

CHAPTER 41

The first week of their return was soon gone. The second began. It was the last of the regiment's stay in Meryton, and all the young ladies in the neighborhood were drooping apace.

The dejection was almost universal. The elder Miss Bennets alone were still able to eat, drink, and sleep, and pursue the usual course of their employments.

Very frequently were they reproached for this insensibility by Kitty and Lydia, whose own misery was extreme, and who could not comprehend such hard-heartedness in any of the family.

“Good Heaven! What is to become of us! What are we to do!” would they often exclaim in the bitterness of woe. “How can you be smiling so, Lizzy?”

Their affectionate mother shared all their grief; she remembered what she had herself endured on a similar occasion, five and twenty years ago.

“I am sure,” said she, “I cried for two days together when Colonel Millar's regiment went away. I thought I should have broke my heart.”

“I am sure I shall break mine,” said Lydia.

“If one could but go to Brighton!” observed Mrs. Bennet.

她们回到家里，转眼就过了一个星期。第二周开始了，这也是民兵团驻留梅里顿的最后一周。附近年轻的小姐们一个个都垂头丧气。

几乎处处都是心灰意冷的景象。只有班纳特家的两位长姐还能够照常饮食起居，各干各的事。

凯蒂和丽迪雅却是伤心到极点，常常责备两位姐姐为何如此冷漠无情；她们想不通，家里怎么会有如此“铁石心肠”的人。

她们总是悲痛万分地叫嚷，“老天爷啊，怎么这样对我们，我们应该怎么办才好？你还笑得出来，丽兹？”

她们那位慈祥的母亲也和她们一样伤心，她想起了二十五年前的，自己也曾为类似的事情悲痛欲绝。

她说：“我记得，当初米勒上校的民兵团开拔时，我连哭了两天；我的心都要碎了。”

“我想我的也快要碎了。”丽迪雅附和道。

“要是我们也能去布莱顿，那该多好。”班纳特太太说道。

'Oh, yes! -- if one could but go to Brighton! But papa is so disagreeable.'

'A little sea-bathing would set me up for ever.'

'And my aunt Philips is sure it would do me a great deal of good,' added Kitty.

Such were the kind of lamentations resounding perpetually through Longbourn-house. Elizabeth tried to be diverted by them; but all sense of pleasure was lost in shame.

She felt anew the justice of Mr. Darcy's objections; and never had she before been so much disposed to pardon his interference in the views of his friend.

But the gloom of Lydia's prospect was shortly cleared away; for she received an invitation from Mrs. Forster, the wife of the Colonel of the regiment, to accompany her to Brighton.

This invaluable friend was a very young woman, and very lately married. A resemblance in good humor and good spirits had recommended her and Lydia to each other; and out of their three months' acquaintance they had been intimate two.

The rapture of Lydia on this occasion, her adoration of Mrs. Forster, the delight of Mrs. Bennet, and the mortification of Kitty, are scarcely to be described.

“要是能去的话，但是爸爸不会同意的。”

“洗一洗海水浴就能让我永远健康。”

“菲利普姨妈也说那对身体大有好处。”
凯蒂补充道。

朗本的三位女士就这样没完没了地长吁短叹。伊丽莎白本想笑话她们一番，可是羞愧之心使她打消了这个念头。

diverte (1) 转移 (2) 娱乐

她又想起达西说的她们家人的种种问题，他说得确实没错。她这才意识到达西干涉宾利和简的事情，确实是事出有因。

但是丽迪雅的忧伤不久就烟消云散了，因为她收到福斯特上校的太太发出的邀请，要她一道去布莱顿。

这位朋友是位年轻的女士，她最近才刚成婚。她跟丽迪雅都是那种兴致勃勃、精神充沛的人，因此二者成了好朋友。虽然只做了三个月的朋友，却已是两个月的知己。

丽迪雅欢呼雀跃，对福斯特太太感激万分；班纳特太太也兴奋不已，凯蒂却（因未被邀请）有些失望。这些自然不必详加阐述。

Wholly inattentive to her sister's feelings, Lydia flew about the house in restless ecstasy, calling for everyone's congratulations, and laughing and talking with more violence than ever;

whilst the luckless Kitty continued in the parlor repining at her fate in terms as unreasonable as her accent was peevish.

"I cannot see why Mrs. Forster should not ask me as well as Lydia," said she, "though I am not her particular friend. I have just as much right to be asked as she has, and more too, for I am two years older."

In vain did Elizabeth attempt to reason, and Jane to make her resigned.

As for Elizabeth herself, this invitation was so far from exciting in her the same feelings as in her mother and Lydia, that she considered it as the death-warrant of all possibility of common sense for the latter;

and detestable as such a step must make her were it known, she could not help secretly advising her father not to let her go.

She represented to him all the improprieties of Lydia's general behavior; the little advantage she could derive from the friendship of such a woman as Mrs. Forster,

and the probability of her being yet more imprudent with such a companion at Brighton, where the temptations must be greater than at home.

丽迪雅并未察觉到凯蒂的失落，她在屋子里蹦来蹦去，让大家都来祝贺她，还大笑大叫，比平常闹得更厉害。

in restless ecstasy 在躁动不安的狂喜中

没交上好运的凯蒂只能在小客厅里怨天尤人，语气激愤，言辞无理。

“我不明白，为什么福斯特太太没有邀请我和丽迪雅一起去。”她说，“虽说我不是很亲近的朋友，她邀请我又有什么妨碍呢？更何况我还要大两岁，更应该去。”

伊丽莎白给她讲道理，简也劝她不必生气，这些都无济于事。

再说伊丽莎白，她对这次邀请，完全不像母亲和丽迪雅那样兴高采烈。她觉得丽迪雅本来还有些理智的，这下可全给报销了。

她只能暗地里让父亲不许丽迪雅去，也顾不得事后让丽迪雅知晓，会如何怨恨她了。

她把丽迪雅日常行为中有失检点的地方，都告诉了父亲；阐明跟福斯特太太这样的人做朋友，是得不到什么好处的。

又说丽迪雅跟她去布莱顿，可能变得更加鲁莽轻率；因为那里的诱惑比家里更大。
【丽迪雅可能会做出出格的事情】

He heard her attentively, and then said, "Lydia will never be easy till she has exposed herself in some public place or other, and we can never expect her to do it with so little expense or inconvenience to her family as **under the present circumstances**."

"If you were aware," said Elizabeth, "of the very great disadvantage to us all, which must arise from the public notice of Lydia's unguarded and imprudent manner;

nay, which has already arisen from it, I am sure you would judge differently in the affair."

"Already arisen!" repeated Mr. Bennet.

"What, has she frightened away some of your lovers? Poor little Lizzy! But **do not be cast down**. Such squeamish youths as cannot bear to be connected with a little absurdity are not worth a regret.

Come, let me see the list of the pitiful fellows who have **been kept aloof** by Lydia's folly."

"Indeed you are mistaken. I have no such injuries to resent, It is not of peculiar, but of general evils, which I am now complaining.

Our importance, our respectability in the world, must be affected by **the wild volatility**, the assurance and disdain of all restraint **which mark Lydia's character**.

父亲很用心地听她讲完，然后说道：“丽迪雅不到公开场合出丑，是决不会死心的。她**这次**去出丑，既不花家里的钱，又不给家里添麻烦，真是难得有**这种机会**。”

伊丽莎白说道：“丽迪雅轻浮冒失，人家都看在眼里；我们姐妹也会受她连累

——事实上已经受到连累了。如果您能意识到这点，您对这件事的看法会截然相反。”

“已经受到连累了？”班纳特先生重复道。

“难道她把你们的追求者吓跑了不成？可怜的小丽兹。不过别担心，这么挑剔的年轻人，连个愚蠢的小婊子都容忍不了，不值得你们去惋惜。”

“让我瞧瞧丽迪雅都把哪些人给吓跑了。”

“您完全理解错了，我并没有受到拖累。我并不是只针对这一点坏处，我觉得她这样有很多不好的影响。”

“**丽迪雅如此放荡不羁**，**如此**无法无天，定会损害我们的名誉，有伤我们的体面。”

Excuse me -- for I must speak plainly. If you, my dear father, will not take the trouble of checking her exuberant spirits, and of teaching her that her present pursuits are not to be the business of her life, she will soon be beyond the reach of amendment.

Her character will be fixed, and she will, at sixteen, be the most determined flirt that ever made herself and her family ridiculous.

A flirt, too, in the worst and meanest degree of flirtation; without any attraction beyond youth and a tolerable person;

and from the ignorance and emptiness of her mind, wholly unable to ward off any portion of that universal contempt which her rage for admiration will excite.

In this danger Kitty is also comprehended. She will follow wherever Lydia leads. -- Vain, ignorant, idle, and absolutely uncontrolled!

Oh! my dear father, can you suppose it possible that they will not be censured and despised wherever they are known, and that their sisters will not be often involved in the disgrace?"

Mr. Bennet saw that her whole heart was in the subject; and affectionately taking her hand, said in reply,

"Do not make yourself uneasy, my love. Wherever you and Jane are known, you must be respected and valued;

“亲爱的爸爸，请你理解，我必须直言。如果您不想办法去管束她这种爱撒野的脾气，告诉她不能一辈子都这样到处追逐，她很快就无可救药了。”

“她的性格将被定型；才十六岁，就变成不折不扣的放荡女子了。这会使她和她的家人都遭人耻笑。”

“而且这种放浪会发展到最为严重、最为下贱的地步。她除了年轻和略有姿色外，就没有什么可取的地方。”

“再加上她愚昧无知，头脑空空，渴望着得到人家的喜爱；却对这种行为可能引发的普遍蔑视毫无招架之力。”

【只想着博取关注，结果却遭人鄙视】

“凯蒂同样也有这种危险。她总是围着丽迪雅打转；她既爱慕虚荣，又愚蠢无知，还好吃懒做，完全没有一点家教！”

“亲爱的爸爸，她们无论走到哪儿，只要有人认识她们，都会被人家指责和鄙视；还会时常连累她们姐姐也跟着丢脸。难道您认为这种事不会发生吗？”

班纳特先生见她把此事看的这么重，便慈祥地抓着她的手，回答说：

“好孩子，不要担心。你和简无论去什么地方，都会受到尊敬和器重。”

and you will not appear to less advantage for having a couple of -- or I may say, three -- very silly sisters.

We shall have no peace at Longbourn if Lydia does not go to Brighton. Let her go then.

Colonel Forster is a sensible man, and will keep her out of any real mischief; and she is luckily too poor to be an object of prey to anybody.

At Brighton she will be of less importance, even as a common flirt, than she has been here. The officers will find women better worth their notice.

Let us hope, therefore, that her being there may teach her her own insignificance. At any rate, she cannot grow many degrees worse without authorizing us to lock her up for the rest of her life."

With this answer Elizabeth was forced to be content; but her own opinion continued the same, and she left him disappointed and sorry.

It was not in her nature, however, to increase her vexations by dwelling on them.

She was confident of having performed her duty, and to fret over unavoidable evils, or augment them by anxiety, was no part of her disposition.

“你们绝不会因为有两个——甚至三个愚蠢的妹妹，就失掉体面。”

“如果不放丽迪雅去布莱顿的话，我们家里要不安生了。还是让她去吧。”

“福斯特上校是个明白人，不会让她做出什么祸事的。幸亏她很穷，不会成为人们追求的对象。”

“她到了布莱顿根本就不起眼，即便想做一个放荡女也没有资格。军官们有更中意的对象。”

“希望她到那儿后，能受到教训，认识到自己无足轻重。不管怎么说，她再差劲也差不到哪里去，我们总不能一辈子就把她关在家里。”

伊丽莎白听到这样的答复，也只得表示认同，不过她心里却没有改变主张。她闷闷不乐地走了。

她生性不爱多想烦恼的事，以免自寻烦恼。

她深信自己已经尽到了责任。要让她去为无可避免的不幸而烦恼，或为此过分焦虑，她才做不到呢。

Had Lydia and her mother known the substance of her conference with her father; their indignation would hardly have found expression in their united volubility.

In Lydia's imagination, a visit to Brighton comprised every possibility of earthly happiness. She saw, with the creative eye of fancy, the streets of that gay bathing place covered with officers.

She saw herself the object of attention to tens and to scores of them at present unknown. She saw all the glories of the camp;

its tents stretched forth in beautiful uniformity of lines, crowded with the young and the gay, and dazzling with scarlet; and to complete the view, she saw herself seated beneath a tent, tenderly flirting with at least six officers at once.

Had she known that her sister sought to tear her from such prospects and such realities as these, what would have been her sensations? They could have been understood only by her mother, who might have felt nearly the same.

Lydia's going to Brighton was all that consoled her for the melancholy conviction of her husband's never intending to go there himself.

But they were entirely ignorant of what had passed; and their raptures continued, with little intermission, to the very day of Lydia's leaving home.

要是让丽迪雅和母亲知道了自己与父亲谈话的内容，她们一定会非常愤怒。即使两张利嘴同时开火，恐怕也消不了怒气。
volubility 口若悬河，健谈

在丽迪雅的想象中，只要到布莱顿走上一遭，人世间的幸福就都会体会到。她幻想着，在那个华丽的海滨浴场附近，街道上挤满了军官。

她幻想着，几十个素不相识的军官，争相对她大献殷勤；她还幻想，那里有蔚为壮观的营地——

一排排帐幕整齐地矗立在那儿，里面挤满了朝气蓬勃的小伙子；他们都穿着灿烂夺目的红色制服。她甚至还幻想出一幅最美好的图景：她坐在一个帐篷里，至少有六位军官深情款款，和她谈笑嬉戏。

倘若她知道了，姐姐在想方设法地破坏掉她的愿景和（她所认为的）现实；她怎么能受得了！或许只有她母亲才能理解她的想法，因为她们“同病相怜”。

班纳特先生从没打算去布莱顿，这使得她快快不乐。现在丽迪雅要是能去，实在是对她莫大的安慰。

好在她们对伊丽莎白的举动一无所知，因此直到丽迪雅离开家的那天，她们始终是欢天喜地的。

Elizabeth was now to see Mr. Wickham for the last time. Having been frequently in company with him since her return, agitation was pretty well over; the agitations of former partiality entirely so.

She had even learnt to detect, in the very gentleness which had first delighted her, an affectation and a sameness to disgust and weary.

In his present behavior to herself, moreover, she had a fresh source of displeasure, for the inclination he soon testified of renewing those attentions which had marked the early part of their acquaintance could only serve, after what had since passed, to provoke her.

She lost all concern for him in finding herself thus selected as the object of such idle and frivolous gallantry;

and while she steadily repressed it, could not but feel the reproof contained in his believing that, however long, and for whatever cause, his attentions had been withdrawn, her vanity would be gratified and her preference secured at any time by their renewal.

On the very last day of the regiment's remaining in Meryton, he dined with others of the officers at Longbourn;

现在伊丽莎白要和威克姆进行最后一次会面了。她回家来以后，已经见过他几次，不安的情绪早就消失了。特别是昔日情意引起的焦灼，现在也消失得无影无踪。

她起初很喜欢他优雅的风度，现在她看出其中都是虚伪做作、陈腔滥调，逐渐觉得十分厌恶。

另外，他目前对她的态度，也是令她不快的一個新根源。因为他很快就表明要跟她重温旧好的意图；殊不知经历那番周折后，这样只会激起她的怒气。

她发觉向她献殷勤的竟是一个游手好闲的轻薄公子，因此不免对他心灰意冷。

尽管她不断忍耐，心里还是忍不住责备他。因为他还自以为，无论多久或是因为何故，自己没有向她献殷勤；只要他们重拾情谊，自然会满足她的虚荣，博得她的欢心。

民兵团离开梅里顿的前一天，他和另外几位军官来到朗本吃饭。

and so little was Elizabeth disposed to part from him in good humor, that on his making some enquiry as to the manner in which her time had passed at Hunsford,

she mentioned Colonel Fitzwilliam's and Mr. Darcy's having both spent three weeks at Rosings, and asked him if he were acquainted with the former.

He looked surprised, displeased, alarmed; but with a moment's recollection and a returning smile, replied that he had formerly seen him often; and after observing that he was a very gentlemanlike man, asked her how she had liked him.

Her answer was warmly in his favour. With an air of indifference he soon afterwards added,

“How long did you say that he was at Rosings?”

“Nearly three weeks.”

“And you saw him frequently?”

“Yes, almost every day.”

“His manners are very different from his cousin's.”

“Yes, very different. But I think Mr. Darcy improves on acquaintance.”

“Indeed!” cried Wickham with a look which did not escape her. “And pray may I ask -- ?”

伊丽莎白不愿意和他和和气气地分手，因此当他问起自己在汉斯福德那段日子是怎样度过时，

她特意提及费茨威廉上校和达西曾经在罗新斯逗留了三个星期，并且问他认不认识费茨威廉上校。

他顿时大惊失色，怒容满面。但稍许镇静之后，他又笑嘻嘻的回答说，自己以前经常见他；又说他是一个很有绅士风度的人，还问她喜不喜欢这个人。

伊丽莎白（假装）激动地回答说，自己很喜欢费茨威廉上校。他立即又带着一副满不在乎的神情，说道：

“你说他在罗新斯呆了多久？”

“差不多三个星期。”

“你经常见他吗？”

“是的，几乎每天都见面。”

“他的行为举止倒和他表兄不同。”

“是啊，非常不一样。但是我想达西跟人混熟了，举止也会大有改观。”

“真的吗？”威克姆大叫道——他那副神情没逃过伊丽莎白的眼睛——“我能问下...”

but checking himself, he added in a gayer tone, "Is it in address that he improves? Has he deigned to add ought of civility to his ordinary style? for I dare not hope," he continued in a lower and more serious tone, "that he is improved in essentials."

"Oh, no!" said Elizabeth. "In essentials, I believe, he is very much what he ever was."

While she spoke, Wickham looked as if scarcely knowing whether to rejoice over her words, or to distrust their meaning.

There was a something in her countenance which made him listen with an apprehensive and anxious attention, while she added,

"When I said that he improved on acquaintance, I did not mean that either his mind or manners were in a state of improvement, but that from knowing him better, his disposition was better understood."

Wickham's alarm now appeared in a heightened complexion and agitated look; for a few minutes he was silent; till, shaking off his embarrassment, he turned to her again, and said in the gentlest of accents,

"You, who so well know my feelings towards Mr. Darcy, will readily comprehend how sincerely I must rejoice that he is wise enough to assume even the appearance of what is right."

说到这里又顿住了，随即用欢快的语气说，“他在谈吐上有改进吗？他待人接物是否比以前有礼貌些？因为我实在不敢指望——”他压低声音，更为严肃的接着说道：“指望他能够从本质上有所改观。”

“没有，我觉得本质上还是和过去一样。”

她说这话的时候，威克姆看样子不知道该表示赞同，还是表示怀疑。

他发现伊丽莎白脸上带着一丝神秘，让他非常急切又有些不安。这时她继续说道：

“我说他混熟了就或有所改进，并不是说他的想法或者举止正在不断地改善，而是说你和他亲近了，就更了解他的性情。”

威克姆愈发惊慌，脸涨得通红，神情十分不安。他沉默了好一会，才摆脱一副窘态，转向伊丽莎白，用极温和的口吻说：

“你很清楚我对达西是怎样的一种心情。因此你也很容易明白：我听到他居然也懂在表面上装得像个样子，这真让我高兴。”

His pride, in that direction, may be of service, if not to himself, to many others, for it must deter him from such foul misconduct as I have suffered by.

I only fear that the sort of cautiousness, to which you, I imagine, have been alluding, is merely adopted on his visits to his aunt, of whose good opinion and judgment he stands much in awe.

His fear of her has always operated, I know, when they were together; and a good deal is to be imputed to his wish of forwarding the match with Miss De Bourgh, which I am certain he has very much at heart."

Elizabeth could not repress a smile at this, but she answered only by a slight inclination of the head. She saw that he wanted to engage her on the old subject of his grievances, and she was in no humor to indulge him.

The rest of the evening passed with the appearance, on his side, of usual cheerfulness, but with no farther attempt to distinguish Elizabeth; and they parted at last with mutual civility, and possibly a mutual desire of never meeting again.

When the party broke up, Lydia returned with Mrs. Forster to Meryton, from whence they were to set out early the next morning.

“他在这方面的傲慢，即使对他自己没有好处，或许对别人倒有些益处。因为这些傲慢的存在，使得他不能再像对我那般，再有恶劣的行径，他让我吃尽了苦头。”

“我只怕他虽然收敛了一些（或许这就是你感受到的改进），却不过是做给他姨妈看的。他想让姨妈器重他，赏识他。”

stands much in awe 非常敬畏

“我知道每逢他和姨妈在一起时，他总是小心翼翼的。这多半是为了促成和德·包尔小姐的婚事。他对这事可是念念不忘。”

伊丽莎白听到这话，不由得微微一笑。不过她没做回应，只是轻轻点了点头。她看出威克姆又想旧事重提，倾诉自己的苦痛。她可没心情再去迎合他。

这个晚上就这样过去了，威克姆表面上依然是和往常一样高兴，却没有再试图去讨伊丽莎白的欢心。他们最终非常客气地分开了，或许双方都希望今后不要再见。

散席以后，丽迪雅跟着福斯特太太回了梅里顿，她们打算明天一早就从那里出发。

The separation between her and her family was rather noisy than pathetic. Kitty was the only one who shed tears; but she did weep from vexation and envy.

*Mrs. Bennet was diffuse in her good wishes for the felicity of her daughter; and impressive in her **injunctions** that she would not **miss the opportunity of** enjoying herself as much as possible;*

*advice, **which there was every reason to believe would be attended to**; and in the clamorous happiness of Lydia herself in bidding farewell, the more gentle adieus of her sisters were uttered without being heard.*

丽迪雅和家人告别时真是闹哄哄的，一点儿没让人伤感。凯蒂是唯一一个掉泪的，但她那是因为烦恼和妒忌。

班纳特太太不住的祝福女儿要过得快活，并一再叮嘱她千万不要**错过**及时行乐的**时机**。

这种告诫，丽迪雅当然会遵命照办；她满面春风，大喊再会。至于姐姐们低声送别的话语，她压根儿没有听见。