

Excerpt Four (Elinor & Brandon)

ELINOR. You are thoughtful Colonel Brandon.

COLONEL BRANDON. Your sister, I understand, does not approve of second attachments.

ELINOR. (Who has come to enjoy and empathize with him:) No, her opinions are all romantic.

COLONEL BRANDON. Thus she believes such attachments impossible to exist.

ELINOR. I believe she does. But how she contrives it without reflecting on the character of her own father who had two wives, I know not. A few years will settle her opinions on the reasonable basis of common sense and observations.

COLONEL BRANDON. Most probably, and yet there is something so amiable in the prejudices of a young mind.

ELINOR. I cannot agree with you there. There are inconveniences attending such feelings as Marianne's, which all the charms of enthusiasm and ignorance of the world cannot atone for. Her systems have all the unfortunate tendency of setting propriety at naught.

COLONEL BRANDON. Are those who have been disappointed in their first choice, whether from the inconstancy of its object or the perverseness of circumstances, to remain indifferent the rest of their lives?

ELINOR. Her principals in such matters, can only be defined and justified by herself.

COLONEL BRANDON. You will, I hope, be frank with me Miss Dashwood.

ELINOR. (Directly:) I have never yet heard her admit any instance of a second attachment being pardonable.

COLONEL BRANDON. (A pause.) Such ideas cannot hold, and yet when the romantic refinements of a young mind are obliged to give way, how frequently are they succeeded by such opinions as are too dangerous! I speak from experience. I once knew a young woman who thought and judged like her, but who from an enforced change—from a series of unfortunate circumstances... I see it is late. I have overstayed my welcome. Good night Miss Dash wood.

ELINOR. Good night.