

Excerpt Six (Elinor & Lucy)

LUCY. What a sweet woman Mrs. Jennings is

ELINOR. She has been more than kind to our family.

LUCY. And how do you like Devonshire, Miss Dashwood? I am told you were very sorry to leave Sussex.

ELINOR. Indeed my family had been established there some time.

LUCY. And had you a great many smart beaux there? There are not, I suppose, too many in this part of the world. I only mention it as I hope you will not find it dull in Barton.

ELINOR. I am sure there are genteel young men in Devonshire.

LUCY. I hope I do not offend?

ELINOR. On the contrary, you are very pleasant and conversable.

LUCY. You are very kind and I like you enormously. You will think my question now an odd one, I dare say, but pray, are you personally acquainted with your sister-in-law's mother, Mrs. Ferrars?

ELINOR. (surprised.) I have never seen Mrs. Ferrars.

LUCY. I am sure you think me very strange to be inquiring about her in such a way, but perhaps...there might be reasons. I should be very glad of your advice how to manage in such an uncomfortable situation as I am in.

ELINOR. And I am sorry I cannot assist. But really I never understood that you were at all connected with that family.

LUCY. (After a moment:) I am sure I need not have the smallest fear in trusting you even on slight acquaintance, I am, dear Miss Dashwood, so without a confidante. Mrs. Ferrars is certainly nothing to me at present but the time may come...when we will be very intimately connected.

ELINOR. Do you mean you are acquainted with Mr. Robert Ferrars, the brother? Can you be?

LUCY. No, not Mr. Robert Ferrars, I never saw him in my life; but to his elder brother Edward.

ELINOR. I am...surprised.