

~~GOSSIP 3. I cannot think why — he uses her Christian name quite openly!~~

~~GOSSIP 2. Such an extraordinary silence!~~

~~GOSSIP 1. An establishment may not be within his power, until he inherits.~~

~~GOSSIP 4. He certainly lives expensively.~~

~~GOSSIP 5. All fashion and no fortune, as they say!~~

~~GOSSIP 3. But no announcement of their attachment yet?~~

~~GOSSIP 4. Why such secrecy?~~

~~GOSSIP 2. Why such secrecy?!~~

~~GOSSIP 1. Why such secrecy?!~~

MARGARET, ELINOR, MRS. DASHWOOD

A Sad Goodbye

Elinor, Mrs. Dashwood, and Margaret walk on the lane.

MARGARET. (*Dancing around.*) I have such a secret to tell you both about Marianne! I am sure she will be married to Mr. Willoughby very soon.

ELINOR. You have said that almost every day since they met, Margaret.

MARGARET. But indeed now I am sure they will be married very soon, for he has got a lock of her hair. (*Mrs. Dashwood and Elinor exchange glances.*)

ELINOR. How do you know?

MARGARET. I know MANY secrets, Elinor.

ELINOR. Margaret.

MARGARET. I saw him take it! Last night after tea, when you and Mamma went out of the room, they were whispering together, and he took up her scissors and cut off a lock of her hair, and he kissed it, and put it into his pocketbook! And today she asked to stay at home, ALONE ... I am sure that he must be visiting with her now!

MRS. DASHWOOD. (*Half-heartedly chiding.*) Margaret ... (*They arrive back at the cottage.*)

MARGARET. It is Mr. Willoughby's curricule outside! I told you, he DID visit her! (*Suddenly, Marianne rushes past them, sobbing.*)