

Molly: Hey, everyone. Before we begin today, we want to thank our newest patrons, Carly and Zsofi. Welcome to the team. Plus, a pronunciation correction for our patron, Finn. If you want to be like these awesome people and get access to bonus content like our notes, outtakes, bonus episodes, and more, check out our Patreon at patreon.com/podandprejudice.

And now, enjoy this week's episode covering Chapters 33 and 34 of *Emma*.

Are you ready?

Becca: I am. Are we recording?

Molly: We are.

[Pod and Prejudice theme]

Becca: Well, then, this is Becca.

Molly: This is Molly.

Becca: We are here to talk about Jane Austen.

Molly: We are here specifically to talk about--

Molly and Becca: *Emma*.

Becca: Listeners, if you're new here, I, Becca, have read many a Jane Austen novel.

Molly: And I, Molly, have never read Jane Austen before now. [giggles]

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. [00:01:00]

Molly: No, today, we are talking about Volume II, Chapters 15 and 16 of *Emma*, or if your book isn't broken up into Volumes, that's Chapters 33 and 34.

Becca: This is where I cut a dinner party in half, guys. My bad. I just thought the chapters were too long.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Yeah. So, I was like, "I'm not going to make Molly read through all of a massive dinner party by herself."

Molly: Yeah. To be fair, I feel like in the course of a week or two or whenever we record, I never have time to read more than two chapters.

Becca: Listen, this works out well, because then also we can go a little deeper. The thing about *Emma* as a book is that the chapters are a little longer than some of our other books we've read. So, there's more to unpack. By more to unpack, I mean more sass.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: There's just more sass in this book, and particularly in some of these chapters because of who? That's right.

Molly: Mrs. Elton.

Becca: Augusta Hawkins herself.

Molly: Oh, the worst.

Becca: [laughs] **[00:02:00]** Oh, yeah, Augusta will aggravate you. Okay. So, there are a lot of villains we've had in Jane Austen novels so far. We've had our Wickham, we've had our Willoughby, we've had our Fanny Dashwood. For some reason, Augusta Hawkins is, like, more annoying than all of them.

Molly: She's just irritating.

Becca: So irritating.

Molly: It's the absolute conviction that she's better than you.

Becca: The thing is that everybody knows Augusta Hawkins in real life. She talks like this and said things like, "Mm, are you sure you want to wear that?"

Molly and Becca: Mm.

Becca: "You poor thing. Have you ever thought maybe that's why you're single?"

Molly: [laughs] She's like, "Oh, my gosh. I should introduce you to my best friend's cousin."

Becca: "Yeah. He's just, like, a little bit more in your wheelhouse, you know?"

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Yeah, yeah, **[00:03:00]** yeah. [laughs]

Molly: She is awful. I feel like there's a character in pop culture that I'm just picturing, [Becca laughs] but I can't think of who it is. Why are you laughing at me?

Becca: Because there's a modern-day adaptation of Emma that's very famous. [laughs]

Molly: Are you talking about *Clueless*?

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Yeah. And I think I've seen it, so maybe I just have this image in my head.

Becca: Yes. I'm not going to confirm or deny anything, but that's why I was laughing. But who's another good example of this kind of character?

Molly: There's like Sharpay.

Becca: Sharpay. But justice for Sharpay.

Molly: We love Sharpay, but Sharpay was the worst.

Becca: Listen, we've all been the musical theater girl who tried too hard in high school and then got outshone by just like the shy but popular girl.

Molly: Is *High School Musical* based on *Emma*?

Becca: Vanessa Hudgens truly plays Jane **[00:04:00]** Fairfax to a tee in that movie.

Molly: Yeah, that's exactly what I'm thinking. Like, she's Jane Fairfax, Sharpay is-- Well, yeah.

Becca: Do you know who did jump to my head? Lana from *The Princess Diaries*.

Molly: Mandy Moore?

Becca: Mm-hmm.

Molly: Mm, yes, exactly.

Becca: yeah.

Molly: You're so right. And she's, like, fake nice.

Becca: Oh, yeah.

Molly: When she realizes that Anne Hathaway's hot.

Becca: Yeah, exactly. Just like a bully who wants to appropriate people for her own means.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Yeah. [laughs]

Molly: So, should we talk about the chapters?

Becca: Oh, yeah. Let's.

Molly: So, Mrs. Elton, just as we've been saying thinks she is hot shit, and similarly, Mr. Elton thinks she's hot shit. He thinks he has brought someone into Highbury who is better than Emma.

Becca: Which how dare.

Molly: How dare?

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: Does he really think that or is he just like, "Look, I'm married"?

Becca: Well, again, we have Emma the unreliable narrator.

Molly: [00:05:00] For sure.

Becca: So, you could read this as Mr. Elton is stupid enough to think that, because she's rich, she has the same class Polish that Emma has, which she clearly doesn't.

Molly: Right.

Becca: Or, you could read it as Mr. Elton being like, "I'm going to parade around my new wife, so my ex can suck it."

Molly: Yeah. Oh, his ex. [laughs] Wasn't even his ex that never liked him?

Becca: Oh, exactly. But listen, that happens sometimes.

Molly: So true. So true.

Becca: Yes.

Molly: So, the general public like Ms. Bates, etc., take it for granted that Mrs. Elton is just as hot shit as she says she is. Emma doesn't contradict this to anyone. She's just like, "Yeah, she's very well dressed and pleasant." That's all she ever says about her. Mrs. Elton then gets worse, because she realizes Emma doesn't like her and starts not liking Emma back. And to Emma, that's the worst possible offense.

Becca: Yes. [laughs]

Molly: Emma is very pleased that this means that Mrs. Elton doesn't want [00:06:00] to be her friend anymore, but at the same time, she likes being liked, so she's salty about it. Both the Eltons are rude to Harriet, and it becomes obvious that Mrs. Elton knows that Harriet used to have a thing for Mr. Elton. And Emma's pretty sure that Elton has told her bad things about Emma as well.

Becca: Do you think that's true? Do you think Emma's just catastrophizing and being anxious?

Molly: I think Emma thinks people talk about her more than they do.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: She's like, "I'm pretty sure my own role in the whole Harriet thing has been painted in a negative light," and blah, blah, blah. It's like, you think they're thinking about you more than they are.

Becca: She's like, "The two Eltons sit around in their home and talk shit about me."

Molly: Yeah, she's like, "When they run out of things to talk about, the easiest thing to do would be to talk shit about Emma."

Becca: Exactly. [giggles]

Molly: "To talk shit about Miss Woodhouse."

Becca: Oh, my God, she feels so bad for herself. It's iconic.

Molly: It's so good.

[laughter]

Becca: Wait. It's like that meme. I've been waiting for Emma for that meme from *New Girl*, where it's like, **[00:07:00]** "This is the hardest thing I've ever had to go through. I haven't had a very hard life."

Molly: Oh, my God. Wait, you're so right.

Becca: That's Emma in every chapter of this book.

Molly: Oh, my God, I can't wait to use it.

Becca: Now, you see why I made you save it, right?

Molly: Yes. Listeners, I tried to make a meme for-- I think that was *Pride and Prejudice*. No, it was for *Sense and Sensibility*. When they had to move to Barton Cottage, I was like, "I want to use this meme of Jess from *New Girl* saying, 'This is the hardest thing I've ever had to go through. I haven't had a very hard life.'" And Becca said, "No, save it for an unnamed character in the future." And I was like, "Oh, okay."

Becca: For Emma. [laughs]

Molly: And here it is.

Becca: Here it is.

Molly: So, I've been waiting. Mrs. Elton just loves Jane Fairfax in a gay way, and [Becca laughs] she just really won't stop talking about her.

Becca: Normally, I would agree with you, but also at the same time, Mrs. Elton's so fucking straight. But everyone being attracted to Jane Fairfax is canon.

Molly: Yes. It's like, "Do I want to be her or do **[00:08:00]** her?"

Becca: We're going to talk about that in study questions.

Molly: Amazing. I love it. Anyway, she loves Jane Fairfax. Emma notes that she doesn't just love Jane Fairfax, because Emma turned her friendship down, so she has to go to the next

eligible young lady for friendship. But she always liked Jane, even before Emma turned her friendship down.

Becca: And why might she?

Molly: Well, Jane's great.

Becca: Not only that, but Jane is very unassuming.

Molly: Oh, Mrs. Elton loves when people are unassuming, because it makes her feel really good about herself.

Becca: Not to mention the fact that even if she doesn't like Emma as a person, Emma is better than her in some ways.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: She probably picks up on the fact that Emma thinks that Jane is poor and refined at the same time. Perfect catch for her, because she's beautiful. But Mrs. Elton doesn't have to be upset about that because Mrs. Elton's married.

Molly: Right.

Becca: She's accomplished, which means she's a good companion, but [00:09:00] she is beneath Mrs. Elton because she has no money.

Molly: Yeah. She knows that her status is lower than Mrs. Elton, so she's not going to try to make herself seem better than Mrs. Elton. Mrs. Elton likes to feel like the head honcho of a friendship. She basically wants a Harriet, how Emma has a Harriet.

Becca: Interesting, right?

Molly: Mm-hmm.

Becca: Interesting parallels.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Does she?

Molly: Oh, it says that the way she behaves or talks about Jane is knight-errand, which I had to look up, and it means-- Well, it literally means a medieval knight wandering in search of chivalrous adventures. So, the way that she's just picking things out, she's like, "Oh, I'm going to help Jane with that. Oh, Jane needs someone to do this for her. I'm going to do that or take her shopping."

Becca: Poor Jane. She needs so much help. Let me rescue her.

Molly: Exactly. So, she's like a knight wandering around aimlessly being like, "Oh, I'll help you. Damsel in distress."

Becca: [00:10:00] Yes.

Molly: She says she doesn't want to let Jane's talents go to waste and then she recites poetry, which I just thought was a great nod back to Elton's terrible poetry at the beginning.

Becca: [laughs] It's so good.

Molly: They're a perfect match.

Becca: Oh, they really-- Aren't they, though?

Molly: They are.

Becca: It's so hard to say that they're a hapless group of people just in an economic proposition when they're perfect for each other.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: So true. At one point, she's talking with Emma about this, and Emma is like, "Jane's situation isn't as dire as you're making it seem once you find out how she grew up. She grew up with the Campbells, she had a great life." And Mrs. Elton's like, "But that's all over now. Her life is basically over," and she knows it. That's where she says, "She's timid and silent," and she likes her like that [laughs] because she likes to be the one talking.

Becca: You don't know you're beautiful.

Molly: Exactly. And that's what makes you beautiful and I have so many problems with that song, and I have so many problems with Mrs. Elton.

Becca: Yeah, it goes with the same with the poetry as [00:11:00] well. "Full many a flower is born to blush unseen. And waste its fragrance on the desert air." Basically, saying like, "Oh, poor Jane. She doesn't even know how special she is."

Molly: Yeah, exactly. Emma starts to say that everyone already loves Jane so much, like, people show her attention. Be hard to show her more attention, but as she's saying this, Mrs. Elton cuts her off and she's like, "No, but you and I, we have the resources to help her, and other people, when they see us helping her will follow." I noticed that Mrs. Elton does this a couple of times in this chapter where she likes to say, "Oh, well, we are going to do this." She does this with Emma right now and then she does it later with Mrs. Weston where she's like, "Oh, but you and I must do this together."

Becca: "You know what we're going to do? We're going to brunch."

Molly: Yeah, exactly.

Becca: "We're going to brunch."

Molly: Exactly.

Becca: "I'll text you, because we're going to brunch."

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Exactly.

Becca: It's so judgmental of women with high pitched voices.

Molly: [laughs] Hey, listen, I have a high pitch voice.

Becca: No, of course. [00:12:00] As a woman who sometimes gets into a Valley Girl accent, I know it's not an indicator of intelligence, but it's just so much fun-

Molly: It is fun.

Becca: -to do your classic romcom accent from California.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: And she is literally going like, "Well, we're going to brunch."

Becca: Yeah, "We're going to brunch." Just have to go somewhere that we can eat healthy, because I don't want to get bloated, you know what I mean?

Molly: Yeah. We got to get acai bowls.

Becca: Yeah, but acai bowl with the side of a tequila sunrise, maybe. I just feel like mimosas are too sugary.

Molly: Mimosas are cliché.

Becca: It's just cliché. I want to be a little classier, but also a little drunker. What's the point if I'm going to drink a drink with brunch and it's not going to get me a little tipsy the first time around? You know what I mean?

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: I'm Augusta. I'm Augusta. [laughs]

Molly: I'm Augusta.

Becca: [laughs] Augusta.

Molly: Oh, we hate her.

Becca: Oh.

Molly: Then, she goes on to say that she lives in such a style where there will always be enough food for Jane [00:13:00] because she's more likely to have too much food, because she's used to extravagance in her lifestyle and she would never regret having Jane over. There would never not be enough.

Becca: "My greatest danger, perhaps, in housekeeping may be quite the other way in doing too much, in being too careless of expense. I just spent so much money making my house so perfect."

Molly: Yeah, exactly. She says that she's going to take Jane under her wing and introduce her to extensive acquaintance, which I think is funny, because she's the one who just moved there, like, Jane knows everyone already. So, who is she going to introduce her to?

Becca: Well, she's like, "This stinky little town has nothing to offer, and so let me take Jane to where real people are so we can go brunch."

Molly: Oh. She's like, "Oh, we're going to take her to London."

Becca: Yeah. She's like, "Let me show you, actually, my girlfriends. You're going to have the best fucking time and we're going to go brunch. And then you'll have a way to meet a husband, because you're just, like, you're too pretty to be poor."

Molly: You're too pretty to be poor. [laughs] Wait, what is that from?

Becca: It's not from anything. I just [00:14:00] said it.

Molly: I feel like there's a line in something where it's like, "I'm too pretty to be poor."

Becca: You're thinking of *Bridesmaids*, where she goes, "Help me, I'm poor."

Molly: No, I've never seen *Bridesmaids*.

Becca: Oooh, that's recorded. That's on air, folks. She hasn't seen *Bridesmaids*.

Molly: I know. Mel and I were just talking about this the other day. She was shocked.

Becca: I am shocked you have not seen *Bridesmaids*. You know Melissa McCarthy is in there, right?

Molly: Ah, I know she poops in the street.

Becca: She doesn't poop in the street. Maya Rudolph poops in the street.

Molly: Where does Melissa McCarthy poop? A sink?

Becca: At sink.

Molly: All right.

[laughter]

Molly: See, that scarred me, just knowing that.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: I think I'd seen that scene and I had to leave. But yes, she also says she's going to introduce her to her brother and sister and take her around in the barouche-landau.

Becca: Not the barouche-landau.

[laughter]

Molly: Emma's response to this. Emma says, "Poor Jane Fairfax! You have not deserved this. You may have done wrong with regard to Mr. Dixon, but this is a punishment beyond what you can have merited! [Becca laughs] **[00:15:00]** The kindness and protection of Mrs. Elton! Jane Fairfax and Jane Fairfax.' Heavens! Let me not suppose that she dares go about, Emma Woodhouse-ing me! But upon my honour, there seems no limits to the licentiousness of that woman's tongue!"

Becca: Ah, it's like we've been waiting for someone who deserves Emma's level of sass.

Molly: And we found her.

Becca: We found her in Augusta.

Molly: We really did. Thank God for Augusta.

Becca: God bless Augusta. [laughs]

Molly: For our listeners who may not know what licentious means, it means disregarding accepted rules or conventions, especially in grammar or literary style. Basically, Emma Woodhouse her all she wants, because she's got no game. I don't know if that makes sense.

Becca: No, I got what you mean. She talks poorly.

Molly: Luckily, Emma never has to hear her say anything like, "Dear Miss Woodhouse," because shortly after that is when she decides she doesn't like Emma anymore and stops talking to her. Emma is amused to watch Ms. Bates and **[00:16:00]** Mrs. Elton interact, because Ms. Bates is the exact kind of person that Mrs. Elton likes to be around, because she's like, "Oh, yes, very grateful to be talked to by her and very supportive of everything that she says."

Becca: So, she's like, "You can just adore me. I don't care what else you say."

Molly: Exactly.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Emma's surprised, however, that Jane so willingly accepts the attention from Mrs. Elton and hangs out with her. She would have thought that Jane's pride and taste could not endure Mrs. Elton, which is interesting. Emma has made this decision that Jane is proud and has high tastes.

Becca: Well, I don't even think it's that. First of all, Mrs. Elton, as we've learned, is classless in a lot of ways, and Jane is polished. That's part of the reason people think of her as a good match for Emma. She's in tune with what high society should be like.

Molly: Mm-hmm.

Becca: And then, on the other hand, it's not even that Jane is proud. It's that Mrs. Elton is so demeaning to Jane.

Molly: She is really demeaning to her.

Becca: So condescending, so [00:17:00] patronizing that anyone's pride would be bruised. So, I don't even know if she's censoring Jane here. I think she's just basically like, "How could you stand that woman for more than 30 seconds?"

Molly: Yeah, I guess in a way, she's sympathizing with Jane here like, "Why are you hanging out with her? She keeps saying, "Oh, you're so poor. It's so cute."

Becca: It's like, "Oh, my God, honey, you don't know what you're doing."

Molly: I got so mad at her. We're going to get there in a minute. But when she was like, "You can't take care of yourself." It's like, "Shut the fuck up."

Becca: Be quiet, Augusta.

Molly: Be quiet, Augusta. Jane puzzles Emma in general because she's like, "Why does she stay here when she's got nothing here and why does she choose the companionship of Mrs. Elton over people who really love her, like, the Campbells?" My thought is that she's got some drama over at home with the Campbells, and that's why she is staying here and Emma is using this to say, "Hmm, I wonder if she's got some drama at home with the Campbells."

Another [00:18:00] thing that came up word wise is privations, which is a state in which things that are essential for human wellbeing, such as food and warmth are scarce or lacking. So, she's saying, "Jane is poor. Why is she here?" The Campbells are staying in Ireland longer than expected and wrote to Jane to join them saying, "They would take care of everything, the travel, the lodging, whatever," and Jane is still not going. So, Emma thinks there must be something or someone that has said to Jane, whether it's Jane or someone else saying, "You cannot be with the Dixons. What is it?" So, Emma's just furthering down her rabbit hole of Jane and Mr. Dixon. But mostly she's wondering why she hangs out with the Eltons. Emma then brings this up to Mrs. Weston, who says, "Well, you can't really blame Jane for wanting to get out of the house when you think about who her aunt is."

Becca: It also shows her to have a pretty high tolerance for obnoxious people.

Molly: Yes. Well, we knew that, because [00:19:00] she's just so-

Becca: Quiet.

Molly: -quiet, but yeah.

Becca: Also, I would note this is the sass scene where it's Mrs. Weston, Emma, and Knightley, and I want to hang.

Molly: So, first, it's Emma and Mrs. Weston and they're talking and then it says, and Knightley said this, and I was like, "He's there too?"

Becca: Perfect.

Molly: I was just like, "Oh, my God, this is the best hang sesh [Becca laughs] ever."

Becca: This is our fav group.

Molly: They're going to just dish.

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Knightley says that he is sure that Mrs. Elton wouldn't be Jane's first choice of friend, but "she receives attentions from Mrs. Elton, which nobody else pays her, and he gives Emma a meaningful look." I know that he's like saying Emma doesn't pay enough attention to Jane and we all know this, but also everyone else gives Jane attention.

Becca: Yeah, but everybody else is old and like out of the realm of being natural friends with her.

Molly: So, he's saying, people who are Jane's age, you don't show her enough attention.

Becca: Yeah, it's basically like, "She has a natural best friend right here, Emma, but you're mean to her."

Molly: [00:20:00] Oh. She wouldn't be her first choice of friend, but the only other person who would is you.

Becca: Yeah-- [crosstalk]

Molly: I get it. Okay, I get it.

Becca: Yep. It's like Jane has a best friend, and Mrs. Dixon obviously barring complications. So, she understands what young lady friendships should look like, but she's in a tough spot whenever she goes home because Emma fucking hates her for no reason.

Molly: Yeah. Gay.

Becca: Gay. Also, every time Knightley puts on his "I ship Emma and Jane being friends" cap, it's so funny.

Molly: It's so cute.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: So, Mrs. Weston and Emma both notice how strongly he seems to be reacting to this conversation about Jane. And Emma then says, "Well, I would have thought that attention from Mrs. Elton would discuss Jane." And Mrs. Weston says, "Well, maybe Ms. Bates pushed her into the friendship," because Ms. Bates was so like, "Oh, yeah, come over. Hang out with us." And Knightley says, "Mrs. Elton probably doesn't speak to Jane the [00:21:00] way that he speaks of her," because the way she's been speaking of her is very like, "Oh, poor Jane. I'm going to have to do this and this and this for her. She needs me." But he says that, "She probably doesn't say that to her. She probably treats her with respect in person, because she's never met someone like Jane who so deserves that respect with her level of wealth or lack thereof, and Jane is more polished than Mrs. Elton."

Becca: Yeah, but I don't even think Mrs. Elton sees that, because Mrs. Elton sees everything in terms of money.

Molly: Sure.

Becca: So, she doesn't even seem to realize, even though she realizes Jane is polished. I don't think she realizes Jane is more polished than her.

Molly: Do you think that there's any bit of like, "I want this person to be my friend because I see that she is a worthwhile friend to have," because it seems less the way of Emma taking Harriet under her wing. Emma loves Harriet, but it seems like Knightley is at least trying to [00:22:00] say, "She's not just taking her under her wing because she thinks she's poor. She's taking her under her wing because she thinks she's worthy and she wants this person to be her friend and show off her fancy new friend, like, her shiny friend."

Becca: We'll talk about it more in the study questions.

Molly: Okay. As he's saying this stuff, Emma's suddenly thinking of little Henry. Meaning, she's thinking, "Oh, no, does he love Jane?" And she says, "Well, I know how highly you think of Jane." And he's like, "Yeah, everyone knows how highly I think of Jane." And Emma says, "Well, I think that maybe--" and she hesitates here and then she's like, "Okay. I think that maybe you might be surprised by how much you like Jane, actually, one day."

Becca: And then, Mrs. Weston's just like-- record scratch.

Molly: [laughs] Yeah, she's like, "Are we doing this?"

Becca: "Is this happening?"

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: "We can't bring it up yet."

Molly: She's like, "It's not time."

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: Knightley is like, he's fiddling with the buttons on his gators, which is his little leather thing on [00:23:00] his shoe.

Becca: I love Knightley so much. He's such a fucking disaster. He's just like, "Oh, no."

Molly: He's like, "No, I don't know what you're talking about."

Becca: That's not me. You have not gotten me.

Molly: He says, "If you're talking about theory that I have a crush on Jane, Cole already told me that people think that a while ago."

Becca: No.

Molly: And no, it's not true.

Becca: "It's not true. I don't have a crush."

Molly: Mrs. Weston is kicking Emma under the table. This is my favorite thing. It's like, Mrs. Weston starts kicking Emma under the table, and then later on he says something else and Emma starts kicking Mrs. Weston under the table, and they're just kicking each other.

[laughter]

Molly: He says, "It doesn't matter anyway, because even if I did like Jane, she would never have me if I were ever to ask her, and I would never ask her. So, no." And Emma's kicking Mrs. Weston, and she [00:24:00] goes, "Well, at least you're not vain. You know that she would never have you."

Becca: [laughs] So sassy.

Molly: Truly. He's clearly not pleased by whatever their conversation is having. He's thinking and then he goes out of the blue, well, not out of the blue. Then he goes, "So, you guys have decided that I shouldn't marry Jane Fairfax?" And Emma's like, "No, I don't want you to get married at all, because then you wouldn't come and hang out with us and talk with us like this, if you're married," and she'd miss him. The way that she says it is really sweet. She says, "No indeed I have not. You have scolded me too much for matchmaking, for me to presume to take such a liberty with you. What I said just now, meant nothing. One says those sort of things, of course, without any idea of a serious meaning. Oh! no, upon my word I have not the smallest wish for your marrying Jane Fairfax or Jane anybody. You would not come in and sit with us in this comfortable way, if you were married." She wants to hang out.

Becca: Yeah, she loves him. He's her bestie.

Molly: He's her best friend. Then he says, "Well, it doesn't matter. I've never [00:25:00] thought of Jane in that way. She doesn't have the open temper which a man would want in a wife."

Becca: To which I say, I'm not confirming whether or not Knightley believes this to be true or not. I just love the idea that our man, Knightley, sexy as he is loves a blabby broad, because that's me. I'm a blabby broad.

Molly: [laughs] Yes, and I have thoughts about it. So, he says he loves blabby broad and Emma says, "So, did you shut this idea down when Cole brought it up too?" And he says, "Yes." And Cole dropped it because he doesn't want to be "wiser or wittier" than his neighbors, which then makes Emma think of Mrs. Elton. So, she goes back to Mrs. Elton and she starts talking about the friendship between her and Jane again. She's wondering how it came to be. She agrees with Mrs. Weston that Ms. Bates probably encouraged the friendship, because what Knightley said about Mrs. Elton [00:26:00] wanting to be Jane's friend because of her whatever Jane-ness of it, she doesn't believe that. She thinks that it's purely-

Becca: Superiority.

Molly: -superiority, like, her superiority complex. So, she's talking about that and Knightley is not listening. He's still thinking about the whole Jane thing, and he goes out of the blue, "Jane has strong sensibilities and an excellent temper, but she wants openness. She's reserved and I love an open temper," not talking about it anymore.

Becca: [laughs] Oh, God, Mr. Knightley is fantastic.

Molly: He's so good. And then he goes, "Until Cole brought it up, I never even thought of Jane like that," anyway.

Becca: And then he's like, "Bye."

Molly: And then he leaves. Emma goes to Mrs. Weston. She's like, "So, what do you think now?" And Mrs. Weston's like, "The lady doth protest too much, methinks." [00:27:00]

Becca: She's like, "She's so focused on telling us how much he's not in love with her that I think you might have missed that he's in love with her."

Molly: Yeah. I don't know what I think about it, but it seems like the lady doth protest too much.

Becca: Well, I think that's the end of the chapter.

Molly: That's the end of the chapter. So, that brings us to Chapter 16 or Chapter 34. So, everyone wants to go see the Eltons, and everyone's throwing them dinner parties, and Mrs. Elton's like, "Oh, we're so popular. We have plans every night. Look at us." And she just

loves parties because of her time in bath. She's so used to parties and she is shocked that people don't have two drawing rooms. She's shocked at the subpar roux cakes or root cakes, which are tiny, rich, sweet cakes made from roots or evening parties or rouxs, I don't know that they don't have ice at the card parties, and she's like, "I got to show them how it's done. I'm going to throw my own party, but later on in the spring." In the meantime, Emma must throw her a dinner at Hartfield, because she doesn't want [00:28:00] to do less than anyone else and be considered "capable of pitiful resentment."

Becca: God, I love this, because you know what? I still associate this as English culture.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: Throwing a party so no one thinks you're mad at anybody.

Molly: A spite party.

Becca: It's just like, "Oh, it would be implied to do this, even though I hate this person and they hate me. So, we should still do it." [laughs]

Molly: Yeah, like., "We're still going to have this party."

Becca: It's great.

Molly: She gets Mr. Woodhouse to agree to the party, but someone else must sit at the bottom of the table. Is that like the head of the table?

Becca: I think so.

Molly: Okay. He just doesn't want to be at the head of the table.

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Okay.

Becca: He just wants to sit in the corner with his gruel, as per ushe.

Molly: Yeah. They're going to invite the Westons, Mr. Knightley, and Emma wants to invite Harriet to be the eighth out of-- she's her best friend, so she has to, but that would be the most uncomfortable party ever. So, luckily, Harriet says no, and that was Emma's plan.

Becca: She knew that was going to be the case, although Harriet's like, "Oh, my [00:29:00] God, I just can't bear him to see him so happy." And Emma's like, "He shit." [laughs]

Molly: Yeah. So, Emma invites the person she really wanted to invite, which is Jane for the drama, but also because Knightley said that she doesn't show Jane enough attention and she wants to prove Knightley wrong. So, she invites Jane and everyone says yes to coming to the party. So, all her invitations were successful. But then a complication arises.

Becca: This is the worst thing that's ever happened to be comes in for Emma, because not an extra person coming to a party.

Molly: Not an extra person who's going to be grumpy about it.

Becca: Who is that extra person, you might ask?

Molly: John Knightley, baby.

Becca: Yeah. [imitates sound]

Molly: My dude. He wants to drop off his two kids and to come visit their grandpa and he's like, "Oh, can I stay the day at Hartfield?" And they're like, "Well, that's the same day as our party." That's going to be one extra person at the table.

Becca: I love that. Emma's like, "Oh, God, it's going to be impossible because not only is that an extra [00:30:00] person at the table, but then John Knightley is going to complain that he can't come visit us with having to go to a dinner party."

Molly: [giggles] Because you can just picture him coming and they're like, "So, we're having people over tonight," and he's like, "God fucking damn it."

Becca: Oh, Michelle.

Molly: Oh, he is Michelle.

Becca: He is Michelle.

Molly: But Emma rolls with it and she's like, "It's okay. He might be a ninth person, but he never says anything anyway at parties. So, it'll be fine. He's going to complain, but he'll at least not talk too much." Unfortunately, on the day, Mr. Weston is called to town he can't come to dinner, which relieves Mr. Woodhouse because that brings it back to eight, which is a manageable number for his brain. But Emma's sad about it. Then the day comes, John arrives, and he is doing his best to be amiable.

Becca: [laughs] Just being like, "Hello, everyone. I'm here."

Molly: I like that. It says specifically that he doesn't talk to Mrs. Elton. He just looks at her.

Becca: I love this part so much, [00:31:00] because I can picture the sass exuding off of John Knightley, but also because he says the real point he has in observing Mrs. Elton is to tell Isabella. The amount that couples talk shit to each other when they leave parties, it's so true today.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: You know the moment where you get back and you're just like, "It is time to unload all the drama. Here is everything that happened." I went to a bachelorette party and suffice it to say, there was drama for portions of the weekend that I will not disclose, and I told Mike every waking moment of that bachelorette party-

Molly: Oh, my God.

Becca: -and he was loving it.

Molly: Wow. Yeah. So, that's exactly what's going to happen here. I just love that he's being the faithful husband who goes and is like, "Don't worry, I'll let you know everything about her."

Becca: I'm picturing him coming back in and being like, "My dear, let me tell you, this [00:32:00] Augusta of it all."

Molly: He took notes.

Becca: Yeah, exactly. He's like, "She was doing this and then she was doing that." And also, it makes a note to say that he likes Jane Fairfax and has known her for years, so it was like having a nice conversation with her.

Molly: Yes. So, he's having this conversation with Jane, and he actually has something to discuss with her, which is that he ran into her that morning when he was out walking with his two sons, and it had just started to rain, and he's like, "Jane, I hope you didn't get caught in the rain. I hope you didn't go too far." And she was like, "Oh, no, it's fine. I only went to the post office, and I made it home before it got too bad." She says she always goes to the post office before breakfast because it gives her a reason to get out and move around. A walk before breakfast does her good. And he says, "Well, not a walk in the rain." And she says,

"Well, it wasn't raining when I left." And he says, "Well, he knows that it was because he was out in it."

He smiles and he says, "Well, when you've lived to my age, you will begin to think that letters are never worth going through the rains [00:33:00] for." And then you start thinking, "She was going to the post office, hmm, in the rain." She blushes at this, and she says, "Well, you have all of your loved ones close by, so you don't need to wait for letters from them. I will never be indifferent to letters." And he says, "I'm not indifferent to letters. Letters are a positive curse."

Becca: Which is him saying, "I'm not indifferent to letters. I hate letters. I don't want to hear from anyone."

Molly: Oh, a positive curse. I get it.

Becca: He's like, "I'm not indifferent to them. I despise them."

Molly: [laughs] I didn't get that. I thought he was saying that, "No, they're a good thing sometimes."

Becca: They're a positive curse.

Molly: They're a curse, positively.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: I get it. [giggles] I love him. She says, "Well, you're talking about business letters. Mine are letters of friendship." And he says, "Business letters at least could sometimes bring money. Friendship letters never do."

Becca: So, he's basically like, "Oh, no, business letters are fine, but friendship letters, oh."

Molly: Oh, friendship.

Becca: Oh. [laughs]

Molly: [00:34:00] Jane says that she knows him too well to know that he doesn't believe that. How well does Jane know him?

Becca: They grew up in the same town.

Molly: So, are they like pals?

Becca: You get the sense Highbury is not a very large place. So, they've been friends. Knightley and Jane are friends as well.

Molly: I guess, that's true, and Knightley loves Jane.

Becca: Yeah, it's a small town. Obviously, Jane left at a decently young age to go live with the Campbells.

Molly: But she comes back and visits-- Yeah.

Becca: She comes back, she visits. So, she's been around the town for years. And so, all these people know each other. So, he knows them.

Molly: So, she says that it's not his age that makes him care less about letters, but the fact that all of his family and his loved ones are in his general vicinity. Until all of her loved ones die, she will always go to the post office in any weather, even worse weather than that morning. John says he wasn't talking about time making her older, but other things which time brings, which are one, that it will lessen the attachments of those not immediately within her circle. And two, that maybe in [00:35:00] 10 years she will have as many loved ones

nearby as he does, which I think is really sweet. And also, the thing about time making you less close to the people who are far away is so real, because you don't necessarily see the people that live more than like half an hour away from you.

Becca: Yeah. Back in college, everyone would always say, "Oh, these are the best years of your life." I would always say things like, "I hope not. I have a lot of life left, hopefully. I want it to get better than this."

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: But one grain of truth to that, which I don't concede that college is the best years of your life. I don't think they are. I'm much happier now that I was in college. But I do think there is a magic to having your friends gathered together in the same place, that is harder to get when you're an adult. New York is just, again, one of those places where it's really difficult to see people all the time, because it's a large city and everyone's always busy. So, there is some truth to this that makes me sad that you don't get to see the people you love as much as you want to. **[00:36:00]** But that being said, I don't feel as strongly about it as John Knightley.

Molly: No, I don't feel as strongly about it as John Knightley does, for sure. But I do agree with you that when I could just walk outside and go to my best friend's house, that was amazing. It's amazing because I've become much closer with you, for example, because we both live in Brooklyn, and I get to see you whenever I want.

Becca: And also, you and I have a podcast where we have to maintain our friendship [crosstalk] each other for it.

Molly: So true. But I don't see my friends that live in Manhattan more than once a month anymore.

Becca: Yeah, it's tricky, it's because we're always-- [crosstalk]

Molly: Busy life.

Becca: Yeah. I don't know if this is a New York thing in particular or it's just like a big city thing, but listeners, if you also feel this, it's really hard to make time to see people who you adore when you have a full-time job and a full-time podcast and responsibilities. It just things **[00:37:00]** fall through the cracks. But I encourage you to work on making sure that you do actually add to your list in your freaking brain that you're supposed to go see your friends when it's difficult to do so, because it's worth it always.

Molly: Agreed. Anyway. Yes. So, sweet sentiment from John, and she smiles and she says, "Thank you." She means to laugh it off, but you can see her lip quivers and she blushes a little bit and a little tear forms in her eye, and she's like-- I don't know if she's saying like, "I'm so sad my people are far away." Or, like, "Oh, that was sweet," but something.

Becca: Por que no los dos?

Molly: Yeah, both. Mr. Woodhouse then swoops in [giggles] and he's like, "Oh, my God, you got caught in the rain? Did you change your socks?"

Becca: This is perfect, because this reminds me so much of Elizabeth Bennet walking through the mud to go see her sister. Everyone's like, "I heard you walked outside in odd weather."

Molly: [laughs] Oh, my God. Wait, yes. And then also just now, I walked home from work **[00:38:00]** and it was raining, and I got home, and I was eating my poke bowl, and Mel comes out from the class she was teaching, and she sits down and she's like, "How was work? Blah, blah, blah. Did you walk home?" And I was like, "Yeah." And she was like, "Was

it raining?" And I was like, "Yeah." And she was like, "Do you [unintelligible [00:38:16] your socks?" It was like the same exact thing.

Becca: It's so true. I got in. Mike was just like, "You're wet. [Molly laughs] It's raining."

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Oh, chivalry is not dead, folks. Or what is it called? The knightheadedness?

Molly: The knight errant.

Becca: The knight errant isn't dead, folks.

Molly: [laughs] So, Jane says, "Yes, she did change her socks," and Mr. Woodhouse says, "Oh, me and Emma are so glad that you were able to come. I wish I was able to visit you more, but we're really glad you're here." And then he's like, "Okay, I did my duty. I was the good host," and he goes and sits down. Now, news of Jane having been caught in the rain has reached Mrs. Elton and she comes over.

Becca: "Honey, no. Oh, my God. You don't have a servant [00:39:00] who can take your letters to the post office? We can't have that. That's so sad."

Molly: It's absolutely infuriating. She's like, "You can't take care of yourself. Why did you go out in the rain? You should have asked me for help. Why wasn't I there?" It's like, [makes squirming noises]

Becca: This is also one of those things where it's like when someone acts like you're best friends and you're truly not.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: She's acting like they've been besties for years and they've just met.

Molly: Just met. Yeah, that's her MO. It's just like making people think or making herself think that she's people's best friends. She then turns to Mrs. Weston, and that's when she's like, "Mrs. Weston, you and I must exert our authority over this and tell her that she is wrong to go out in the rain."

Becca: We have the brunch.

Molly: We must brunch.

Becca: We must brunch.

Molly: Oh, my God. We must.

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Mrs. Weston plays along and is like, "Oh, yes, Jane, your health is delicate. You don't want to go get sick again." And Mrs. Elton is like, "We won't let her." She says, [00:40:00] she'll have one of the men who fetches her letters. Go and get Jane's letters too. She says, "One of the men. I can't remember his name." When they probably have, like, two men.

Becca: Oh, yeah. And also, the combo of both being like one, she probably has three servants.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Two, she is an asshole for not remembering her servant's name.

Molly: Emily Gilmore much?

Becca: How dare you besmirch the name of Emily Gilmore in this home? How dare you?

Molly: I'm so sorry.

Becca: Get her, guys. [laughs]

Molly: It's just the one time she was like, "Well, I thought, Sarah, whatever." And they're like, "Sarah? Her name's Lindsay."

Becca: No, it's Emily Gilmore is really mean service. [laughs]

Molly: But yes, I agree. She's not anywhere near.

Becca: We cannot compare Emily Gilmore to Augusta.

Molly: No, absolutely not.

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Augusta, she's like Logan's mom.

Becca: Oh, I don't know. Listeners, who's Augusta in *Gilmore Girls*? We'll get there.

Molly: Yeah, we'll get there. Jane says, "I really don't want to give up my early morning walk. It's good for my [00:41:00] health. The post office gives me a reason to get out." And Mrs. Elton's like, "No, it's already determined." As much as she can determine anything without the concurrence of her lord and master.

Becca: Vom. [makes retching noises]

Molly: [makes retching noises] She says, "Oh, but Mrs. Weston, you and I must be careful about the things that we determine on our own." [makes retching noises]

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Because we're married.

Becca: Yeah, we have our husband. What do you think? You like single girls. They need our help.

Molly: Jane says, "No, I really cannot accept that offer. It would be an inconvenience to your servant. If I didn't like doing it so much, then my grandmother's servant could do it. He always does when I'm not here." And Mrs. Elton goes, "But Patty already has too much to do," like, as if she knows their servant by name, by first name. This is her lack of polish and her familiarity coming through. She's like, "Patty already has too much to do, and besides the kindness to employ our own men." And Jane [00:42:00] then changes the subject, turning to John and going, "The post office is so great, isn't it? It's so rare that a letter goes missing."

Becca: You just feel like John is like, "Thank God, someone's finally talking about it. It's so great."

Molly: He's like, "Yeah, I love the post office."

Becca: They're so good at handwriting at the post office. It's awesome.

Molly: He's like, "Yeah, these people know how to read people's handwriting." Then he goes, "If you want to marvel at why they know how to do it's because they're paid too."

Becca: John Knightley has been waiting his entire life to be asked about the post office at a party.

Molly: He's been thinking about this for days.

Becca: Exactly.

Molly: Then [giggles] they continue to talk about the handwriting and everything, and he's like, "You know, I've heard it said that handwriting is similar between people of the same family. For example, I've never been able to tell Isabella and Emma's handwriting part." And then Knightley jumps in and he says, "Well, Emma's handwriting is the stronger of the two." And Mr. Woodhouse then goes, "Oh, both my daughters write beautifully, as does poor Mrs. Weston." And Emma starts to say, "I never saw any gentleman's handwriting" [00:43:00] and she has turned to Mrs. Weston, but Mrs. Weston is saying something to someone else. And then Emma has this moment to just spiral for a minute.

Becca: She's like, "Oh, wait, I want to bring up Frank Churchill, but can I bring up Frank Churchill?"

Molly: "How do I bring up Frank Churchill?"

Becca: "Is it appropriate to bring up Frank Churchill? Oh, my God."

Molly: And so, she's sitting here having this moment while Mrs. Weston is saying something to someone else. And then Mrs. Weston finishes what she's saying and Emma's like, "That's my moment" and she says, "Frank has the best gentleman's handwriting I've ever seen." And Knightley then goes, "Frank writes like a girl."

Becca: Such bit trackers. It's iconic. Sexist in this moment, but iconic.

Molly: yes. At first, I thought that the ladies, because the ladies both turn on him then and I thought that they were being like, "How dare you say that?" But they're actually saying, how dare you say that in a don't besmirch Frank's handwriting like that and not in a, how dare you say that he writes like a girl as an insult? So, I was a little disappointed.

Becca: Well, I think the idea is that he's writing with small hands, and so his handwriting is small. [crosstalk]

Molly: Oh, he's got tiny hands.

Becca: Yeah. So, I think there's a clock on Frank [00:44:00] Churchill's hand size.

Molly: And you know what they say about hands.

Becca: Big gloves, small gloves. No, it's small hands, big gloves. [laughs]

Molly: Is that this thing?

Becca: No.

[laughter]

Molly: It's small feet.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: It's penises.

Molly: Yeah, penises. That's what I was saying. Now I got it.

Becca: Back to Knightley. [giggles] I think it's penises.

Molly: They say that this is an aspersion, which I had to look up. It means an attack on the reputation or integrity of someone or something. They say that his handwriting isn't big, but it's strong and clear. And Emma then asks if Mrs. Weston has a letter from him because she can prove it, but Mrs. Weston doesn't have a letter on her and Emma goes, "I have one in the other room. You remember when you had him write that note for you the other day, Mrs. Weston?" And Mrs. Weston says, "He says that I told him to write that, but he wanted to write it himself." And Emma's like, "No, I'll go get it. I'll go get it."

Knightley says, "Well, if he was writing to a fair lady like Mrs. Woodhouse, of course, he's going to use his [00:45:00] best handwriting." At this moment, we can finally leave this conversation because it's dinnertime and Mr. Woodhouse goes to get Mrs. Elton and lead her to the dining room. But before he can do so, she's like, "Oh, my God, I don't want to go first into the dining room. Ha, ha, ha, ha. I'm so ashamed of always going first into the dining room." And Emma, while this is happening, is just thinking about how Jane was so insistent on fetching her own letters.

She thinks that this morning's walk must have had some special letter, because Jane seemed to be glowing tonight and she was going to ask something about the Irish mail system, but she decides not to because she is determined not to look like she's trying to hurt Jane's feelings in any way at this dinner.

Becca: So, that brings us to Becca's study questions, starting with the relationship between Mrs. Elton, Augusta herself and Jane Fairfax. Let's chat. Why are they friends? What is Jane Austen doing here?

Molly: It's definitely a parallel of Emma, Harriet and that relationship. [00:46:00] I guess, showing, at least for me, what it shows is the value in Emma and Harriet's relationship and that Emma does seem to really value Harriet as a person, whereas Augusta, to me, it seems like Augusta doesn't necessarily value Jane, but wants Jane to be her friend because she needs a person.

Becca: Well, I think you're right on the money right there. That is precisely, I think, what Jane Austen is getting at. But if you look back at the beginning of the book as to what the relationship between Harriet and Emma was, it looked different.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: Emma had just lost her best friend to marriage, and she was like, "I'm desperately in need of a new companion. This girl is poor and not as classed up, but I bet she'd do a good job. She's super pretty, she's super sweet. So, let me just fix her up to make her my bestie [00:47:00] and then I will affix her life and I'll affix my life, and she's going to flatter me the entire time." Looks a lot like what's happening here. Obviously, there are differences and I think one thing to highlight is Emma's class level versus Augustus class level, Harriet's class level versus Jane. It's almost like you swap in that case. But I do think it's an unflattering portrait of how Emma and Harriet started being friends.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Once again, you see this parallel between Augusta being like a dark side of the moon, Emma.

Molly: She really is.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Emma and Harriet's friendship has grown since then. But I do remember at the beginning being like, "I don't think this is genuine and feeling Harriet was Emma's little

friend." Yeah, I guess, also there have been times when I felt like it wasn't genuine up till now. Just comparatively, it seems genuine. Yeah.

Becca: Well, [00:48:00] I think there are some really long passages where you can see Emma caring a lot about Harriet's feelings and how thinking highly of Harriet as a person. And they've gotten emotionally bonded in a lot of ways. So, that friendship does look different than it used to.

Molly: Harriet has changed Emma. Like Emma has, through Harriet, seen her own failings and tried to make herself better.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Why is Jane Fairfax still in Highbury?

Molly: Emma's onto something with this whole Mr. Dixon thing, because it's true, why would she not go with the Dixons if she got this invite? Unless she's in love with someone in Highbury?

Becca: Mm.

Molly: Mm.

Becca: On that note, who do we believe on Knightfax? Mrs. Weston or Emma?

Molly: I don't know.

Becca: [crosstalk] You're so stressed. [laughs]

Molly: I really am, because I don't know, because I feel like I keep [00:49:00] flip flopping. When I was reading this. I was like, "Knightley's in love with Emma." I was so convinced as I was reading, I was like, "He's not talking about Jane. He's talking about Emma." [crosstalk]

Becca: Emma's the blabby broad.

Molly: Yes, that's what I was thinking. But also, the way he was denying it and talking about it now, I'm like, "Why is he denying it so much if he really didn't think that?"

Becca: That's a good question and I'm not going to answer it.

Molly: Of course, you're not. [laughs]

Becca: Yeah.

[laughter]

Molly: The way you said that was as if I thought you might.

Becca: [laughs] No, come on, we've been doing this a while. I don't give you the answers. I just raise the question.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: So, yeah, I would also say iconic stuff from our guy, Mr. Knightley.

Molly: Love it.

Becca: Jane Austen has this capacity to write her love interest so that they're kind of polished, but they're also disasters, and it's amazing.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Except Brandon, who is not a disaster, just a pining sweet soul.

Molly: He is pining sweet soul. He's so cute. But Darcy is a disaster. [00:50:00]

Becca: Oh, Darcy is, like, you couldn't have written more of a disaster.

Molly: Such a disaster.

Becca: Yeah. Oh, man, but I love this part is, no one don't love her. No one don't.

Molly: What are you talking about?

Becca: No one don't. All right. Do we think Mr. Knightley wants to marry at all from this statement?

Molly: Maybe not, because Emma is so adamant that Knightley doesn't want to marry. We've thought that's just her being like, "I don't want Knightley to get married. So, I'm saying he doesn't want to get married." But maybe he also doesn't want to get married. And maybe Emma just knows him really well and knows that about him. But the way he was talking about it, he was like, "Well, I'm never going to ask Jane to marry me, anyway." So, I don't know. Maybe not. Maybe he just would miss Emma too much too. Maybe they're just best friends and would miss each other too much.

Becca: Why didn't Jane want anyone seeing her letters?

Molly: Jane doesn't want anyone seeing her letters because [00:51:00] it's full of secrets.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: That's why her hair is so big.

Becca: Yeah. Her boobs are so big, canonically.

Molly: Canonically big tits.

Becca: Yeah. She got titties.

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: Any speculation who she's writing to?

Molly: Well, I feel like it would be basic to say Mr. Dixon. [gasps] Okay. So, I'm still like a little bit thinking that there's something going on between Jane and Mr. Frank Churchill. I still think that a little bit, but also there's a world in which she and Knightley are having a steamy affair and writing each other letters. But I think either-- I feel like we wouldn't be led so to think that it was Mr. Dixon if it was actually Mr. Dixon.

Becca: So, what you're saying right now is you think that it is a man's.

Molly: In an ideal world, it would be a lady, but I don't think that's what happened.

Becca: Listen, we can [00:52:00] write the fan fiction with Jane Fairfax and Emma Woodhouse after this.

Molly: After.

Becca: Or, some kind listeners can send it our way, because there's a lot of Harriet and Emma fanfic, but quite honestly, on this reread, I'm like, "Mm, the tensions with her and Jane."

Molly: Yeah, I have plans to write that-

Becca: Excellent-- [crosstalk]

Molly: -adaptation.

Becca: So, you're saying, you think it's a man's, and you have narrowed it down to three options.

Molly: Three options. Mr. Dixon, Frank Churchill, and Mr. Knightley.

Becca: Okay. We are not going to decide which one of those it is.

Molly: Mm-hmm.

Becca: Okay. Funny's quote?

Molly: Emma was on fire today. She had a lot of great internal monologue moments.

Becca: Augusta is like a treasure trove of sassy, rude comments. It's fantastic.

Molly: Truly. I also did an LOL at Jane's passage about how much she loves the post office and how rare it is for something to go missing in the post office, because the postal system today is not so.

Becca: No. We don't know how it is in the [00:53:00] UK. British listeners, tell us if you guys have a great postal service because our US postal service is spotty to be generous.

Molly: Yes. And no shade to the postal workers. We love the postal workers.

Becca: No. I don't think it's their fault. It's spotty.

Molly: There's no.

Becca: There's a lot of factors as to why.

Molly: Well, Jane says there's hundreds of thousands of packages with lots of different handwritings and so many different hands that they have to pass through, they're bound to fall through the cracks.

Becca: Exactly.

Molly: Well, I already read one of mine, which was the poor Jane Fairfax in response to Augusta taking her under her wing. She's called poor Jane Fairfax. The other one, the gentleman's handwriting spiral that Emma goes on, I just thought was prime. She says, "I never saw any gentleman's handwriting" Emma began, looking also at Mrs. Weston, but stopped, on perceiving that Mrs. Weston was attending to someone else and the pause gave her time to reflect, "Now, how am I going to introduce him? Am I unequal to speaking his name at once before all these people? Is it necessary [00:54:00] for me to use any roundabout phrase? Your Yorkshire friend, your correspondent in Yorkshire, that would be the way, I suppose, if I were very bad. No, I can pronounce his name without the smallest distress. I certainly get better and better. Now for it."

Becca: Iconic, because we all have that moment where you want to talk about the person you have a crush on and you're just like, "I don't know how to bring him up without being obvious or her or him." And then you just blurt out the name and you're like, "Oh, this person, yeah."

Molly: Yeah. I was like, "That was the logical next step."

Becca: Did it, nailed it. No one knew.

Molly: [laughs] A for Emma.

Becca: A for Emma. Questions moving forward.

Molly: Once again, who does Jane love?

Becca: Okay.

Molly: And why does Jane befriend Mrs. Elton?

Becca: Who wins the chapters?

Molly: I want to say Mr. Knightley.

Becca: Which one?

Molly: [laughs] I want to thank George for just being so doofy.

Becca: All [00:55:00] right. I'm going to give it personally to John in my heart of hearts though, because not only was he nice to people at a party--

Molly: Which we're very proud of him for.

Becca: He took gossip home to Isabella.

Molly: Oh, he did.

Becca: And he got to talk about the post office.

Molly: You're so right. Yeah, John can have this with an honorable mention to George for trying to hold his composure when being accused of being in love with someone.

Becca: No, I'm not.

Molly: I'm not in love.

Becca: I'm not in love.

Molly: He said no chance.

Becca: She's not a blabby bra.

Molly: She's too quiet. I like the loud ones.

Becca: I like the louds. Thank you very much. All right, listeners, that concludes a long, unhinged episode of Pod and Prejudice. For next week, you're going to read the next two chapters. We're going to finish out this dinner party. So, that's going to be Chapters 35 and 36. Or, you're following along in a Volume book, Volume II, Chapter 17 and 18. Molly, anything else got to add?

Molly: No, I don't have anything else to add.

Becca: Well, then, until next time, [00:56:00] stay proper-

Molly: And go have brunch with a friend.

Becca: We're going to have brunch.

Molly: We're going to have.

Becca: We're going to have brunch.

Molly: Pod and Prejudice is edited by Molly Burdick and audio produced by Graham Cook. Our show art is designed by Torrance Browne. Our show is transcribed by SpeechDocs Podcast Transcription. For transcripts and to learn more about our team, check out our website at podandprejudice.com. To keep up with the show, you can follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, [@podandprejudice](https://www.instagram.com/podandprejudice). If you love what you hear, check out our

Patreon at patreon.com/podandprejudice to see how you can support us or just drop us a rating and a review wherever you listen to podcasts. Thanks for listening.

[Transcript provided by [SpeechDocs Podcast Transcription](#)]