

Chapter 43

Elizabeth, as they drove along, watched for the first appearance of Pemberley Woods **with some perturbation**; and when at length they **turned in** at the lodge, her spirits were in a high flutter.

The park was very large, and contained **great variety of** ground. They entered it in one of its lowest points, and drove for some time through a beautiful wood stretching over a wide extent.

Elizabeth's mind was too full for conversation, but she saw and admired every remarkable **spot and point of view.**

They gradually ascended for half-a-mile, and then found themselves at the top of a considerable eminence, **where the wood ceased**, and **the eye was instantly caught by** Pemberley House, situated on the opposite side of a valley, **into which the road with some abruptness wound.**

It was a large, handsome stone building, **standing well on** rising ground, and backed by a ridge of high woody hills; and in front, a stream **of some natural importance** **was swelled into greater**, but without any artificial appearance.

Its banks **were** neither formal nor falsely adorned. Elizabeth was delighted. She had never seen a place **for which nature had done more**, or **where natural beauty had been so little counteracted by an awkward taste.**

马车向前行驶，伊丽莎白怀着**忐忑不安的心情**，注意着彭博利丛林的出现。等到他们最终**驶进**庄园时，她愈发心慌意乱。

庄园很大，地势**高低起伏，错落有致**。马车从最低的一处驶入，在一片优美广袤的丛林中又走了很久。

伊丽莎白满怀感触，无心说话。不过她每**看到一处风景**，都会为之赞叹。

马车沿着缓坡走了大概半英里，他们来到一处高高的坡顶，树林也仅仅覆盖到此。他们**眼前出现的**就是彭博利的房子。它坐落于山谷对面，倾斜的道路**延伸到**谷中。

这是一幢巍峨美观的石头建筑，**屹立**在一片高地上，背靠着一道树林茂密的山岗；屋前一湾溪流**正在涨潮**，**颇有天然情趣**，毫无人工雕琢的痕迹。

两岸的**点缀**既不呆板也不故作。伊丽莎白心旷神怡。她从未见过比这里更富有自然情趣的地方，也没有见过任何地方的自然之美能像这儿一样**不受庸俗情趣的玷污**。

They were all of them warm in their admiration; and at that moment she felt that to be mistress of Pemberley might be something!

They descended the hill, crossed the bridge, and drove to the door; and, while examining the nearer aspect of the house, all her apprehension of meeting its owner returned.

She dreaded lest the chambermaid had been mistaken. On applying to see the place, they were admitted into the hall; and Elizabeth, as they waited for the housekeeper, had leisure to wonder at her being where she was.

The housekeeper came; a respectable-looking elderly woman, much less fine, and more civil, than she had any notion of finding her.

They followed her into the dining-parlour. It was a large, well proportioned room, handsomely fitted up. Elizabeth, after slightly surveying it, went to a window to enjoy its prospect.

The hill, crowned with wood, which they had descended, receiving increased abruptness from the distance, was a beautiful object.

Every disposition of the ground was good; and she looked on the whole scene, the river, the trees scattered on its banks and the winding of the valley, as far as she could trace it, with delight.

大家都赞赏不已，伊丽莎白不禁想到：在彭博利当个主妇确实不错。

马车下了坡，过了桥，一直驶到房子门前。从近处欣赏那一带景物时，伊丽莎白不免又生起一阵疑惧，生怕撞见主人。

她生怕侍女弄错了。他们请求进去参观，立刻被让进客厅；等着管家太太前来时，伊丽莎白方才想起身在何处。

管家太太来了，是个仪态端庄的老妇人，远不如她想象中那么优雅，却比她想的更斯文有礼。

他们跟着她走进餐室。那是间宽敞舒适的大屋子，布置得很精致。伊丽莎白大致地看了几眼，便走到窗口欣赏风景。

他们望着刚才下来的那座小山，只见丛林密布，从远处望去显得益发陡峭，的确是美不胜收。

这里的景物处处都很美观。她纵目四望，只见一道河川，林木夹岸，山谷蜿蜒曲折，真看得她心旷神怡。

As they passed into other rooms these objects were taking different positions; but from every window there were beauties to be seen.

The rooms were lofty and handsome, and their furniture suitable to the fortune of its proprietor;

but Elizabeth saw, with admiration of his taste, that it was neither gaudy nor uselessly fine; with less of splendour, and more real elegance, than the furniture of Rosings.

“And of this place,” thought she, “I might have been mistress! With these rooms I might now have been familiarly acquainted!

Instead of viewing them as a stranger, I might have rejoiced in them as my own, and welcomed to them as visitors my uncle and aunt.

But no,”—recollecting herself—“that could never be; my uncle and aunt would have been lost to me; I should not have been allowed to invite them.”

This was a lucky recollection—it saved her from something very like regret.

She longed to inquire of the housekeeper whether her master was really absent, but had not the courage for it.

他们换了个房间，发现景致也**随之变换**；可不管你走到哪个窗口，都有秀色可餐。

一个个房间都高大美观，家具陈设也都和主人的身价颇为相称。

既不俗气，又不过分奢侈。比起罗新斯来，可以说是**豪华不足，风雅有余**，伊丽莎白看了，很佩服主人的情趣。

她想：“我差点儿就做了这儿的女主人呢！这些房间我或许本该就熟悉了！”

“如今也就不必以陌生人的身份来参观，而是当作自己家来**受用**，把舅父舅母当作贵客来欢迎。”

“可是不行，”她忽然醒悟，“这万万办不到：那样我就**见不到**舅父舅母了，达西不会允许我邀他们来的。”

她幸亏想到这点，才没有**后悔**当初的事。

她真想问问管家太太，主人是否真的没有在家，可是她没有勇气开口。

At length however, the question was asked by her uncle; and she turned away with alarm, while Mrs. Reynolds replied that he was, adding, "But we expect him to-morrow, with a large party of friends."

*How rejoiced was Elizabeth that their own journey had not **by any circumstance** been delayed a day!*

Her aunt now called her to look at a picture. She approached and saw the likeness of Mr. Wickham, suspended, amongst several other miniatures, over the mantelpiece.

*Her aunt asked her, smilingly, how she liked it. The housekeeper came forward, and told them it was a picture of a young gentleman, the son of her late master's steward, who had **been brought up by him at his own expense**.*

*"He is now gone into the army," she added; "but I am afraid he has **turned out** very wild."*

Mrs. Gardiner looked at her niece with a smile, but Elizabeth could not return it.

"And that," said Mrs. Reynolds, pointing to another of the miniatures, "is my master—and very like him."

It was drawn at the same time as the other—about eight years ago."

不过她舅父最终问出了这句话，使她大为慌张，连忙转过身去。只听见雷诺太太回答道，主人的确不在家。接着又说，“但他明天会回家，还要带许多朋友来。”

伊丽莎白听了大感庆幸，**幸亏**他们在路上没有延迟一天。

这时舅母叫她看一张画像。她走近前去，发现有几张小型画像挂在壁炉架的上方，其中一幅是威克姆的肖像。

舅母笑嘻嘻地问她画得怎么样。管家太太走过来说，画像上这位年轻人是老主人家管家的儿子，由老主人一手栽培他长大。

她又说道：“他现在到军队里去了，恐怕他**已经变得**很浪荡了。”

嘉丁纳太太笑吟吟地望着她外甥女，可是伊丽莎白实在笑不出来。

雷诺太太指着另一张画像说，“这位就是我家主人，画得像极了。”

“这跟那一张是同时画的，有七八年了。”

"I have heard much of your master's fine person," said Mrs. Gardiner, looking at the picture; "it is a handsome face. But, Lizzy, you can tell us whether it is like or not."

Mrs. Reynolds respect for Elizabeth seemed to increase on this intimation of her knowing her master.

"Does that young lady know Mr. Darcy?"

Elizabeth coloured, and said: "A little."

"And do not you think him a very handsome gentleman, ma'am?"

"Yes, very handsome."

"I am sure I know none so handsome; but in the gallery upstairs you will see a finer, larger picture of him than this."

This room was my late master's favourite room, and these miniatures are just as they used to be then. He was very fond of them."

This accounted to Elizabeth for Mr. Wickham's being among them.

Mrs. Reynolds then directed their attention to one of Miss Darcy, drawn when she was only eight years old.

"And is Miss Darcy as handsome as her brother?" said Mrs. Gardiner.

嘉丁纳太太望着画像说：“我常听人家说，你家主人一表人才，他这张脸的确英俊。丽兹，你倒说说看，画得像不像。”

雷诺太太听到伊丽莎白跟她主人相熟，便好像益发敬重她。

“这位小姐原来跟达西先生相熟？”

伊丽莎白脸红了，说道：“只是相识。”

“你不觉得他很英俊吗，小姐？”

“是的，非常英俊。”

“我敢说，我真没见过这样英俊的人呢；楼上画室还有一张他的画像，比这张大，画得也比这张好。”

“老主人生前最喜爱这间屋子，这些画像也是照着从前的样子摆放的。老主人非常喜欢这些画像。”

伊丽莎白听了这话，才明白为什么威克姆的画像也和他们放在一起。

雷诺太太又指给他们看达西小姐的画像，那还是她八岁的时候画的。

“达西小姐也像她哥哥一样很漂亮吗？”嘉丁纳先生问道。

“Oh! yes—the handsomest young lady that ever was seen; and so accomplished!—She plays and sings all day long.”

In the next room is a new instrument just come down for her—a present from my master; she comes here to-morrow with him.”

Mr. Gardiner, whose manners were very easy and pleasant, encouraged her communicativeness by his questions and remarks;

Mrs. Reynolds, either by pride or attachment, had evidently great pleasure in talking of her master and his sister.

“Is your master much at Pemberley in the course of the year?”

“Not so much as I could wish, sir; but I dare say he may spend half his time here; and Miss Darcy is always down for the summer months.”

“Except,” thought Elizabeth, “when she goes to Ramsgate.”

“If your master would marry, you might see more of him.”

“Yes, sir; but I do not know when that will be. I do not know who is good enough for him.”

“噢，那还用说——从没见过她这样漂亮的小姐，又多才多艺！她成天弹琴唱歌。”

“隔壁房间就有一架刚给她买的新钢琴，那是我主人给她的礼物，她明天会跟着他一块儿回来。”

嘉丁纳先生的为人随和可亲，又是询问，又是评论，鼓励管家太太说下去。

雷诺奶奶非常乐意谈论他们兄妹俩，或是出于自豪，或是出于和他们感情深厚。

“你主人每年在彭博利待的日子多吗？”

“并没有我期望的那么多，先生，他大概可以在这儿待上半年；达西小姐倒总是来这儿消夏。”

伊丽莎白想：“只是有时去拉姆斯盖特。”

“要是她结了婚，你见他的时候会多些。”

“是的，先生；只是不知这件事几时才能如愿。我也不知道哪家小姐能配得上他。”

Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner smiled. Elizabeth could not help saying, "It is very much **to his credit**, I am sure, that you should think so."

"**I say no more than the truth**, and everybody will say that knows him," replied the other. Elizabeth thought **this was going pretty far**; and she listened with increasing astonishment as the housekeeper added,

"I have never known **a cross word** from him in my life, and I have known him ever since he was four years old."

This was praise, of all others most extraordinary, most **opposite to her ideas**. That he was not a good-tempered man had been her firmest opinion.

Her keenest attention was awakened; she longed to hear more, and was grateful to her uncle for saying:

"There are very few people **of whom so much can be said**. You are lucky in having such a master."

"Yes, sir, I know I am. If I were to go through the world, I could not meet with a better."

But I have always observed, that they **who are good-natured when children**, are good-natured when they grow up; and he was always the sweetest-tempered, most generous-hearted boy in the world."

嘉丁纳夫妇都笑了。伊丽莎白不由得说，“你会这样想，真使他**太有面子了**。”

管家太太说：“**我说的全是真话**，认识他的人都是这样说。”伊丽莎白觉得这话讲得有些过分。又十分惊奇地听到那位太太说道：

“我一辈子没听过他一句**重话**，我从他四岁时，就跟他住在一起了。”

伊丽莎白觉得这句褒奖说得太过离奇了，**太不可思议了**。她老早就断定达西不是个性情温和的人；

今日乍听此话，不禁引起她的密切注意。她很想再多听一些。还好她舅舅开口道：

“**当得起这样称道的人**，实在没有几个。你真是好运气，碰上了这样一个好主人。”

“你说的是，先生，我运气确实好。就是走遍天下，恐怕也不会碰到更好的主人。”

“我常说，小时候脾气好，长大了脾气也不会差；他从小就非常温和，非常宽厚。”

Elizabeth almost stared at her. "Can this be Mr. Darcy?" thought she.

"His father was an excellent man," said Mrs. Gardiner.

"Yes, ma'am, that he was indeed; and his son will be just like him—just as affable to the poor."

Elizabeth listened, wondered, doubted, and was impatient for more. Mrs. Reynolds could interest her on no other point.

She related the subjects of the pictures, the dimensions of the rooms, and the price of the furniture, in vain.

Mr. Gardiner, highly amused by the kind of family prejudice to which he attributed her excessive commendation of her master, soon led again to the subject;

and she dwelt with energy on his many merits as they proceeded together up the great staircase.

"He is the best landlord, and the best master," said she, "that ever lived; not like the wild young men nowadays, who think of nothing but themselves."

There is not one of his tenants or servants but will give him a good name. Some people call him proud; but I am sure I never saw anything of it.

伊丽莎白几乎瞪大眼睛，看着她。她想：“这当真是达西先生吗？”

“他父亲真是个了不起的人。”嘉丁纳太太说。

“太太，你说得是，他的确很了不起；他儿子跟他一样——也像他那样体贴穷苦人。”

伊丽莎白一直听着，先是惊奇，继而怀疑，最后又极想再多听一些。可是雷诺太太接下来说的，并不能再引起她的兴趣。

她谈到画像，房间的规格，家具的价格，这些都不是她要听的。

嘉丁纳先生觉得，她过甚其辞地称赞自己的主人，无非是出于家人的偏爱。他倒也听得有趣，马上又回到这个话题上来了。

她一边起劲地讲述他的诸多优点，一边带领着他们走上大楼梯。

“他是天下最好的庄主，最好的主人；”她说，“他不像如今某些浪荡青年，一心只为自己打算。”

“佃户或佣人没有不称赞他的。有人说他傲慢；可我没看出他有一点傲慢的地方。”

To my fancy, it is only because he does not rattle away like other young men."

"In what an amiable light does this place him!" thought Elizabeth.

"This fine account of him," whispered her aunt as they walked, "is not quite consistent with his behaviour to our poor friend."

"Perhaps we might be deceived."

"That is not very likely; our authority was too good."

On reaching the spacious lobby above they were shown into a very pretty sitting-room, lately fitted up with greater elegance and lightness than the apartments below;

and were informed that it was but just done to give pleasure to Miss Darcy, who had taken a liking to the room when last at Pemberley.

"He is certainly a good brother," said Elizabeth, as she walked towards one of the windows.

Mrs. Reynolds anticipated Miss Darcy's delight, when she should enter the room.

"And this is always the way with him," she added. "Whatever can give his sister any pleasure is sure to be done in a moment. There is nothing he would not do for her."

“依我看，他只是不像一般青年人那样爱夸夸其谈罢了。”

“如此看来，他倒是非常可爱了！”伊丽莎白想道。

她舅母一边走，一边轻轻地说：“全是说他的好话，这好像与他对我们那位可怜的朋友的所作所为不大符合啊。”

“我们可能是受到蒙蔽了。”

“这不大可能；我们的依据非常可靠。”

他们走到楼上宽敞的走廊上，被领进一间漂亮的起居室。这个房间新近才布置好，比楼下的许多房间还要精致和整洁。

据说刚刚收拾好，是供达西小姐享用的；因为去年她来彭博利，看中了这间屋子。

“他真的是一个好哥哥，”伊丽莎白一面说，一面走到一扇窗户跟前。

雷诺奶奶估计，达西小姐走进这间屋子，将会非常高兴。

她说：“他一向就是这样，凡是使他妹妹高兴的事情，他马上就会去办。他从来没有一桩事不依她。”