

SIDE FOR MRS. WESTON

#1

MRS. WESTON

How very differently we feel! This will certainly be the beginning of one of our quarrels about Emma, Mr. Knightley. I shall not allow you to be a fair judge in this case. By supplying her with a new object of interest, Harriet may be said to do Emma good. Harriet Smith is not the superior young woman which Emma's friend ought to be. They will read together.

MR. KNIGHTLEY

Read? She will never submit to anything requiring industry and patience. Emma is spoiled by being the cleverest of her family. At twelve, she was mistress of the house and of all of you. In her mother, she lost the only person who could cope with her. Harriet Smith will alter nothing and cannot gain by the acquaintance. She will grow just refined enough to be uncomfortable with those who birth, and circumstances, have placed her.

MRS. WESTON

I depend upon Emma's good sense. I cannot lament the acquaintance. Emma is loveliness itself, Mr. Knightley.

MR. KNIGHTLEY

I have seldom seen a face or figure more pleasing to me than hers. But I am a partial old friend. I love to look at her. Considering how very handsome she is, she appears to be little occupied with it; her vanity lies another way. Mrs. Weston, I am not to be talked out of my dread of this friendship doing them both harm.

MRS. WESTON

She will never lead any one really wrong; she will make no lasting blunder. Where Emma errs once, she is in the right a hundred times.

MR. KNIGHTLEY

Very well. I will not plague you anymore. Emma shall be an angel, and I will not raise an outcry. I will keep my ill humor to myself.

MRS. WESTON

There is an anxiety, a curiosity in what one feels for Emma. I wonder what will become of her.

Side #2 is on the next page

#2

MRS. WESTON

It was a lovely evening, and you played so well.

EMMA

Rather a larger party than I expected. I was very surprised when Mrs. Cole related the news of a pianoforte from Broadwood having been delivered to the Bates' the day before. Entirely unexpected, and Jane herself was quite at a loss to think who could possibly have ordered it.

MRS. WESTON

Mrs. Cole did say that one can suppose it was the Campbells and was only surprised that there could have been any doubt. But Jane had a letter from them very lately, and not a word was said about it.

EMMA

Hmmm...

MRS. WESTON

Was it not kind of Mr. Knightley to send his carriage for them and to take them home again?

EMMA

He is more humane than gallant. His considering Jane Fairfax's ill health would appear a case of humanity to him; For an act of unostentatious kindness, there is nobody but Mr. Knightley.

MRS. WESTON

You give him credit for more simple, disinterested benevolence than I do. The more I think of it, the more I see a match between Mr. Knightley and Jane Fairfax. See the consequence of keeping you company? What do you say to it?

EMMA

(shocked)

How could you think of such a thing? Mr. Knightley must not marry! You would not have little Henry cut out. Henry *must* have Donwell. I cannot at all consent to Mr. Knightley's marrying, and it is not at all likely. I am amazed that you should think of such a thing.

MRS. WESTON

I do not want to injure dear little Henry, but the idea has been given me by circumstances. If Mr. Knightley wished to marry, you would not have him refrain on Henry's account, a boy of six years old, who knows nothing of the matter?

EMMA

And Jane Fairfax of all women!

MRS. WESTON

She has always been a first favorite with him, as you very well know.