

Molly: Hey, everyone. First off, my apologies for the audio quality of this intro. I'm traveling, and I'm not on my usual recording setup. That being said, before we begin the episode, we want to thank our newest patron, Sharon. Welcome to the team. If you want to be like Sharon and get access to all kinds of fun bonus content, check out our Patreon at patreon.com/podandprejudice. And now, enjoy this week's episode covering Chapters 27 and 28 of *Emma*.

My grocery shopping yesterday for the Super Bowl, I've changed my path for what I'm making a little bit. Instead of making buffalo cauliflower wings, I'm making a sticky sesame cauliflower wing.

Becca: Ooh, I love that.

Molly: Yeah, it's going to be really good, because Mel doesn't like spicy foods, really. So, I figured I'd make something that everyone can enjoy.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: But they're coated in a flour, like a batter, and then breadcrumb situation, and then baked, and then tossed in the-- It's like soy sauce and maple syrup and stuff like that.

Becca: That sounds delicious. You could also just keep them aside if you wanted to [00:01:00] try making like a buffalo side.

Molly: So true.

Becca: That's Frank's RedHot-

Molly: Yeah, I could do that.

Becca: -butter vegan.

Molly: Exactly. Yeah, which we have vegan butter. So, I guess, theoretically, I could pick up some Frank's RedHot. But then I was like, "You know what? I don't really eat buffalo sauce that often anyway." I was like, "I was only doing that for the aesthetic."

Becca: [crosstalk] Yeah.

Molly: And also to give a nod to the Buffalo Bills, who are not in the Super Bowl this year.

Molly: [unintelligible [00:01:21] the Buffalo Bills in the Super Bowl. Yeah, I'm going to be wearing my Giants jersey. I hope you know that.

Molly: Yeah, that's okay. But I am oddly excited for the football aspect of it, actually. [chuckles]

Becca: Are you okay?

Molly: No. I'm very surprised. I'm looking forward to, one, the snacks, but two, watching the game.

Becca: It's fun.

Molly: I watched both of the-- whatever they're called the games that lead into the Super Bowl. Semifinals?

Becca: The championship games?

Molly: Championship games I watched them both. So, I have a little investment in the games that led into-- The Chiefs game-- go Birds. But [00:02:00] the Chiefs game was actually very close.

Becca: Well, the thing about the Chiefs, the Kansas City Chiefs is that Patrick Mahomes is the quarterback of the moment. I think he's a brilliant football player and also just like a great presence in Kansas City.

Molly: He was doing all of that without being able to walk on his leg. Every time he finished a play or whatever, he would limp off the fields like, "Take care of yourself, guys. They're all injured and playing anyway."

Becca: Well, yeah, that's another issue with just football in general.

Molly: Yes, I guess.

Becca: Let's not go into that right now.

Molly: Yeah.

[Pod and Prejudice theme]

Becca: All right. All that to say, this is Becca.

Molly: This is Molly.

Becca: We are here to talk about Jane Austen.

Molly: We are not here to talk about football.

Becca: No, we are not. We are here specifically to talk about Jane Austen.

Molly: Specifically, even more so to talk about--

Molly and Becca: *Emma*.

Becca: Listeners, if you're new here, I, Becca, have read many Jane Austen books over my lifetime.

Molly: And I, Molly, am reading [00:03:00] her for the first time through this podcast.

Becca: If you want to hear Molly read through *Pride and Prejudice* or *Sense and Sensibility* for the first time, you can listen to Seasons 1 and 2 of this podcast respectively. But that is not what we're doing here today.

Molly: No, today, we are talking about Volume II, Chapters 9 and 10 of *Emma*, or if your book is not broken up into Volumes, that's Chapters 27 and 28.

Becca: Actually, Molly, can you open up to the end of the chapters right now in your book, if that's possible? I want to see how far we are in the book at this point.

Molly: Oh, I can tell you how far we are in the book, because I marked it on Goodreads-

Becca: Ooh. Okay.

Molly: -and it told me what percentage I am. We're on page 250 of the book, and that brings us to 52%.

Becca: So, we're about halfway through the book? Everyone say a little yay.

Molly and Becca: Yay.

Becca: At this point, do you feel like you have a sense of where the book is going or is it still a mystery?

Molly: It's a mys-tery.

Becca: It's a mys-tery.

Molly: Who's Miss Terry?

Becca: Mm.

Molly: [laughs] Yeah, I don't know. I keep feeling like I was trying to explain it. So, I was on [00:04:00] the way somewhere and I was on the phone with my mom, and she has never read this book, but she is listening to the podcast and experiencing it through my reactions to it. And so, she was trying to go over all the characters and their relationships together and their relationships to each other on the phone with me, and I was like, "Oh, no, that's Emma's governess's husband's son, and that's Jane Fairfax's kind of like ward sister's-

Becca: Husband.

Becca: -husband and his parents." I was trying to go through all the different connections. She's like, "Wait, what's Frank Churchill's connection with Jane Fairfax connection? Who were the Westons?" going through everything. And I was like, "This is a complex book."

Becca: So, maybe it would be good for us to take a step back and go through what's happened so far in the book-

Molly: Totally. Yeah.

Becca: -for our listeners who might be following along, not with the book themselves, but just following along because they're enjoying the story.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: So, we have Emma, a wealthy young woman living in a small town in England and clearly [00:05:00] being the big fish in the little pond. She lives with her father, who is somewhat hypochondriac, and very anxious generally, and #relatable to every millennial.

Molly: [giggles]

Becca: And her bestie is her neighbor, Mr. Knightley, who is also her brother-in-law, because her older sister married his younger brother.

Molly: Yeah, my mom was very confused about that. She's like, "Wait, they're both named Mr. Knightley?" And I'm like, "Well, they're brothers," and she's like, "Oh, right."

Becca: Yes. There's George Knightley and John Knightley. And the two of them are off in London, so they don't really partake much in the story. But then we have Emma's close relationship to her governess, who was named Ms. Taylor, who married a guy in town named Mr. Weston. Mr. Weston's son is Frank, who lives with his aunt and uncle, not with his father, who is the talk of the town and a semi celebrity crush for Em, turned semi real-life crush for Em, maybe. We'll see.

Molly: We'll see.

Becca: Meanwhile, Emma's got a bestie in Harriet Smith, who is [00:06:00] below her class wise, but Emma is trying to bring up not to her level, but to a level that's acceptable, and Emma is trying to matchmaker throughout the town. She fails spectacularly at doing that with Mr. Elton.

Molly: Mm-hmm. Oh, yeah, Mr. Elton. I forgot about him.

Becca: And she cuts off Harriet from another suitor, Mr. Robert Martin, because she doesn't see him as worthy.

Molly: But he's dreamy.

Becca: Yes, he's dreamy. Yes. We love Mr. Robert Martin.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: And then, finally, you have the Bates' fallen from grace family that lives in the same town with a beautiful young niece named Jane Fairfax, who is somewhat a mystery, somewhat a nemesis, and somewhat eligible in a way that might have caught Mr. Knightley's eye.

Molly: Potentially.

Becca: Did I miss anything in this recap that you feel is necessary to say at this point?

Molly: I don't think so. That pretty much covers the plot. [00:07:00] There's like themes that have come up as well, such as everyone's parents are dead, and we're seeing how different people raised in different situations with the same circumstances leading into it can turn out differently. It's interesting.

Becca: Obviously, most of this book centers around our girl, the namesake, Emma.

Molly and Becca: Emma.

Becca: -who is sort of Jane Austen's most complex creation of intelligence and charisma, but also arrogance and-

Molly: Classism.

Becca: -classism. Yeah. So, I think you have an Emma, someone with like 8,000 fatal flaws.

Molly: Yeah, she's got a lot of fatal flaws and she's somehow still alive.

Becca: Well, yeah, that's called [unintelligible [00:07:53]

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: But that's where we're at. So, that's my halfway through the book recap.

Molly: Love it.

Becca: [00:08:00] And let's get into the chapters that you read today.

Molly: Yeah. So, Chapter 9 or Chapter 27 starts with Emma patting herself on the back for going to the party and gracing the Coles with her presence and making them so happy that she came, A, for Emma, as we like to say on this podcast.

Becca: [chuckles]

Molly: She just has two regrets about the party. One, she feels like she might have broken the girl code by revealing her suspicions about Jane to Frank. And two, she's upset at herself for not playing as well as Jane when she took her turn at the piano. So, she spends an hour and a half practicing the next day.

Becca: Yes. And this is also very interesting because we'll talk about it in the study questions, but Emma talks a lot about what she exactly regrets about saying to Frank. And also, she specifically says she regrets not practicing the piano in her childhood and she's like, "Oh, I can make up for it."

Molly: She's like, "I'll make up for it with an hour and a half right now." That's all it'll take, right?

Becca: Yep.

Molly: [00:09:00] So, as she's practicing, Harriet comes in and is like, "Oh, my God, you sound so great. I wish I played as well as you and Jane." And Emma's like, "Jane and I are

not on the same level. Don't try." She says, "Anyone who knows anything about anything would be able to tell that." And Harriet says, "Well, you have taste, and Frank values taste above execution." And then, Emma says, "Well, Jane has both," which makes me just want to bring up my theory again about Frank potentially sending the piano and something having happened between Frank and Jane.

Becca: Putting that aside for a second, I just also want to say, this Harriet moment is so classic trying to console your friend.

Molly: Yeah. She comes in, she's like, "Oh, my God, you sound so good." She's like, "Don't try."

Becca: Yeah. Well, also the question is, does Harriet genuinely think Emma plays as well or she does have fog over her eyes in the form of love of Emma so much that she genuinely thinks Emma plays as well or is she just trying to make Emma [00:10:00] feel better? Not totally clear.

Molly: Well, if I'm going based on Emma's opinions of Harriet, I don't think Harriet knows any better. She just loves Emma so much, and she's like, "Oh, my God, she sounds amazing. I love Emma." But maybe I'm not giving Harriet enough credit.

Becca: Harriet is many things, but deeply intelligent and discerning are not amongst her great achievements.

Molly: [chuckles] Sure. Harriet says that Jane has to play well, because she's going to teach piano one day, and then that leads her into talking about her conversation with the Coxes last night. And the Coxes were wondering what family Jane would end up with. She says, "The Coxes had some news, by the way. They dined with Mr. Martin last Saturday."

Becca: Dun, dun, duuun.

Molly: I was like, "Oh, God, here we go." I was like, "[gasps]" excited, but then I was like, "No, Harriet." She's just going back and forth.

Becca: She's like, "I just think it's weird that he posted that photo on his [00:11:00] Instagram with that girl." Do you think he's dating her?"

Molly: Yeah, she's stressed about it. She knows that either of the Coxes would be happy to marry him. And Emma's like, "Well, yeah, they're the two most vulgar girls in town."

Becca: Emma's straight up like, "Yeah, they are trash. So, of course, they want him."

Molly: Yeah. She's like, "You can do better."

Becca: Which, really quick side note, the fact that the most trashy people in town are named the Coxes.

Molly: Yeah, it's funny.

Becca: It's funny.

Molly: It is funny.

Becca: Mm-hmm.

Molly: They got funny name.

Becca: It's a joke.

Molly: Yeah, I got it.

Becca: yeah.

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: [laughs] Yeah.

Molly: At this point, Harriet has an errand to run Ford's and Emma's like, "That's where she ran into the Martins last time. I'd better go with her just in case." So, they go to Ford's and Harriet is like, "When you are in the coffee shop and someone in front of you gets to the front of the line and they're like, "Um, mm, do I want a cappuccino today? No, it's cold out. Maybe I want a hot coffee. Maybe I'm on a latte with hazelnut." And then they're like, "Wait, no, that's too sweet." [00:12:00] And they're going back and forth and they're like, "What do you recommend?" And then ultimately, they just end up getting a black coffee.

Becca: 100%.

Molly: Yeah, that's Harriet, when she gets to Ford's. She's like, "Ah, do I want the yellow pattern or the blue pattern? Do I want the ribbon or do I want the silk?" And Emma is like, "I'm just going to go stand by the door and look out at the people walking by."

Becca: I have a theory that most couples have like an Emma and Harriet in this regard, where one of them is super indecisive and the other one's no.

Molly: It's funny because I wrote down that Harriet-- Well, yeah, no, your theory is right. Your theory is right. I was going to say this is me and Mel trying to make decisions, but I'm the Harriet and Mel is-- Something that we alternate who's who, but particularly when Emma comes back to Harriet and they're going back and forth about where to send the fabric in the end, and she's can't decide if she wants to send it to Mrs. Goddard or to Hartfield. And then she's like, "What do you advise?" And Emma's like, "That you don't spend another minute talking about this. Send it to Hartfield." [00:13:00] That's me and Mel. I'm like, "Wait, I don't know. What do you think? What do you think?" She's like, "We've already spent 15 minutes talking about it. Let's just do something."

Becca: Ye. I'm the Emma, Mike is the Harriet.

Molly: Yeah, that makes sense to me.

Becca: Our relationship. So, he'll be getting ready for the day and he's like, "Mm, should I wear this shirt?" And I'm like, "You look nice in that shirt." And he's like, "I don't know, but should I wear it?" And I'm like, "You know what? No, because it's a little thin for today. It's cold outside. So, put on a thicker shirt. You'll feel better later."

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: He was like, "Okay. yeah." [laughs]

Molly: Someone commented one of our posts this week saying that we give off an Emma-Harriet vibe.

Becca: Which, devastating for me.

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: Because I know which one I am. [laughs]

Molly: Well, based on what we just talked about, how I'm the Harriet and you're the Emma in both of our relationships, it makes sense that we would also be the Harriet and Emma in this relationship.

Becca: Yeah, absolutely. Although [laughs] I'm not trying to pull you up to any class, I hope, except maybe into the Jane Austen fandom.

Molly: Yes, which you've successfully done. So, thank you very much for that. [00:14:00] But hilarious and so true. So, they're doing that, going back and forth, getting the ribbons, et cetera, etc. Emma sees Mrs. Weston and Frank approaching the Bates'. But when they see Emma, they immediately be lying to her. And Mrs. Weston tells Emma that they're going over to see the new piano forte at the Bates' house.

She says that Frank tells her that she absolutely promised last night that she was going to come see it this morning and I have to know-- There's two options here. One, he is telling her that, because he wanted to go into town and see either Emma or Jane Fairfax that morning. He's like, "She promised last night to come this morning." Or, Mrs. Weston was drunk and doesn't remember promising that, which I like to think is what happens.

[laughter]

Becca: It's definitely one of the two.

Molly: Yeah. I just really like the phrasing of it. She's like, "My companion here [00:15:00] tells me that I absolutely promised that I would come this morning, but I don't recall having that conversation or at least not saying that I would come this morning. I remember saying I wanted to see it."

Becca: Well, she was drunk enough to tell Emma that Knightley's got a heart on for Jane too.

Molly: So true. Mrs. Weston living it up.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: So, Frank says that maybe he can come hang out with Emma while Mrs. Weston goes into the Bates' house, and Mrs. Weston is like, "Wait, I thought you were coming with me." And he's like, "Well, I think I would be in the way, but it seems like I'd also be in the way with Emma. It looks like she doesn't really want me to come." He's trying to charm his way. He's like, "You don't really want me here, do you?" [mumbling] And then Emma says, "Well, I'm here with my friend, so you should probably go to the Bates'."

Frank is like, "Okay, but if the instrument doesn't sound good, I won't be able to fake enjoyment." And he says, "I am the wretched being in the world at a civil falsehood." And in my notes, I wrote, "I [00:16:00] don't believe that for a second." And then, Emma goes, "I don't believe that for a second."

Becca: Yeah. No, because if there's one thing Frank is, it's a bit full of shit. No matter what way you look at it, no matter what way you slice it, he's a little bit of a charmer, like how Knightley says he's a politician in some ways.

Molly: Yeah. And it's very clear. So, he will be fine.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: Emma says that she's sure he won't even need to fake it because it's going to sound great. And Mrs. Weston begs him to come with her and then he's like, "Okay, all right, let's go." She promises that they'll go to Hartfield afterwards. So, he goes with her. And then Emma goes back to Harriet, who has still not decided. That's where they have the little back and forth there.

As they are about to leave, who should appear, but Mrs. Weston again and Ms. Bates with her. And Ms. Bates, I realized when she's around, you only ever get half the conversation. You get these long paragraphs where she's like, "And how's your father? Oh, I'm so glad to hear that." I [00:17:00] just think that's really funny on Jane Austen's part that like we don't even get to hear the other half of the conversation.

Becca: Well, I think the implication is that somebody-- You're going, "Oh, good--"

Molly: Yeah, exactly.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: You're like, "Oh, okay. trying to leave now." Ms. Bates has come to ask Emma and Harriet to come and listen to the instrument too. She was like, "I figured if I brought Ms. Weston along, you guys would be more likely to say yes." And Mrs. Weston is looking like, "Yeah, sorry about this." She says that as soon as she found out that Emma was out here, she wanted to come and get her. Frank had been like, "Oh, yeah, we must have Ms. Woodhouse's opinion of the piano." I thought that was so funny because he is probably getting so much enjoyment out of this knowing that Emma was about to go home.

Becca: Yeah, Frank is being a fucking troll right now. It's probably somewhat his fault that Ms. Bates knows Emma's right outside.

Molly: Yeah. They probably got upstairs and he was like, "Oh, my God. We were just with Emma."

Becca: And she's like, "Emma's here? Oh, no, she's definitely got to come upstairs and see the pianoforte. It's such a pretty pianoforte. [00:18:00] We got to see the pianoforte."

Molly: [laughs] Yeah. So, Frank couldn't come down with her himself, because he is fixing Mrs. Bates' spectacles. And Ms. Bates says that she had been trying all morning to go get them fixed, but something earlier kept coming up and distracting her. I wanted to bring attention to theory that one of our listeners tweeted us about that Ms. Bates is kind of representative of ADHD.

Becca: Like the way her mind operates is consistent with the way an ADHD mind operates?

Molly: Yeah. She's like, "Okay, I'm going to go get these spectacles fixed." "Oh, wait, the apple delivery came. Oh, no, why did we get all these apples?" And then slowly it just spirals out of control until, "Oh, shit, it's time for Mrs. Weston to come over and I still haven't gotten the spectacles fixed. Frank's going to do it." It does ring true with at least my knowledge of ADHD and what our listeners have said.

Becca: Yes. I don't feel totally qualified to speak on the subject, because I [00:19:00] don't have ADHD, but I can understand why someone with ADHD would relate to Ms. Bates.

Molly: Yes, as someone who is taking the quiz with my psychiatrist, I can relate to Ms. Bates.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: So, anyway, just as the spectacles broke, as I said, they get a delivery of baked apples. As it turns out, Jane Fairfax doesn't eat very much ever. But when she gets hungry, she loves a baked apple.

Becca: There are two types of people when it comes to stress and food. There are the people who, when they're really stressed, don't eat a thing. And there are the people who, when they're very stressed, eat everything. I feel like Jane Fairfax is the epitome of someone who gets stressed out and stops eating.

Molly: Yeah. And I'm the epitome of someone who gets stressed out and needs everything.

Becca: Oh, I eat everything when I'm stressed. That's crazy.

Molly: I love to eat when I'm stressed.

Molly: Yeah, it's a perfect stress activity.

Molly: Yeah. At this moment, Ms. Bates asks Emma if she'll come inside and Emma is like, "Sure. Yeah, let's go." So, they all head for the Bates' house. [00:20:00] And then Ms. Bates is like, "Okay, what was I talking about?" I really liked this moment where it says that Emma wonders which thing she was talking about she's going to latch onto, because she was talking about a lot of things at once.

Becca: Oh, yeah. What's the exact line? I think I highlighted it because it was so funny. Emma wondered on what of all the medley she would fix.

Molly: Yeah, that's perfect. She says, "Oh, yes, the spectacles. Frank is fixing them right now." And then she goes, "Oh, Frank, he said that the baked apples were the finest baked apples he ever saw." And then she says, "The apples came from Donwell and that Knightley sends a sack every year." But this year she was shocked when Knightley came over one morning, saw Jane eating the apples, and she was saying how much she enjoyed them, and he was like, "Oh, are you getting to the end of your supply? I'll send you another." She was shocked by this. I too, shocked.

Becca: Yes. I mean, Mr. Knightley coming at you with the extra food as a love language.

Molly: She reminded me of the walnut at the beginning of this book.

Becca: [00:21:00] Interesting.

Molly: Interesting.

Becca: Also, I should say, this works as a seduction technique in my experience.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: I'm a good cook and I have attracted many a man by cooking.

Molly: Yeah. No, bring me a sack of apples and I'm yours. So, after Knightley left saying he was going to send them more apples, Jane was pissed. She was like, "Why did you tell him we were getting low? We should have told him we had plenty of apples." And that night, William Larkins had come over with an entire bushel of apples and revealed that it was all the apples of that kind that Knightley had. He does not have any more apples. He gave them everything.

Becca: At this point, I'm pretty sure Mrs. Weston is like, "Mm-hmm-hmm."

Molly: Mm-hmm. Mrs. Weston is giving Emma this look like, "Mm-hmm."

Becca: Emma was like, "Mm-hmm."

Molly: Yeah. Emma's still not buying it, which is weird. So, William had told them that Mrs. Hodges was bitter that Knightley won't have another apple tart that season, because he had not one left to bake or boiled. Boiled apples?

Becca: Well, you boil apples [00:22:00] for cider, I guess.

Molly: Yeah. Oh, true. They might be making cider or some sort of preservation method.

Becca: Yeah. Maybe that's how you make apple preserves. I don't know. I don't tend to eat a lot of cooked apples. I'm not really even an apple pie person. I don't know. I'm sure this makes sense in some ways. My preferred method of eating an apple is actually simply to eat one raw in the fall with a little bit of peanut butter smeared on it.

Molly: Oh, the best. Although a baked apple does sound pretty nice or like an apple crumble.

Becca: Oh, yeah. I was going to say like, if you take a cut an apple in half and you put a little brown sugar on the top and you bake it, I'm sure that's lovely.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: But it does not hit the same culinary bone as the boiled pork did in my brain.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Yeah. Whereas this one I'm like, "Yeah. No, this sounds legit." I think probably baking and boiling apples gives them something that I don't know about. But again, as someone who's not partial to cooked apples, it's not necessarily [00:23:00] my thing, the way it might be for Jane Fairfax.

Molly: Yes. And it's definitely her thing. Ms. Bates wanted to keep the fact that it was literally all of Knightley's apples a secret, but she accidentally left it, slipped to Jane. So, that's embarrassing. By this point in the story, they have arrived at their house and this brings us to the end of this chapter.

Becca: Also, love that Ms. Bates was like, "Whoops, I was not supposed to say that." And she also says it to Emma and Ms. Weston.

Molly: Yeah. She's like, "Oh, God, I wanted to keep that a secret, but you have to know about it."

Becca: Yeah. [laughs]

Molly: I love her.

Becca: Honestly, what an icon.

Molly: Yeah, she reminds me of Anne Steele a little bit, but less terrible.

Becca: She's less vulgar than Anne Steele, but has a similar lack of filter and lack of self-awareness.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: So, yeah, that certainly exists.

Molly: So sorry to interrupt, but it's time for a special segment we like to call the Economics of Podcasting about Jane Austen. Graham, the sound effect please. [00:24:00] [Economics of Podcasting about Jane Austen stinger] I know I've only read three Jane Austen books, but from my very limited experience, it seems like there's some sort of weirdness around hair in every novel. But hair weirdness should be kept in the books. When my hair started randomly falling out, I was terrified. I fell down Instagram rabbit hole after rabbit hole trying to find a treatment that would work for me. Thankfully, I had Zocdoc. I downloaded the app, plugged in my insurance, and immediately found a specialist who was able to prescribe me exactly what I needed to keep my hair just as long and luscious as Marianne Dashwood's before Willoughby chopped it off.

Zocdoc is the only free app that lets you find and book doctors who are patient reviewed, take your insurance are available when you need them and treat almost every condition under the sun. I love Zocdoc because it takes the guesswork out of finding the right doctor for my needs and for my busy schedule. If that sounds good to you, go to zocdoc.com/whomst and download the Zocdoc app for free. Then find and book a top-rated doctor today. Many are [00:25:00] available within 24 hours. That's ZOCDOC dot com slash whomst, W-H-O-M-S-T. That's zocdoc.com/whomst.

So, that brings us to Chapter 10 or Chapter 28, depending on how your book is split up. So, they enter the house and Frank is still working on the spectacles and Mrs. Bates is snoozing in the corner, and Jane is just staring at the piano. And Frank is really happy to see Emma. He's like, "Oh, I thought it would be another 10 minutes until I saw you, at least, which I thought was funny" because he was like, "Probably Ms. Bates was going to talk her ear off for 10 minutes until they arrived."

Becca: Oh, yes. [laughs]

Molly: Mrs. Weston is surprised that Frank hasn't finished with the spectacles yet, because he's just screwing in a thing. But he says that he got sidetracked, because the piano was wobbling on the uneven floor, so he was helping Jane wedge some paper under the leg, which then explains why Jane is just staring at the piano trying to see if it's [00:26:00] standing still.

Frank gets Emma to sit by him and he picks the best baked apple for her and he tries to get her to pay attention to him basically, he's like, "Oh, look at this screw. Will you help me screw it in? Do you want to baked apple?"

Becca: Attentive to Emma in this moment.

Molly: He's being very attentive to Emma in this moment.

Becca: Certainly.

Molly: Meanwhile, Jane is dawdling on starting to play and Emma thinks she's nervous and she actually feels bad for her. She's like, "I don't really want to subject this poor girl to playing for all of us right now."

Becca: Jane's going through it.

Molly: She really is.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: But then she plays and it sounds lovely. Frank says that, "Whoever Colonel Campbell sent to pick out the instrument picked well." He says that he knows Colonel Campbell's taste and he thinks that the upper notes in particular were "exactly what all that party would particularly prize." He's saying this very loud and obviously, and Emma starting to get a little uncomfortable about it.

Becca: Have you ever told someone a secret and not been [00:27:00] 1000% sure they are discreet the way you want them to be discreet?

Molly: Yes, you've done it and then immediately you text them and you're like, "Wait, that was just between us though, right?" And they're like, "Oh, yeah, totally." And you're like, "Uh-huh."

Becca: Then, they're in a situation around you where they could say something that would be problematic. "Oh, I had a really bad experience with that one time, where I don't even want to go into it, because it's too drama." But where I was like, someone knows something and they're going to blow it in front of the person you can't know. This is just a lesson in life. Always tell your secrets to only people you know are really good at keeping secrets.

Molly: Yep. Emma made a mistake here and she's realizing that. He starts trying to get Jane to comment on it, but she doesn't turn around because Mrs. Weston is saying something to her at the same time, and Emma's like, "Okay, why don't we tone it back a little bit? I was only guessing at that theory of mine. Maybe we just don't say anything else." And he's not listening to her. So, he [00:28:00] starts talking to Jane again. He's like, "Oh, do you think

that the colonel gave a direct order for the piano to be delivered on the day that it was or do you think it was more of a general thing, and he might not know that it's here yet?" And Jane says she can't assume that it was the Colonel until she receives a letter from him. Being very practical and-

Becca: Discreet.

Molly: -discreet. That's the word. He says, "Yeah, I'm just talking nonsense, because I'm busy working with these spectacles."

Becca: He's like him and this up. Have you ever had to fix spectacles in this very specific way? It takes three minutes.

Molly: Yeah, you just take a little tiny screw, you screw the screw back in.

Becca: Yeah. Frank is absolutely useless as a person, because he's just sitting there being like, "Yeah, I'm having fun with these glasses over here."

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: Unbelievable.

Molly: Yeah, he's the worst.

Becca: Yeah. [laughs]

Molly: He then asks Jane to play another song and he asks her to play one of the waltzes from the dance last night, because he noticed that she was really [00:29:00] tired and wasn't enjoying it as much as she should have been, which is rude, first of all. So, she plays it and he says, "It's so nice to hear a tune that has made one happy in the past. If I'm not mistaken, this song was danced at Weymouth."

I need to know what happened. He is hinting at something here. I don't know what, but he's like, "Can you play that one song? Yeah, I think I remember this from another party that were at Jane." Becca's doing her face. She will neither confirm nor deny.

Becca: I will neither confirm nor deny.

Molly: Jane blushes at this. So, something happened with this dance at Weymouth. She's blushing and she starts changing the song, and it's an Irish song that was sent with the piano. And Frank says, "Oh, this was so thoughtful of the Colonel to send this music," because he knew that Jane wouldn't have any here. He approves of the attention to detail saying, "Only true affection could have prompted this act."

Now, Emma is sitting there [00:30:00] wishing he would be less obvious, but then she notices Jane secretly smiling at her little piano and she feels less guilty about the amusement she's getting from Frank's obviousness, because, "This amiable, upright, perfect Jane Fairfax was apparently cherishing very reprehensible feelings."

Becca: Yeah. Emma caught Jane doing a little mm-hmm-hmm.

Molly: Like, "Ooh."

Becca: Yeah, which is great because it cuts through this armor of Jane Fairfax as this perfect stoic. And you see for a second something is under her skin.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Something's there.

Molly: I just want to know what it is.

Becca: Whomst?

Molly: Whomst even.

Becca: Yeah. [laughs]

Molly: Even so, Emma tells Frank that he's being too obvious, and Jane might understand what he's trying to say. And Frank says, "Well, I hope she will. I'm not ashamed of what I'm trying to say." And Emma says, "Yeah, but I'm ashamed and I wish I had never thought of this." And Frank says, "I'm glad you thought of it. We should leave the whole shame thing to Jane, because if she's done something wrong, she should feel it."

Now, I feel like **[00:31:00]** he's projecting. I don't know what, but I feel like he's done something wrong and he's like, "Jane should feel bad." I don't know for what. I feel like something is going on here.

Becca: Something is afoot.

Molly: Something is afoot. Emma thinks that Jane feels shame and they should put it to rest, but he goes, "Well, right now Jane is playing Mr. Dixon's favorite song. So, mm-hmm"

Becca: Mm.

Molly: Then, Ms. Bates sees Mr. Knightley out the window on horseback. This is so funny. She's like, "Okay, I'm not going to open the window in here because that'll make everyone cold." So, she goes into the other room, and she opens up the window, and Mr. Knightley's far away on horseback and she starts screaming out to him.

Becca: She's like, "Hey, what's up?"

Molly: She's like, "Over here." Then, they're having a full conversation through the window, and he immediately asks about Jane, saying, "How is she? Did she catch cold last night?" And Mrs. Weston gives Emma another very pointed look and Emma's like, "No, it's fine."

Becca: I love Mrs. Weston for just being going exactly in the **[00:32:00]** vein Emma would go in, except Emma on this one is just like, "Absolutely not."

Molly: Yeah, but oh, Emma, get with the program.

Becca: [laughs] Yeah, it was Knightfax.

Molly: Team Knightfax.

Becca: You're Team Knightfax?

Molly: Well, I think that's what's happening here.

Becca: Okay.

Molly: Mr. Knightley says he's going to Kingston and he asks if they need anything. And then Ms. Bates is like, "Oh, you know, Ms. Cole was just saying she needed something from Kingston." He's like, "Yeah, but I'm asking if you need anything from Kingston." And she then asks him to come in, and she tells him that Ms. Woodhouse and Ms. Smith are there. So, he says, "Oh, yeah, maybe I could come in for five minutes." And she's like, "Yeah, by the way, Mrs. Weston and Frank are here too." And he's like, "I can't actually come in right now."

[laughter]

Molly: It's so good.

Becca: He hates Frank so much.

Molly: I love it. He really does.

Becca: It's so perfect because he's like, "Oh, Ms. Woodhouse and Ms. Smith? I'll go say hi." And then she's like, "And Mr. Churchill?" He's like, "I will not say hi. I can't. [crosstalk] too long."

Molly: He's like, "I don't have any time right now. I have to get to Kingston and do my errands, [00:33:00] you know?"

Becca: Oh, boy.

Molly: Then Ms. Bates is like, "Oh, the party was so fun. Have you ever seen better dancing than that of Ms. Woodhouse and Mr. Churchill?" And he goes, "Yes, they were delightful and I can't say less than that, because I'm sure they can hear every single word that we're saying right now." This is my funniest quote, so I'll save reading the entire thing for later, but this whole interaction is still funny because everyone's hearing everything everyone's saying.

Then before he goes, Ms. Bates is like, "Oh, by the way, I was so shocked about the apples." And he's like, "What now?" And she says, "You shouldn't have sent us all your apples." But before she can finish saying anything, he rides off, and she's like, "Well, all right, he's gone." She comes back in, and she starts to repeat the entire conversation to them, and Jane is like, "Yeah, I know. We heard." And she's like, "Yeah. So, what he said about Kingston--"

Becca: Yes. This is a knee trade as well. I can relate to Ms. Bates on this level, because I certainly do that where I will tell the parts of the story and people would be like, "We know it." I get this from my father, who's a professor. And every time he tells a story, he has to start like 10 years before the story and tell the whole [00:34:00] thing.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: And so, I'm like, "Yeah, dad, I know that part. I don't actually think this part meant for me to know the punchline of the story."

Molly: Yeah. No, I do that too. I'm really bad about telling people stories that they told me or that they were present for. I'll be like, "Oh, this thing happened the other day" and someone will be like, "I was there." And I'm like, "You were there when this thing happened?" and I repeat all of that and they are like, "Yeah, I was there."

Becca: It happened in front of me.

Molly: Then as she's doing this, Emma gets up to leave, and she's like, "Oh, you're going soon?" And then, everyone gets up to leave. By that time, they don't really have much time off. So, Mrs. Weston and Frank just walk them to the gates of Hartfield and then go home, and that's the end of that chapter.

Becca: Which brings us to Becca's study questions. We don't have much, because obviously these chapters are light, but I think there's a lot of subtexts happening in these chapters. So, starting with the first question, Emma's regrets about the night at the Coles. What do we see in Emma's reflections on her experiences [00:35:00] as she's going through that night?

Molly: Well, what's interesting is this isn't the first time that Emma has reflected on something she's done and been like, "Hmm, maybe I shouldn't have done that." She's felt guilty now about the Martins thing, the thing with the Martins, and regretted her decision on that. She's had to talk herself into not regretting it, but she's at least felt that pang of guilt. In this situation, it's a little bit different, but this is the second time that she's regretted something that she's done.

Becca: Definitely. I would add a little wrinkle to this as well, because Emma's specific regrets here are not just breaking the girl code to Jane. It's also acting without propriety in certain regards. So, Emma is someone who's very class focused, but her instincts really are to perform in somewhat gauche ways that when she thinks back on them later, she realizes [00:36:00] are improper. So, you see Emma's etiquette slip naturally in these circumstances. And I think Frank Churchill particularly brings this out in her.

Molly: So true, because in the beginning, she would talk a lot about the gossips of Highbury and how she doesn't want to associate with them, but now she's doing it.

Becca: Yes. And I think you can see that she's behaving in ways that are inappropriate and then thinking back on it and being like, "Oh, wait,-

Molly: Right.

Becca: -I behaved in a way that's inappropriate." And she gets up in her hackles when Knightley points out that, "Maybe she was inappropriate." But when she's left to reflect on it with her own devices, she comes to that conclusion herself as well. So, Emma obviously raised very well, but her instinct is to be a little gauche and then to pull back and be like, "Oh, I was a little gauche." So, it's just worth sticking a pin in them remembering.

Molly: All right.

Becca: Yeah. Why did Frank force Emma up to the Bates' interaction?

Molly: That's [00:37:00] a great question. One, I think he wants to keep hanging out with her, but two, I think that he wants to start drama. He wants her to witness. He thinks it's cool that he's doing with goading Jane on and trying to get something out of her. He thinks that he and Emma are maybe in this together, and Emma is having her little regrets, but he's like, "No, this is fun. Let's keep doing our thing that were doing last night."

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Yeah, I think that's probably part of it.

Becca: Okay. I will not confirm or deny anything.

Molly: All right.

Becca: But I want to thinking about why Frank is pulling Emma in here. What do you think of Frank's behavior here? Clearly, there's a lot going on with his behavior. Let's start with his behavior towards Ms. Bates. How much of it do you think he's being sincere and how much of it do you think he's mocking?

Molly: He's Logan Huntzberger.

Becca: Yeah, he's Logan [00:38:00] Huntzberger.

Molly: He's aware of what he's doing. He's aware that-- He's just Logan Huntzberger. I don't even know what else to say about it.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: The way that Logan interacts with Emily Gilmore, which is full of respect and same with Richard. He respects them, he'll say all the right things, but then he'll talk shit behind their backs if he wants to. That's the same thing here. I think that he's different, because Ms. Bates is below him and annoying, but he is like, "Oh, yeah, these are the best apples ever. Oh, my God. These apples, this is so funny. I could get so much better."

Becca: Yeah. Part of it is that Frank is just like a really charming guy, but also, I think there's a part of him that's amused by how ridiculous Ms. Bates is.

Molly: Yeah. He's willing to be however he's going to be. Yeah, he's amused by how Ms. Bates is and he knows that Emma doesn't like to deal with it, and that's also part of why he was like, "Yeah, let's bring Emma up. This will be fun."

Becca: Yeah. So, then let's talk about his [00:39:00] poking of Jane and the Mr. Dixon situation.

Molly: That's wild to me. He is really pushing the bounds of what's proper.

Becca: Why?

Molly: He knows something about her and she knows something about him, like something happened and he's on her case. But why would he do it publicly? I think, again, he is Logan Huntzberger in that he's kind of a problem child. He's trying to start drama, he's been privileged his whole life to-- well, not his whole life, but from three years old on or whatever, to people look up to him and think that he's the best, and he can get away with whatever he wants.

Becca: I will neither confirm or deny. Last thing I'll say is Jane is clearly hiding some shit in the chapter. What do you make of her behavior towards Knightley, her aunt, Emma, Frank? Because as we said, Jane is a bit of an enigma. We don't have a lot of insight into this mystery, but you can see how she interacts with each different character slightly differently. [00:40:00] And what does each character say about her?

Molly: It's weird. Her relationship with Frank is super weird because obviously, she's not just sitting there and taking it. She is blushing and stuff when he says stuff. But she's also like, "I'm not going to engage with you right now." And so, that's bold for her to stand up to him in that way when he was like, "What do you think about this?" And she's like, "I'm not making any assumptions." So, she's definitely aware of what he is doing and aware-- She knows that he knows whatever the thing is between them.

I don't think she said two words to Emma. I don't know if she hates Emma as much as Emma hates her. [Becca laughs] It's possible. Or, she thinks Emma's cool. I don't really know. But she's definitely hiding something, and I don't know what it is. I feel like I'm believing this thing about Mr. Dixon, but I also feel like if Emma's right about that that would be too easy. I'm [00:41:00] thinking that Mr. Churchill and Frank have something-- not Mr. Churchill and Jane have something going on or had something going on. So, yeah, that's where my mind is at right now.

Becca: Okay. That's all I have in terms of study questions. But I really think it's unmistakable at this point in the book that no matter what happened between Frank and Jane with Mr. Dixon and Mrs. Dixon, there's something potent that we're not privy to right now.

Molly: Yes, definitely.

Becca: So, let's leave that on the table somewhere.

Molly: All right.

Becca: And that brings us to the standbys. What do you think of Emma?

Molly: In this chapter, I feel like Emma is showing a deeper understanding of society societal norms like self-awareness. I like when she regrets her dumb actions.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: So, I'm proud of her for that. But [00:42:00] I don't think she's doing enough.

Becca: She needs to do the work.

Molly: Yes. She's like, "Maybe we should be quiet. Oh, wait. Jane is blushing right now."

Becca: "So, I'm having more fun with it."

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Yeah. And I think that goes to whatever the flirtation is going on between Emma and Frank, it just makes everything a little-- it tinges everything with this other thing where they're like-- he's trying to impress her, she's trying to seduce him. It's all underneath the surface of them just having a ball and being a little bit out there for the etiquette of their time.

Molly: But also, she is starting to maybe realize maybe she shouldn't have shared this particular nugget with him in particular.

Becca: Exactly. So, Emma's better angels working against her base her instincts.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Yeah. Funniest quote?

Molly: So, this is Mr. Knightley after he's asked how well Emma and Mr. Frank Churchill danced the night before. He says, "Oh! very delightful [00:43:00] indeed. I can say nothing less, for I suppose Miss Woodhouse and Mr. Frank Churchill are hearing everything that passes. And (raising his voice still more) I do not see why Miss Fairfax should not be mentioned too. I think Miss Fairfax dances very well, and Mrs. Weston is the very best country-dance player, without exception, in England. Now, if your friends have any gratitude, they will say something pretty loud about you and me in return, but I cannot stay to hear it."

Becca: Goodbye.

Molly: Bye. And then, he rides away.

Becca: Yeah, it's like, "Emma and Frank are great at dancing. Everybody else is also great at dancing. Goodbye."

Molly: Yeah. "I just particularly liked that. Now, they should say something nice about you and me too. Peace."

Becca: Goodbye.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Questions moving forward?

Molly: The standing question still stands. What the heck happens between Jane and Frank? What does he know? What does she know? What is going on with Jane? I think that's my biggest question going forward from this chapter.

Becca: Fair enough. Who wins the chapters?

Molly: Ooh. I almost want to give it to Ms. Bates [00:44:00] for she just dominated the conversation and the plot driving forward of this chapter. But also, Emma for having a little bit of self-awareness in this chapter and saying, "Maybe we're being too obvious." She didn't get there all the way yet, but she has a small win and Ms. Bates has a small win, I think.

Becca: All right, we'll take it.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Listeners, that concludes this episode of Pod and Prejudice. For next time, please read the next two chapters, which I believe are Volume II, 11 and 12 or if your book hasn't broken up into Volumes, that would be Chapters 29 and 30. Molly, how are you feeling all about all this?

Molly: I can't wait. I'm hoping that something gets revealed soon, but who knows?

Becca: Yes. Well, until next time, men, stay proper-

Molly: -and bake an apple.

Becca: Sounds good.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Hmm?

Molly: Why not?

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