

## SIDE FOR MISS BATES

#1

MISS BATES

Mother, Miss Woodhouse is in the garden with Miss Smith. Of course, I must go out and pay my respects.

*She motions to the guests to follow her*

There is news. So unexpected, you see. Ah, there they are. Miss Woodhouse, Miss Smith, hello! Mother and I came to pay our respects. I have news!

*EMMA waves politely, as MISS BATES approaches*

Dear Miss Woodhouse and Miss Smith, this very morning Mrs. Cole visited, and we learned that Mr. Elton has gone to Bath. Mr. Cole had a letter. Mr. Elton attended the Master of Ceremonies Ball and danced every dance. A charming and obliging young man to be sure. Mrs. Cole, inquired after Jane as soon as she arrived. She does not know how to show her kindness enough when we see her, and I must say Jane deserves it as much as anybody. I immediately said, 'we had a letter this very morning,' I do not know that I ever saw any body more surprised. 'Have you, upon your honor?' said she; 'well, that is quite unexpected. Do let me hear what she says.' Oh, here it is.

Hardly two pages you see, though Mother's eyes are not so good as they were, she can see amazingly well with the help of spectacles. My mother's deafness is very trifling you see—just nothing at all. By only raising my voice, and saying anything two or three times over, she is sure to hear; but then she is used to my voice. It is very remarkable that she should always hear Jane better than she does me. As I was telling Mrs. Cole, we expect Jane by Friday or Saturday next. That is the reason of her writing. You see, the Campbells are going to Ireland. They had not intended to go till the summer, but Mrs. Dixon is impatient to see them. Until she married Mr. Dixon last October, she was never away from them so much as a week. It must be very strange to be in different kingdoms. Jane was quite longing to go to Ireland. She has not been quite so well as usual lately, and Colonel and Mrs. Campbell think she does quite right. If Jane does not get well soon, we call in Mr. Perry. I dare say he would not mean to charge anything for attendance, but, we could not suffer it to be so, you know. He has a wife and family to maintain and is not to be giving away his time. Now I have just given you a hint of what Jane writes about, here is her letter, and I am sure she tells her own story a great deal better than I tell it for her.

#2

MISS BATES

Mr. Knightley! I was hoping to see you. I have been much obliged for the sweetmeats you sent over. Why, with the pork from Hartfield, we are quite well stocked. Mother is particularly fond of the sweetmeats. You were in London. How are Isabella and John?

MR. KNIGHTLEY

All are well and John laments the cold weather. Will you be joining us at the Coles?

MISS BATES

Certainly. Mrs. Cole is a favorite with us all, Jane particularly. Mrs. Cole invited her to play their grand piano after supper. No one in the Cole household is disposed to play. Jane, being so talented and such a proficient, appreciates every opportunity.

MR. KNIGHTLEY

I look forward to hearing her play and will send my carriage around for your convenience. As Miss Fairfax has recently had the cold, walking will not do.

MISS BATES

Mother always says there is no other as good as Mr. Knightley. Always mindful and considerate, such a good friend. I do not wish to put you out. The horses and grooms should not be troubled for such short journey. There are not enough thanks, and Jane will be most gratified by the consideration.

MR. KNIGHTLEY

Think nothing of it.

*MR. WESTON and FRANK CHURCHILL approach from the house*

MR. WESTON

Miss Bates, look who I bring. My son, Frank Churchill, come to pay his respects.

MISS BATES

Do come in. We are be delighted. I believe you are already acquainted with my niece, Miss Jane Fairfax.