

SIDE FOR FRANK CHURCHILL

#1

EMMA

Perhaps you may now regret going all the way to London for a whole day just to get your hair cut.

FRANK CHURCHILL

I have no regrets at all. I have no pleasure in seeing my friends unless I can believe myself fit to be seen. Did you notice, at the party, how Miss Fairfax had done her hair? I could not keep my eyes from her, as I never saw anything so outré. I see nobody else looking like her. Perhaps it is an Irish fashion.

EMMA

I did not think it so very unusual, it may be a matter of fashion. Like traveling sixteen miles for a haircut.

FRANK CHURCHILL

It was well that there were only two dances, or I must have asked Miss Fairfax, and her languid dancing would not have agreed with me after dancing with *you*. I have it! We must plan a ball! Then I can ask you to dance again! It need not be a large affair, if the Coles are not inclined to continue what was started at their party, we will ask my father and Mrs. Westin to host.

EMMA

And who do you plan to include?

FRANK CHURCHILL

You and Miss Smith, and Miss Fairfax will be three, and the two Cox girls. Five! And there will be the two Gilberts, young Cox, my father, and myself, besides Mr. Knightley. For five couple there will be plenty of room.

EMMA

I really do not think there will.

FRANK CHURCHILL

Well, Miss Woodhouse, then may I have the honor of your hand for the two first dances of this little projected ball to be given not at Randalls, but at the Crown?

EMMA

The Crown! That appears to me a plan that nobody can object to.

MR. WOODHOUSE

(from the library)

I object! The Crown? A very bad idea. A room at an inn is always damp and dangerous; never properly aired or fit to be inhabited.

FRANK CHURCHILL

I will go and observe it, sir. There is so much less danger of anybody's catching cold at the Crown than at Randalls. Mr. Perry might have reason for regrets, but nobody else could.

MR. WOODHOUSE

Striding out of the library and into the room with more energy than expected.

Sir! You are very much mistaken if you suppose Mr. Perry to be that sort of character. Perry is very much concerned when any of us is ill. I do not understand how rooms at the Crown can be safer than your father's house.

FRANK CHURCHILL

From the very circumstance of its being larger, sir. We shall have no occasion to open the windows at all. Letting cold air upon heated bodies, you well know, is what does the mischief.

#2

FRANK CHURCHILL

I am sick of England and would leave it tomorrow if I could.

EMMA

You are sick of prosperity and indulgence. Cannot you invent a few hardships for yourself and be content?

FRANK CHURCHILL

I am thwarted in *everything* material and do not consider myself at all fortunate. I feel a strong persuasion to travel and will go to Switzerland as soon as my aunt is well.

EMMA

You will not go to Switzerland. Your uncle and aunt will never allow it. However, you will go to Box Hill tomorrow and you will settle yourself.

They catch up to the others who are now sitting on large blankets with MISS FAIRFAX, MR. KNIGHTLEY, MR. and MRS. ELTON, and MISS SMITH and the WESTONS

FRANK CHURCHILL

I will sit with you, for you are the best remedy.

He motions for EMMA to sit and then sits beside her and winks

Nobody is speaking. How dull. Ladies and gentlemen, I am ordered by Miss Woodhouse to say that she desires to know what you are all thinking of?

EMMA

Oh, no! NO! This is the very last thing I want. Let me hear anything but that.

FRANK CHURCHILL

I am ordered by Miss Woodhouse to say that you say either one thing clever, be it prose or verse, original or repeated, or two things moderately clever, or three things very dull indeed. She promises to laugh heartily at them all.

#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.

FRANK CHURCHILL

I have so little confidence in my own judgment, that whenever I marry, I hope somebody will choose my wife for me. (*turning to Emma.*) Will you choose a wife for me? I am sure I should like anybody fixed on by you. Find somebody for me. I am in no hurry. Adopt her, educate her.

EMMA

Pointedly looking at Harriet

And make her like myself.

FRANK CHURCHILL

By all means, if you can.