

Colonel Brandon's Visit

*Brandon tries to make the best of it.*

~~COL. BRANDON. Miss Dashwood. I am pleased to see you in London.~~

→ MRS. JENNINGS. (*Bustling in, leaving no room for response.*) Oh! Colonel, I am monstrous glad to see you — beg your pardon, but I have been on my feet all day. (*Collapses.*) I have brought two young ladies with me, you see — you see but one of them now, but there is another somewhere — and it is your friend, Miss Marianne! Yes! I thought that would please you. I do not know what you and Mr. Willoughby will do between you about her! It is a fine thing to be young and handsome — or so I think, I never was handsome, but I was young once, or so I seem to remember — Oh! Pardon me a moment, I have forgot to speak to Cook about dinner. One has always a world of little odd things to do after one has been away, and I have had old Cartwright to settle with — Lord, I have been as busy as a bee! (*She bustles out again; as she does.*) Buzz buzz buzz buzz!

~~COL. BRANDON. Miss Dashwood ... might I congratulate you on the acquisition of a brother?~~

~~ELINOR. What do you mean?~~

~~COL. BRANDON. Your sister's engagement to Mr. Willoughby.~~

~~ELINOR. If she is engaged to Mr. Willoughby, this is the first time I have heard of it.~~

~~COL. BRANDON. Their marriage is universally talked of.~~

~~ELINOR. By whom?~~

~~COL. BRANDON. By some of whom you know nothing, by others with whom you are most intimate. (*In pain.*) Is it true, Miss Dashwood?~~

~~ELINOR. I ... though they have never told me of their terms, of their mutual affection I have no doubt, and I am not surprised to hear of their engagement.~~

~~COL. BRANDON. To your sister I wish all imaginable happiness; to Willoughby, that he may endeavor to deserve her. (*Bows and leaves.*)~~

~~MRS. JENNINGS. (*Reenters.*) Colonel, d'you prefer boiled fowls or veal cutlets? Colonel? Honestly, that man.~~