

SIDE FOR JANE FAIRFAX

#1

JANE FAIRFAX

A wave tilted the boat just as I stood at the rail. It was fortunate that I was prevented from falling off when Mr. Dixon pulled me back. Quite frightening. We were a large party, and we were closely positioned.

EMMA

How extraordinary. Were you in Weymouth at the same time as Mr. Frank Churchill?

JANE FAIRFAX

Yes, we are a little acquainted.

EMMA

I am all curiosity, Miss Fairfax. How does he look? Is he handsome?

JANE FAIRFAX

I believe he is reckoned a very fine young man.

EMMA

Mr. Weston will be glad to hear it. And agreeable?

JANE FAIRFAX

I believe he was generally thought so.

EMMA

And did he appear a sensible young man? A young man of information?

JANE

At a watering-place, it is difficult to decide such points. His manners were all that could be safely judged, and I believe everybody found his manners pleasing.

Jane manages a slight cough, which alarms MISS BATES

EMMA

I see. What a relief that he was not found wanting.

#2

JANE FAIRFAX

Miss Woodhouse, will you be so kind, when I am missed, to say I have gone home. My aunt is not aware how late it is, nor how long we have been absent.

EMMA

Certainly, if you wish it, but you are not going to walk alone?

JANE FAIRFAX

JANE FAIRFAX

Yes, what should hurt me? I walk fast.

EMMA

Let me call a servant to go with you.

JANE FAIRFAX

Thank you, no. How can I be afraid of walking alone when I am soon to guard others?

EMMA

You are fatigued already, I fear. Even the heat would be a danger.

JANE

We all know what it is to be wearied in spirits. Mine, I confess, are exhausted. A quick walk will refresh me. The greatest kindness you can show me will be to let me have my own way. Oh, the comfort of being sometimes alone.

She curtsies, and quickly walks off

EMMA

I pity you. Such a home, such an aunt!

#3

FRANK CHURCHILL

Happy couple. How well they suit one another! How many a man has committed himself on a short acquaintance and rued it all the rest of his life!

JANE FAIRFAX

Things do occur, undoubtedly. (*She is stopped by a cough.*)

FRANK CHURCHILL

You were speaking.

JANE FAIRFAX

Such unfortunate circumstances do sometimes occur both to men and women. A hasty and imprudent attachment may arise, but there is generally time to recover from it afterwards. Only weak, irresolute characters, whose happiness must be always at the mercy of chance, will suffer an unfortunate acquaintance to be an inconvenience.