet Maria and hear the news: and various were the subjects which occupied them.

Lady Lucas was enquiring of Maria, across the table, after the welfare and poultry of her eldest daughter; Mrs. Bennet was doubly engaged, on one hand collecting an account of the present fashions from Jane, who sat some way below her; and on the other, retailing them all to the younger Miss Lucases;

and Lydia, in a voice rather louder than any other person's, was enumerating the various pleasures of the morning to anybody who would hear her.

"Oh! Mary," said she, "I wish you had gone with us, for we had such fun! as we went along, Kitty and me drew up all the blinds, and pretended there was nobody in the coach; and I should have gone so all the way, if Kitty had not been sick;

伊丽莎白尽量不去听，但却难免听到他们屡屡提起威克姆的名字。

家里人极为亲切地接待了她们。班纳特太太看到简姿色未减，十分欣喜；吃饭的时候，班纳特先生不由自主地几次对伊丽莎白说：“你回来了，我真高兴，丽兹。”

他们饭厅里人很多，因为卢卡斯一家人差不多全来了，一是为了接玛丽亚，二是来听听新闻。各人谈及的话题真是五花八门。

卢卡斯太太隔着桌子，向玛丽亚问起她大女儿日子过得好不好，鸡鸭养得多不多；班纳特太太格外忙，先向坐在她下手的简，打听时下的服装式样；然后再讲给卢家几位年轻小姐听。

丽迪雅嗓门比谁都高，她正把早上的乐趣一件件说给爱听的人听。

“噢，玛丽，”她说，“你要是跟我们一块儿去就好了，我们觉得真有趣！一路上，凯蒂和我放下车帘，假装车里没人；要是凯蒂没有晕车，就会一直这样走下去。”

*and when we got to the George, I do think we behaved very handsomely, for we treated the other three with the nicest **cold luncheon** in the world, and if you would have gone, we would have treated you too.*

*And then when we came away it was such fun! I thought we never should have got into the coach. **I was ready to die of laughter.***

And then we were so merry all the way home! we talked and laughed so loud, that anybody might have heard us ten miles off!"

*To this, Mary very gravely replied, "**Far be it from me**, my dear sister, to depreciate such pleasures.*

*They would **doubtless be congenial with** the generality of female minds. But I confess they would **have no charms for** me. I should infinitely prefer a book."*

But of this answer Lydia heard not a word. She seldom listened to anybody for more than half a minute, and never attended to Mary at all.

*In the afternoon Lydia **was urgent** with the rest of the girls **to** walk to Meryton, and see how everybody went on;*

*but Elizabeth steadily opposed the scheme. It should not be said, that the Miss Bennets could not be at home half a day before they were **in pursuit of** the officers.*

“到了乔治客店，我们可是非常慷慨的，用世上最可口的冷盘款待她们三位；假使你去了，我们也会款待你的。”

“临走的时候，又那么有趣！我还以为车子无论如何也装不下我们。**真要笑死啦。**”

“回来路上又是那么开心！我们有说有笑，声音大得十英里外都能听见！”

玛丽听完，一本正经地回答道：“我的好妹妹，**不是我故意要**煞你们的风景。”

“这些乐趣**确实投合**一般女子的心意，不过老实说，却**打动不了**我的心，我觉得读书要有趣得多。”

丽迪雅把她这番话当做耳边风。谁说的话她都不爱听，更别说玛丽，她根本就不理。

下午，丽迪雅**硬要**姐姐们陪她去梅里顿，看看那边的朋友们近况如何。

可是伊丽莎白坚决反对。她觉得，不能让人家说班纳特家小姐们在家待不上半天，就去**追求**军官。

There was another reason too, for her opposition. She **dreaded seeing** Wickham again, and was resolved to avoid it as long as possible.

The comfort to her of the regiment's **approaching removal** was indeed beyond expression. In a fortnight they were to go, and once gone, she hoped there could be nothing more to plague her **on his account**.

She had not been many hours at home, before she found that the Brighton scheme, of which Lydia had given them a hint at the inn, was **under frequent discussion** between her parents.

Elizabeth saw directly that her father **had not the smallest intention of yielding**; but his answers were at the same time so vague and equivocal, that her mother, though often **disheartened**, had never yet despaired of succeeding at last.

她所以反对，还有一个理由。她怕再看到威克姆。因此打定主意尽量和他避而不见。

民兵团**马上就要调走了**，她感到说不出的安慰。不出两星期，他们就要走了。她希望他们一走，她就不用再**为威克姆**而烦恼。

她到家没有几个小时，就发觉父母**在反复讨论**去布莱顿度假的计划，也就是丽迪雅在客店里提到过的那个计划。

她看出父亲**丝毫没有让步的意思**，不过他的回答却是模棱两可，母亲虽然碰钉子，可是一直没有死心，总想最后能如她的愿。
disheartened adj.沮丧的，灰心的；