

Chapter 23

Elizabeth was sitting with her mother and sisters, reflecting on what she had heard, and doubting whether she **were authorised to** mention it, when Sir William Lucas himself appeared, **sent by** his daughter to announce her engagement to the family.

With many compliments to them, and much self-gratulation on **the prospect of** a connection between the houses, he unfolded the matter, -- to an audience (not merely wondering, but **incredulous**;))

for Mrs. Bennet, **with more perseverance than politeness**, protested he must be entirely mistaken, and Lydia, always ungarded and often uncivil, **boisterously** exclaimed,

“Good Lord! Sir William, how can you tell such a story? -- Do not you know that Mr. Collins wants to marry Lizzy?”

Nothing less than the complaisance of a **courtier could have** borne [without anger] such treatment; but Sir William's good breeding carried him through it all;

and though he **begged leave to be positive as to** the truth of his information, he listened to all their impertinence **with the most forbearing courtesy**.

Elizabeth, **feeling it incumbent on her to relieve him from** so unpleasant a situation, now **put herself forward** to confirm his account, by mentioning her prior knowledge of it from Charlotte herself;

第二十三章



伊丽莎白跟母亲和姐妹们坐在一起，回想刚才听到的话，正在犹豫是否**应该**把它告诉大家。这时，威廉·卢卡斯爵士来了。他是**受女儿所托**，前来告知她订婚的消息。

他恭维他们说，两家能结上亲，真令他感到荣幸万分。这样说完后，班府的人感到非常惊异，压根儿**不相信**有这回事。

班纳特太太也**顾不上礼貌了**，笃定地反驳说他一定是弄错了。丽迪雅仍旧是既任性又顽劣，此时不由得**叫嚷道**：

“天哪！威廉爵士，你怎会编这样的故事出来？你不知道科林斯要娶丽兹吗？”

面对这样无礼的举动，**只有像大臣们那样**足够隐忍的人，**才**不会发火；好在威廉爵士颇有素养，完全没把它当回事儿。

虽然他**要求她们相信**他说的是实话，可是他却**采取了极为克制的态度**，**蛮有礼貌地**听她们无理取闹。

伊丽莎白**觉得自己有责任替他解围**，于是**挺身而出**，证明他说的是实话，说是刚刚已经听到夏绿蒂本人谈起过了。

and endeavoured to put a stop to the exclamations of her mother and sisters, [by the earnestness of her congratulations to Sir William, (in which she was readily joined by Jane,)]

and by making a variety of remarks on ①the happiness (that might be expected from the match,) ②the excellent character of Mr. Collins, and ③the convenient distance of Hunsford from London.

Mrs. Bennet was in fact too much overpowered to say a great deal while Sir William remained; but no sooner had he left them than her feelings found a rapid vent.

In the first place, she persisted in disbelieving the whole of the matter; secondly, she was very sure that Mr. Collins had been taken in; thirdly, she trusted that they would never be happy together; and fourthly, that the match might be broken off.

Two inferences, however, were plainly deduced from the whole; one, that Elizabeth was the real cause of all the mischief; and the other, that she herself had been barbarously used by them all; and on these two points she principally dwelt during the rest of the day.

Nothing could console and nothing appease her. -- Nor did that day wear out her resentment.

wear out 穿破; 用坏; (使) 筋疲力尽; 耗尽

A week elapsed before she could see Elizabeth without scolding her; a month passed away before she could speak to Sir William or Lady Lucas without being rude, and many months were gone before she could at all forgive their daughter.

为了尽力使母亲和妹妹不再大惊小怪, 她真诚地向威廉爵士道喜, 简马上也来帮腔;

连连称赞①这门婚姻是何等的幸福, ②科林斯先生性格多么好, ③汉斯福和伦敦相隔不远, 往返方便。

班纳特太太当着威廉爵士面儿, 实在气得说不出话; 等他一走, 她那肚子牢骚便马上发泄出来。

vent 排泄、排气孔

第一, 她坚决不相信这事; 第二, 她断定科林斯先生受骗了; 第三, 她相信这对夫妇决不会幸福; 第四, 这门亲事可能会破裂。

不过她却从整个事件上得出两个明显的结论; 一个是, 这场笑话的根源是伊丽莎白; 另一个是, 她自己受尽了大家的“欺负虐待”。那一整天, 她抱怨的都是这两点。

dwelt on 详论、细想

无论怎样也安慰不了她, 无论怎样也无法平息她的怒气。直到晚上, 怨愤依然没有消散。

她见到伊丽莎白就骂, 一直骂了一个星期之久。她同威廉爵士夫妇说话总是粗声粗气, 一直过了一个月才好起来; 至于夏绿蒂, 她竟过了好几个月才宽恕了她。

Mr. Bennet's emotions were much more **tranquil** on the occasion, and **such as he did experience** he pronounced to be of a most agreeable sort;

for it gratified him, he said, to discover that Charlotte Lucas, (whom he had been used to think tolerably sensible,) was as foolish as his wife, and more foolish than his daughter!

Jane confessed herself a little surprised at the match; but **she said less of** her astonishment **than of** her earnest desire for their happiness;

nor could Elizabeth persuade her to consider it as improbable. Kitty and Lydia were far from envying Miss Lucas, for Mr. Collins was only a clergyman; and it **affected them in no other way than** as a piece of news to spread at Meryton.

Lady Lucas could **not be insensible of** triumph on being able to **retort on** Mrs. Bennet the comfort of having a daughter well married;

be insensible of 不知道, 对.....没感觉
could not be sensible of 非常有感, 非常想

and she called at Longbourn rather oftener than usual to say how happy she was, though Mrs. Bennet's sour looks and ill-natured remarks might have been enough to drive happiness away.

Between Elizabeth and Charlotte there was a restraint (which kept them mutually silent on the subject;) and Elizabeth felt persuaded that **no real confidence could ever subsist between them again.**

对于此事, 班纳特先生则显得平静多了。据他说, 这次所经过的一切, 真使他精神上快慰到极点。

他说本以为夏绿蒂·卢卡斯相当聪慧, 哪知道她居然跟他太太一样蠢, 比起他的女儿来就更蠢了, 他实在觉得高兴!

简也承认这门婚姻有些奇怪, 可是她嘴上并没说什么, 反而诚恳地祝他们俩幸福。

即便伊丽莎白再三强调这是个不幸, 简却认为他们未必会不幸福。

凯蒂和丽迪雅根本不羡慕卢卡斯小姐, 因为科林斯先生不过是个传教士而已;

这件事除了让她们有了一件新闻, 并传播到梅里顿去之外, 几乎**没产生什么影响**。

卢卡斯太太有一个女儿获得了美满姻缘, 心中不禁非常得意, 因而想趁此去向班纳特太太炫耀一番。

retort on 反驳; 报复

于是她拜访浪本比往常更加频繁, 说她如今多么高兴; 不过班纳特太太**满脸的恶相, 满口的毒话**, 也足够叫她扫兴而归了。

伊丽莎白和夏绿蒂之间从此有了层隔阂, 彼此都不想提到这桩事。伊丽莎白断定**她们俩再也不会象从前那样推心置腹**。

Her disappointment in Charlotte made her turn with fonder regard to her sister, (of whose rectitude and delicacy she was sure) her opinion could never be shaken, and (for whose happiness) she grew daily more anxious, as Bingley had now been gone a week, and nothing was heard of his return.

Jane had sent Caroline an early answer to her letter, and was counting the days till she might reasonably hope to hear again.

The promised letter of thanks from Mr. Collins arrived on Tuesday, addressed to their father, and written with all the solemnity of gratitude (which a twelvemonth's abode in the family might have prompted.)

After discharging his conscience on that head, he proceeded to inform them, with many rapturous expressions, of his happiness in having obtained the affection of their amiable neighbour, Miss Lucas,

and then explained that it was merely with the view of enjoying her society that he had been so ready to close with their kind wish of seeing him again at Longbourn, whither he hoped to be able to return on Monday fortnight;

for Lady Catherine, he added, so heartily approved his marriage, that she wished it to take place as soon as possible, which he trusted would be an unanswerable argument with his amiable Charlotte to name an early day for making him the happiest of men.

她对夏绿蒂大失所望，便越发关注自己的姐姐。她深信姐姐为人正直，作风优雅，她这种看法决不会动摇。她一天天越发为姐姐的幸福担忧；宾利先生已经走了一个星期，却没听到一点儿他要回来的消息。

简很早就给卡罗琳写了回信，现在正在数着日子，看看还得过多少天才可以又接到她的信。

科林斯先生事先答应写的那封致谢函星期二就收到了，信是写给她们父亲的。信上说了许许多多感激的话，看他言过其辞的语气，就好像在他们府上叨扰了一年似的。

他在这方面表示歉意后，又用了大量欢天喜地的措辞，告诉他们，他三生有幸，竟获得了他们的邻居——卢卡斯小姐的欢心；

他接着又解释道，当时他打算再来浪本作客，仅仅是为了看看他的心上人；当然也可以顺便来看看他们，免得辜负他们善意的期望。他计划在两个礼拜以后的星期一重返浪本；

他又说，凯瑟琳夫人衷心地赞成他结婚，并且希望愈早愈好。他相信他那位心上人夏绿蒂决不会反对及早定出吉日，与他结为夫妻。

*Mr. Collins's return into Hertfordshire was no longer a matter of pleasure to Mrs. Bennet. On the contrary, she **was** as much **disposed** to complain of it as her husband.*

-- It was very strange that he should come to Longbourn instead of to Lucas Lodge; it was also very inconvenient and exceedingly troublesome.

-- She hated having visitors in the house while her health was so indifferent, and lovers were of all people (the most disagreeable.)

*Such were the gentle murmurs of Mrs. Bennet, and they **gave way only to** the greater distress of Mr. Bingley's continued absence.*

*Neither Jane nor Elizabeth **was** comfortable on this subject.*

*Day after day passed away [without bringing any other tidings of him **than** the report] (which shortly prevailed in Meryton) of his **coming no more to** Netherfield the whole winter;...*

*a report (which highly incensed Mrs. Bennet, and which she **never failed to** contradict as a most scandalous falsehood.)*

*Even Elizabeth began to fear -- **not that** Bingley was indifferent -- **but that** his sisters would be successful in keeping him away.*

Unwilling as** she was to admit an idea (so destructive of Jane's happiness, and so dishonourable to the stability of her lover,) she could not prevent **its frequently recurring.

对班纳特太太来说，科林斯先生的再次到来，并不是件叫人快意的事。她反倒跟她丈夫一样，大为抱怨。

说也奇怪，科林斯不去卢家庄，却要来到郎本来，这真是既不方便，又麻烦透顶。

她现在正当健康失调，非常讨厌客人上门，何况这些痴情种子是最令人厌烦的

班纳特太太成天唠叨着这些事，**只有**想到宾利久久未归，因而勾起她更大的痛苦时，**才**会住口。

简跟伊丽莎白也都为这个问题大感不安。

一天又一天过去了，却听不到一点关于他的消息；只听见梅里顿镇上纷纷传言，说他今冬**再也不会回**内瑟菲尔德花园来了，**other than=except**

班纳特太太听得非常生气，总是加以驳斥，说那是胡编乱造的**谣言**。

never failed to 始终；总是

伊丽莎白也担心起来，她**并不是**怕宾利薄情，**而是**怕他真的被姐妹们绊住了。

尽管她不愿意有这种想法，因为这种想法**对于**简的幸福极为**不利**；**对于**简的恋人的忠贞，也未免**是一种侮辱**。可她还是抑制不了这样的念头迸发。

The united efforts of his two unfeeling sisters and of his overpowering friend, [assisted by the attractions of Miss Darcy and the amusements of London,] might be too much, [she feared,] for the strength of his attachment.

As for Jane, her anxiety under this suspense was, of course, more painful than Elizabeth's; but whatever she felt she was desirous of concealing, and between herself and Elizabeth, therefore, the subject was never alluded to. (宾语前置)

But as no such delicacy restrained her mother, an hour seldom passed in which she did not talk of Bingley, express her impatience for his arrival, or even require Jane to confess that if he did not come back, she should think herself very ill used.

It needed all Jane's steady mildness to bear these attacks with tolerable tranquillity.

Mr. Collins returned most punctually on the Monday fortnight, but his reception at Longbourn was not quite so gracious as it had been on his first introduction.

He was too happy, however, to need much attention; and luckily for the others, the business of love-making relieved them from a great deal of his company.

The chief of every day was spent by him at Lucas Lodge, and he sometimes returned to Longbourn only in time to make an apology for his absence before the family went to bed.

他那两位无情无义的姐妹，和那位足以左右他的朋友，这两方同心协力，再加上达西小姐风姿绰约，伦敦又是色彩斑斓；纵使他真的对她念念不忘，恐怕也免不了变心。

至于简，她在这种忧虑不安的情况下，自然比伊丽莎白更为焦虑；可是她总不愿意把自己的心事暴露出来，她和伊丽莎白（很有默契），一直都不提到这件事。
was desirous of=tend to

偏偏她母亲不能体贴她的苦衷，过不了一个钟头就要提到宾利，说等他等得实在是不耐烦了，甚至硬要简承认……要是宾利真不回来了，她会觉得自己受了羞辱。

幸亏简性子柔和，遇事镇定，才能平心静气，勉强忍受住了她这些谗言诽谤。

科林斯先生在两个礼拜以后的星期一准时到达，郎本的主人们却不像他初来时那样热烈地欢迎他了。

他实在太高兴了，也用不着多礼。主人家也真是走运，多亏他求婚成功，才使大家能够清闲下来，不必再去跟他周旋。

他每天把大部分时间消磨在卢家庄，有时要到班家人快要上床休息的时候才回来；只来得及为他终日未归向大家道一声歉。

Mrs. Bennet was really **in a most pitiable state**. The very mention of any thing concerning the match threw her into an agony of ill humour, and wherever she went she was sure of hearing it talked of.

The sight of Miss Lucas **was odious to her**. As her successor in that house, she **regarded her with jealous abhorrence**.

Whenever Charlotte came to see them, she **concluded her to be** anticipating the hour of possession;

and whenever she spoke in a low voice to Mr. Collins, was convinced that ①they were talking of the Longbourn estate, ②and resolving to **turn herself and her daughters out of the house** as soon as Mr. Bennet were dead.

She complained bitterly of all this to her husband.

"Indeed, Mr. Bennet," said she, "**it is very hard to think that Charlotte Lucas should ever be mistress of this house, that I should be forced to make way for her, and live to see her take my place in it!**"

"My dear, do not **give way to** such gloomy thoughts. Let us hope for better things. Let us flatter ourselves that I may be the survivor."

This was not very consoling to Mrs. Bennet, and, therefore, instead of making any answer, she went on as before,

"I cannot bear to think that they should have all this estate, If it was not for the entail I should not mind it."

班纳特太太**着实可怜**。只要一提到那门亲事，她就会不高兴；（更糟糕的是）无论她走到那儿，总是听到人们在谈论这件事。

她一看到卢卡斯小姐**就觉得讨厌**。一想到她会做这幢屋子里的女主人，就益发嫉妒和厌恶她。

每逢夏绿蒂来看她们，她**总以为**人家是来探察什么时候可以搬进来住；

每逢夏绿蒂跟科林斯先生低声说话的时候，她就以为他们是在谈论郎本的家产；在商量等到班纳特先生去世，就要把她和她的几个女儿撵出去。

她把这些伤心事都说给她丈夫听。

她说：“我的老爷，我**真的很难想象**，夏绿蒂竟会成为这座庄园的女主人；我必须**让地方给她**，还要**眼睁睁看着**她代替我！”

“我的好太太，别**去想**伤心事了。我们还是往好处想，不妨这样安慰自己，说不定我活得比你还要长久。”

【他门一时半会继承不了这份财产】

可**这些话安慰不了班纳特太太**，因此她非但没有回答，反而继续诉苦下去。

“一想到这些家产都落到他们手里，我就受不了。要不是因为继承权的事，我才不在乎呢。”

“What should not you mind?”

“I should not mind any thing at all.”

“Let us be thankful that you are preserved from a state of such insensibility.”

“I never can be thankful, Mr. Bennet, for any thing about the entail.”

How any one could have the conscience to entail away an estate from one's own daughters I cannot understand; and all for the sake of Mr. Collins too !

-- Why should he have it more than anybody else?”

“I leave it to yourself to determine,” said Mr. Bennet.

“你不在乎什么？”

“什么我都不在乎。”

“谢天谢地，你还没有麻木到这种地步。”
insensibility 不在乎，没知觉
【讽刺，你真的什么都不在乎吗？】

“有关继承权的事，我决不会谢天谢地的。”

我真弄不懂，怎么会有人这么狠心，不把财产留给自己的女儿？这一切竟都是为了科林斯先生（而准备的）！

【这些都成全了科林斯那家伙】

为什么偏偏要他会享有这份遗产？”

“那你自己去想吧。”班纳特先生说。