

Molly: Hey, everyone. Before we begin today, we want to thank our newest patron, Hannah. Welcome to the team. If you want to be like Hannah and get access to bonus content like our notes, outtakes, and more, check out our Patreon at patreon.com/podandprejudice. Also, it's a New Year. I know a lot of people are looking for new podcasts to listen to in 2023. So, the best way that you can help the show is by sharing it with a friend. Word of Mouth is the powerful podcast sharing tool. So, convince someone you love to read Jane Austen for the first time and encourage them to listen along. And now, enjoy this week's episode covering Chapters 21 and 22 of *Emma*.

[Pod and Prejudice theme]

Becca: This is Becca.

Molly: This is Molly.

Becca: We're here to talk about Jane Austen.

Molly: We are here specifically to talk about *Emma*.

Becca: *Emma*. Listeners, if you're new here, I, Becca, have read many Jane Austen books before.

Molly: And I, Molly, am reading Jane Austen for the first time through this [00:01:00] podcast.

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

Molly: No. Today, we are talking about Volume II, Chapters 3 and 4 of *Emma* or Chapters 21 and 22, if your book isn't broken up into Volumes.

Becca: Yes. Yes. Also, I'm really proud of us that we talked about your girlfriend's dog's anal glands before the podcast started, but I felt like I just needed to sneak in [Molly laughs] another reference while we're on air.

Molly: Yes. As we determined a few episodes ago, we start every episode with an update on Becca's dog. But this episode, it was my girlfriend's dog who was having booty troubles. So, we talked about that.

Becca: But before we recorded. [laughs]

Molly: Yes. Thank you for bringing it up.

Becca: All right. Anyway, to talk about these chapters, we have to just refresh on what we read last time. Last time, we got our little intro to Miss [00:02:00] Perfect, Jane Fairfax, Jane Austen's favorite new character.

Molly: Yes. We met Jane Fairfax, we heard all about her backstory, we started to speculate as to whomst she might be in love with.

Becca: Yes. We learned that Emma, not a fan.

Molly: Emma hates Jane Fairfax.

Becca: We also learned that Jane's aunt is annoying.

Molly: Yeah. Because at the beginning of the book, I really thought, I like Miss Bates and now, I kind of don't like Miss Bates.

Becca: Jane Austen is spectacular at making her grading.

Molly: Yeah. I started to also think during this set of chapters that she might not be the most genuine in terms of her gratitude. Sometimes, I think she's just saying that.

Becca: That is a complete matter of interpretation and a valid one, one that has been talked about.

Molly: Nice. [giggles]

Becca: But let's talk about the plot.

Molly: Yes, let's get into it. So, Chapter 21 or Chapter 3, depending on your book, **[00:03:00]** it starts with the same line that ended the last chapter, which was, "Emma could not forgive her," which is a line we love. Now, Knightley, throughout the course of the party, did notice any animosity between them, Emma and Jane, because Emma is very good at behaving properly in public. So, Knightley leaves the party thinking that Emma and Jane are the best of friends and he's so proud of Emma.

Becca: I know. He's like, "Thank God. You finally put away your weird little pettiness with Jane Fairfax. It's time to be her bestie." He's shipping it, like friendshipping it.

Molly: He's friendshipping it. Meanwhile, the rest of us are for real shipping it. By the rest of us, I mean you and me. [laughs]

Becca: Yes, exactly.

Molly: And maybe a couple of listeners. So, he turns to Emma and he's like, "You were particularly kind to Jane Fairfax last night." And Emma's like, "I'm always kind to my guests. I hope you don't think that I am not kind to my guests." And Mr. Woodhouse pops in and is like, "Oh, sometimes, you're **[00:04:00]** even too hospitable, one might say, because, for example, you should have only passed the muffins around once last night." Classic Mr. Woodhouse.

Becca: It's very important that people really keep their muffin eating to a minimum and their gruel eating to a maximum.

Molly: Why are muffins the thing that gets-- I feel like if you're going to have oatmeal or muffins, they're equal in my mind. Muffins are sugary, but what if it's a bran muffin?

Becca: Muffins also have butter and stuff in them, like a lot of fat.

Molly: That's true. I guess-- Okay, so I like to think of muffins as healthy, because that makes me happy. [laughs]

Becca: Muffins are cupcakes without frosting.

Molly: [laughs] Yeah.

Becca: Am I wrong about this?

Molly: No. Well, it depends on the muffin. But yeah, I guess-- Okay. To be realistic, I don't eat a muffin for breakfast and feel that was a healthy breakfast. But sometimes, you want to eat a muffin for breakfast and tell yourself that it's equivalent to a bowl of oatmeal.

Becca: A muffin is healthy and happy, if it is [00:05:00] good for you in that moment and it tastes good.

Molly: Exactly.

Becca: But it is, I think, not a matter of it being healthy or unhealthy. I think it's a matter of like it being easy on the stomach.

Molly: Totally. I guess, gruel is going to help you move along, whereas a muffin might stop you up.

Becca: Exactly. I think that Mr. Woodhouse is just really worried about everyone's bowel movements.

Molly: Somehow, we've ended up back at the buttole.

Becca: Of course. I mean, it all ends at the buttole.

Molly: [laughs] So, speaking of buttoles, Knightley says--

[laughter]

Molly: Knightley turns to Emma, and he says, "Well, you are not lacking in manners or comprehension, so you must understand my meaning." And then, she gives him this look and her look says that she understands his meaning, but out loud, she says, "Miss Fairfax is reserved." I like that they have this language that they can talk to each other and know what they're talking about without saying it [00:06:00] out loud. I just wanted to clock that I like their relationship here.

Becca: Yeah. They've known each other a long time.

Molly: Yeah. And so, what he's saying is--

Becca: What is he saying?

Molly: What is he saying? He's saying that Emma has been able to put aside her differences with Jane and stop being a little bitch is what he's saying.

Becca: Yeah. He's also saying, "Yeah, you can be rude to Jane Fairfax sometimes."

Molly: Oh, I understand. He's saying this is a big difference for her, the way she was treating Jane last night.

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Emma's like, "Okay. Sure."

Becca: He's like, "Thanks for being nice." And she's like, "I'm always nice." And he's like, "Okay." [chuckles]

Molly: And he's like, "Yeah, sure you are." And then, she's like, "Well, Jane is shy," is what she says out loud.

Becca: She basically says something like, "Yeah, it was like pulling teeth trying to talk to her, but I didn't."

Molly: Yeah, exactly. He's like, "Well, she's [00:07:00] shy out of diffidence," and diffidence means a shyness from a lack of self-confidence. Emma's like, "She does not lack self-confidence," because Emma has thoughts about her. Emma thinks she's kind of crafty, if you will.

Becca: Yeah. She's clocking a like Lucy Steele energy off of her a little bit, but she's also I think just-- I think it's a matter of like, "Have you ever met a really beautiful girl who's really shy?"

Molly: I guess. Yeah.

Becca: I have. And people tend to assume they're snotty.

Molly: Sure. Yeah. Like uppity.

Becca: Yeah, exactly. They think that girl is too pretty to be self-conscious, so she must just think she's better than me, which is bullshit.

Molly: Right. But yeah, that's definitely what Emma's thinking. And then, she says that it was like pulling teeth trying to get information out of her and Knightley is disappointed in Emma, and that he was wrong about their newfound friendship. Mr. Woodhouse [00:08:00] is not following this conversation and he's like, "I had a great time at the party, except for there was one moment when I got a little too warm, and I bet Jane had a good time, because she had Emma:" and Knightley says that Emma must have had a good time, because she had Jane. Emma sees that he's anxious about this and she tries to ease his anxiety about it by saying that Jane is sort of elegant creature that one cannot keep one's eyes from. Gay.

Becca: Yeah. Very gay moment for Emma there.

Molly: Very gay moment for Emma there. But my question is, why does Knightley care so much about them being friends?

Becca: Oh, that's such a good question, isn't it?

Molly: I think so. [giggles]

Becca: Maybe it's a question in the study questions.

Molly: Ooh, I love when I accidentally ask the study questions. All right, so we'll get to it.

Becca: We'll get to it.

Molly: Mr. Woodhouse is still not following the conversation, so he starts talking about how they ought to send some of their fresh pork to the Bates' and he doesn't know which part of the pig they should send. Emma is like, "Well, I already sent the whole hind quarter, so that they can have their pick of what kind of meat they want." [00:09:00] And Knightley then interrupts to tell Emma that he has a piece of hot goss. But before he can say anything, the door opens and Miss Bates and Miss Fairfax herself waltz into the room. [imitates sound] That was like a doorbell ringing. I don't know. Miss Bates comes in thanking Mr. Woodhouse for the pork and then, she's like, "And guess what? Mr. Elton is getting married."

[imitate trumpets]

Molly: Graham, the sound effect.

[proposal stinger]

Becca: Graham, the sound effect, because there has been a proposal. But before we get to the proposal, there's something crucial we have to talk about, which is the way they describe making the pork.

Molly: Oh, yeah, there was like a whole thing.

Becca: Yeah, you were vegan. So, I'm guessing you skimmed that.

Molly: Kind of yeah. [giggles]

Becca: So, they talk about boiling the pork.

Molly: I was wondering about that though because I was like, "That sounds kind of boring."

Becca: I haven't eaten meat in ten years, but I have this idea in my head that you're supposed to roast or pan sear pork. [00:10:00] The idea of boiled pork-- I guess, there's boiled pork dumplings, which you grind them up and you put them in a container. But meat eaters, carnivores, tell me if I'm wrong here, but that sounds disgusting like English seasoned boiled pork?

Molly: What I was thinking from that was they were describing the different cuts of meat and how-- Now, Becca's vegetarian or pescatarian, and I'm vegan. So, again, take all of this with a grain of salt what we're saying about the pork. But what I was taking from that was that there was different cuts of meat and different ways of cooking it. If they took a leg, they were going to cook it one way. And if they took the belly, they were going to cook it another way. There was another part of the pig that was best boiled or the boiled was the boring thing that the Bates' were going to do, because they can't keep a cook, and so, they were going to boil it. But also, I think that boiling pork sounds weird, and I think that it would be tough because pork is red meat. For [00:11:00] example, my roommate boils chicken for her dog to have as a walking treat.

Becca: That's totally normal, because specifically, dogs like the taste of meat without any seasoning or flavor to it. They like the texture of it. So, that makes sense. But that's for a dog.

Molly: Right.

Becca: You would not boil chicken. Generally, I'm struggling to think of a meat that would taste good just boiled. Meat needs a sear on it.

Molly: Yeah. Also, texture wise, it would be tough. I feel like the boiling makes it too cooked.

Becca: Would it keep the juices of the meat in? This is completely a tangent for us, guys, but I am struggling with understanding why. So, if one of our listeners, we have a lot of very knowledgeable listeners about the time wants to explain to me why Miss Bates thinks it's a good idea to boil pork, please tell me. Because as far as I know, you're supposed to roast that shit.

Molly: Well, I think Emma is the one who said they were going to boil it. I don't think that Miss Bates [00:12:00] necessarily thinks that. So, Emma might think like, "Oh, they're just going to boil it anyway." Maybe.

Becca: I thought Mrs. Bates said it to hang on.

Molly: Becca has her book on her. I do not. So, Becca will look it up. Speaking of though our knowledgeable listeners, while you look that up, Napoleonic Wars is what's happening right now. Several people have let us know.

Becca: I thought it was, but I didn't want to be presumptuous on that one. I was not 1000% sure. I thought it might have been too early for the Napoleonic Wars but thank you for our listeners. I was like, "They might be happening later." [laughs] So, it's Mr. Woodhouse who says that they boil pork.

Molly: Oh, my God. Of course, it is.

Becca: Yes.

Molly: That makes complete sense, because he doesn't like flavorful food.

Becca: Yes, but there's a mention of boiled pork again.

Molly: Boiled pork belly is a traditional Korean dish, but I doubt that they're making traditional Korean boiled pork belly in this book. But I'm wondering, if perhaps, they're talking about [00:13:00] boiling it in a broth of some kind.

Becca: They must be. Again, English food versus Korean food, one of those foods is good at adding an abundance of flavor.

Molly: [laughs]

Becca: No offense to our English listeners here, but I am referring to you guys.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: I'm clocking you, guys. But anyway, later, Miss Bates says, "This has been a most agreeable piece of news indeed. I shall just go round by Mrs. Cole's, but I shall not stop three minutes and, Jane, you had better go home directly I would not have you out in a shower! We think she is the better for Highbury already. Thank you, we do indeed. I shall not attempt calling on Mrs. Goddard, for I really do not think she cares for anything but boiled pork." Oh, my God. Wait. Okay, so I stand corrected. They want to roast the loin. Mr. Woodhouse wants them to boil the loin.

Molly: Got it.

Becca: Listen, listeners, Molly and I don't eat meat, but if you have a dish that you are particularly proud of that involves boiled pork that is not a dumpling, [00:14:00] then please show us.

Molly: I had dumplings today.

Becca: I love dumplings. All right, back to a much more important piece of news.

Molly and Becca: Mr. Elton is getting married.

Molly: Yes, that is what we came here to talk about, [giggles] but I loved that tangent.

Becca: Graham, the sound effect again.

[proposal stinger]

Molly: Yes. So, Emma had not been thinking much about Mr. Elton lately. So, this comes as a big surprise to her. Knightley is like, "Oh, well, that's what I was going to tell you." Miss Bates, her response is so funny. She turns to him, and she's like, "What do you mean that was what you were going to tell them? How did you possibly know that? We just found out," and they're the only people in town who can disseminate gossip, I guess.

Becca: I also want to return to the fact that Knightley is being petty here, because he says, "By the way, I have some news you might be interested to know." What was the last time that Knightley and Emma talked about Elton?

Molly: Right after he proposed to Emma. No?

Becca: No, before that. Emma didn't tell Knightley about that.

Molly: Oh, yeah. [00:15:00] When did they last talk about Elton? Oh, when Emma was like, "Elton and Harriet are going to be in love." He was like, "Elton would never."

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Yes. What I think is hilarious is that he didn't lead with this information. When he started the conversation, he waited until they had already been talking for a while. Interesting, because the last time he talked about any gossip with Emma, he came in and he was like, "I know something you don't know." This time, he sat on it for a while.

Becca: And he's like, "By the way, I got something juicy here." Maybe if she'd been better about Jane Fairfax, he would have let her down more gently.

Molly: Mm-hmm.

Becca: So, he was saving this in his arsenal for when she was petty?

Molly: Yeah, I guess so. So, he says that he was with Mr. Cole when Mr. Cole got Elton's letter telling him. And Miss Bates then abruptly turns to Mr. Woodhouse and thanks him again for the pork, which is why I started to think that she's not super genuine, because she is [00:16:00] really there to talk about the gossip and mid-gossip. She's like, "Oh, and also so grateful for the pork, by the way." Back to the gossip now. I just don't buy it on her part.

Becca: It's subjective, because on the other hand, you could say the effect that she's so effusive in thanking him for pork, which really just only needed the one thank you is one thing, but on the other hand, you could also read it as her just being like, "Oh, I just came by to say the pork was good, by the way, Mr. Elton."

Molly: Yeah, that's how I was reading it, but I don't know, it could go either way. So, we find out that it is a Miss Hawkins of Bath that he is going to marry. And the letter that he wrote to Mr. Cole was short and seemed like it was giving vibes like this just happened. So, finally, Emma pipes up. She's been stunned into silence in the corner, which is unusual for our girl and she says, [00:17:00] "Well, Mr. Elton is getting married. I guess, everyone's going to be wishing him well."

Becca: Even by this time standard, this is fast.

Molly: Yes. It's been four weeks.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Yeah. Mr. Woodhouse, meanwhile, is just like, "Oh, he's too young to settle down." Of course, he does not like marriage at all. Miss Bates is like, "Oh, Jane, you've never seen Mr. Elton before. So, of course, you're curious to see him." The next line was, Jane's curiosity did not appear of that absorbing nature as holy to occupy her, which I thought was funny.

Becca: [laughs] I just love the descriptions of Jane in relationship to her aunt.

Molly: They're like cartoon characters like polar opposites that come in and one-- They're like Anne and Lucy Steele a little bit, but not evil.

Becca: That you know of.

Molly: That I know of, actually. Who knows? Jane is like, "Yeah, you're right. I haven't seen him before. Is he a tall man?" Emma [00:18:00] says that everyone has different opinions on whether or not he's tall, but everyone can agree that he is the standard of perfection in Highbury.

Becca: Yeah. Emma just saying that through gritted teeth as well.

Molly: Yeah. Miss Bates says, "Oh, Jane, I just told you, he's exactly the same height as Mr. Perry and he's an excellent man. He's always shown her mother such attention, making sure she sat in the vicarage pew," which is, I guess, a good seat at church, so that she could hear better, which makes Miss Bates think of Colonel Campbell, who she has heard is also deaf, which then makes her think of the Dixons. And then, she starts naming all the happy couples, which are the Dixons, the Eltons, the Coles, the Perry's. And then, she turns and thanks Mr. Woodhouse again for the pork.

Then, Emma says, "So, does anyone know anything about this Miss Hawkins?" And everyone is like, "No, not me." So, then, she turns to Jane, and she asks why she's being so quiet on this subject when she has just been so involved in the marriage of her friend, Miss [00:19:00] Campbell to Mr. Dixon, why does she not want to gossip about this marriage now, which I think is a weird way to connect the two things. But again, she wants to get something out of Jane.

Becca: Jane is basically like, "I will care when I know them."

Molly: Exactly. She's like, "I've never met them. Why should I care?"

Becca: Poor Jane. [giggles]

Molly: Poor Jane. She just is trying to exist and Emma's like, "Why aren't you being how I want you to be?"

Becca: Truly.

Molly: She's like, "I haven't seen you in two years. Why aren't you gossiping with me?"

Becca: Emma's entire Jane Fairfax artist, "Oh, why are you the way that you are?" It's like, "Oh, it's like Michael-

Molly: Toby.

Becca: -and Toby."

Molly: Yes, exactly. That's the meme for this week.

Becca: "Why are you the way that you are? I hate so much of what you choose to be."

Molly: That's so good. That is exactly as she is, Michael Scott. She's like a hot Michael Scott.

Becca: Wait, what's the rest of *The Office*, then?

Molly: Oh, my God.

Becca: Dwight's, obviously, Mr. Woodhouse.

Molly: Obviously. [00:20:00]

Becca: And then Jim's, probably, Mr. Knightley?

Molly: Well, yeah. Oh, ooh, ah, mm. I think Dwight actually has to be like Harriet, because he's Emma's right-hand man.

Becca: That's true.

Molly: I'll think about it. I don't know, if this is an exact line-up.

Becca: We'll figure it out. We'll figure it out.

Molly: We'll make a way to wait and make it work. So, anyway, Miss Bates then says that she always thought Elton would end up with someone from Highbury, and she hints that Mrs. Cole had told her some rumor, but then her response had been, "No, Mr. Elton is a most worthy young man," but dot, dot, dot. She says, she doesn't really usually pick up on that gossip or she can't parse out when someone's romantically interested. But perhaps, Mr. Elton should have aspired dot, dot, dot. Was this rumor about Harriet or is she saying that Elton should have aspired [00:21:00] to someone like Emma?

Becca: Let me return to the quote.

Molly: Yes. Because I realized my notes-- So, listeners, I left my book at my girlfriend's house and I'm going solely off of my notes, which are sometimes all over the place.

Becca: So, this is the quote. "'Yes, he has been gone just four weeks, as you observe, Miss Woodhouse,' said Miss Bates, 'Four weeks yesterday. A Miss Hawkins! Well, I had always rather fancied it would be some lady hereabouts, not that I ever Mrs. Cole once whispered to me, but I immediately said, 'No, Mr. Elton is a most worthy young man, but in short, I do not think I am particularly quick at those sort of discoveries. I do not pretend to it. What is before me, I see. At the same time, nobody could wonder if Mr. Elton should have aspired Miss Woodhouse lets me chatter on.'"

Molly: So, what I think she's saying there is that Miss Cole at some point whispered to her that Elton and Harriet were a thing. She said, "No, he's very worthy, but he should aspire to someone like Emma."

Becca: [00:22:00] You could read it that way. I kind of read it the other way, I think it's Emma.

Molly: Well, do you think they're both talking about Emma? You don't think anyone was ever talking about Harriet? Because I think that Harriet was definitely part of the gossip. I think that Miss Cole was saying something about Harriet and Mr. Elton, and then, Miss Bates stumbled upon-- Well, I think that Elton should aspire to someone like Emma. That's what I was thinking.

Becca: Let's dissect this a little, because it's not totally clear. "Yes, he has been gone just four weeks, as you observe, Miss Woodhouse," said Miss Bates, "four weeks yesterday." Cuts out. "A Miss Hawkins!" Cuts out. Well, I had always rather fancied it would be some young lady hereabouts, not that I ever Mrs. Cole once whispered to me, but I immediately said, 'No, Mr. Elton is a most worthy young man, but--' [crosstalk]

Molly: Oh, he's not worthy enough.

Becca: "In short, I do not think I am particularly quick at those sort of discoveries. I do not pretend to it. [00:23:00] What is before me, I see. At the same time, nobody could wonder if Mr. Elton should have aspired, stops, Miss Woodhouse lets me chatter on, so good-humouredly. She knows I would not offend for the world. How does Miss Smith do? She seems quite recovered now. Have you heard from Mrs. John Knightley lately? Oh! those dear little children. Jane, do you know I always fancy Mr. Dixon like Mr. John Knightley," so on and so forth.

Molly: Yes. So, Miss Cole was hypothesizing about Emma and Miss Bates was like, "No, he's worthy, but not that worthy." Maybe he should have aspired. How's Miss Smith?

Becca: Maybe he could have aspired, but I don't know how people feel. I don't want to put words in people's mouths.

Molly: Yeah. And then, to immediately go into house, Miss Smith makes you think that maybe she was thinking about that too, but maybe not.

Becca: Yeah. It's not clear from the way it's written.

Molly: Right. Well, that was fun. I like dissecting things word by word. [00:24:00] So, after she says that, Mr. Dixon reminds me of Mr. John Knightley, Jane goes, "Mr. Dixon is nothing like John Knightley." Mm.

Becca: Mm.

Molly: Mm. Because we don't like John Knightley, just to remind everyone.

Becca: Well, he is Michelle.

Molly: Yes, we like John Knightley, but we are not like Team John Knightley, but we like him, we love him. We're not romantically attracted to John Knightley.

Becca: He's Michelle.

Molly: He's Michelle. Miss Bates then says that Jane has told her, Mr. Dixon is not handsome. Jane says, "Well, I said that he's plain, but I really meant that people in general

think he's plain. I was just speaking from the general opinion of him, because when I have regard for someone, I always think I'm well looking." Interesting that she has regard for Mr. Dixon and thinks him well looking, but she can acknowledge that people in general [00:25:00] think he's plain.

Becca: Yes, interesting.

Molly: Interesting indeed. Miss Bates then says, "Well, we'd better be going, because it looks like rain" and She does a long paragraph about how it looks like rain and where they're going to go and what they're going to do. And then, she says, "Oh, look, Knightley is coming too." Then, all three of them leave together. After they leave, Mr. Woodhouse goes on to lament that young people are rushing off to get married and Emma half listens to him and half muses on the whole situation.

Now, Emma is glad that Elton is getting married, because it means that he did not suffer too much over her rejection, but she knows that Harriet will take it badly. She wants to be the one to tell Harriet and she knows that Harriet is actually on her way over, and she's worried that she's going to run into Miss Bates outside and Miss Bates is going to break the news to her first. But just as she's thinking of this, Harriet runs into the room and she is all a flutter and she's like, "You're never going to guess what just happened to me."

[00:26:00] Emma is certain that she's found out and that she's heartbroken. But then, Harriet tells her that "On her way over, she'd gotten caught in the rain and she'd gone in to take shelter at a shop." Who should come in, but Elizabeth Martin and Mr. Martin.

Becca: Record scratch.

Molly: Oh, my God, I forgot about them. Thank God, they're back.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: Harriet is standing by the door panicking. She's like, "Oh, my God, oh, my God, oh, my God. The Martins are standing on the other end of the store" and she sees that they saw her, but they're both acting like they didn't see each other. So stressful.

Becca: This is so relatable.

Molly: So high school.

Becca: We've all been there.

Molly: Yeah, we've all been there. She sees them whispering and she assumes they're whispering about her. She is hoping that maybe Mr. Martin was asking his sister to come talk to her, which, again, is very like, "Pass this note to the girl." Like, "Oh, my God, do you think she saw me?" Elizabeth does come over to talk to her, and she's very pleasant, and she asks how Harriet is, and she says, she's very sorry that they never see each other [00:27:00] anymore.

The whole time Harriet is suffering, she is miserable. And Mr. Martin comes over to talk to her and she just completely blacks out. She has no idea what words they exchange with

each other and she's like, "Ah, it stopped raining. Goodbye." She goes outside and he comes running after her to tell her that if she's going to Hartfield, she should take the long way, because the short way got rained out and it's going to be too muddy. And she's like, "Thank you." He just cares about her so much.

Becca: Our boy, Robbie.

Molly: He's like, "I don't want your feet to get wet." [giggles] So, she takes the long way, and she gets to Hartfield, and here she is. She says to Emma like, "I wish it hadn't happened, but it is nice that they were both so nice to me, but I really am feeling uncomfortable. Can you make me comfortable again?" Emma really wants to, but she's not quite comfortable herself, because it really sounds like they care about [00:28:00] Harriet and their affection was wounded and their pride was wounded and they're hurting, but they really love her. She thinks to herself, but that was true before and she knew that was true before, and that didn't make them any better connections for Harriet.

Becca: The pain in Emma's conscience here, the two sides of Emma, the ego-driven, matchmaking side of Emma, just against Emma's own human heart.

Molly: Which she does have against all odds. She does actually feel things.

Becca: Weirdly enough, yes.

Molly: So, she's at war with herself. She's like, "Of course, Mr. Martin was sorry to lose Harriet. His ambition, as well as his affection was probably wounded, because he had hoped to rise in society by his connection to Harriet," she's thinking to herself. But he actually wouldn't really be rising in society, we the reader know, but Emma thinks more highly of Harriet than she should.

Becca: Well, what's she doing here?

Molly: Rationalizing?

Becca: Yeah. She's just [00:29:00] rationalizing away. She's like, "Yeah, that sounds really sweet, and this guy really cares." Also, at the same time, he cares because, "Harriet's good for him publicly. It's like Mr. Elton gold-digging with me. Harriet has always had a thing for him. So, the story I'm getting is probably not even that accurate."

Molly: Exactly. But she does her best to comfort Harriet, anyway. She's like, "Listen, you're never going to run into him for the first time again. It's over now. You did it." She realizes now, she has to tell her about Elton, because nobody did yet and the timing of that is just really bad. But she does and it helps Harriet forget about Mr. Martin. Again, I think this is Emma rationalizing a little bit, but she's like, "This is great," because now, she has something to take her mind away from Mr. Martin and he doesn't have any way of weaseling his way back into [00:30:00] her emotions.

Becca: I also love this as a tactic like, "Oh, shit, she's got two heartbreaks and I will use one heartbreak to distract her from the other heartbreak."

Molly: It's like when you pinch yourself to get rid of pain in your leg or something, you're like, "Oh, let me make my arm hurt instead."

Becca: Yes. It doesn't work, but-- [crosstalk]

Molly: No, but it works for her. We learn in the next chapter that it works for Harriet back and forth, back and forth. She's like, "One day stressing about one, the next day stressing about the other."

Becca: Yes. All very balanced.

Molly: Yes. Harriet has a very good, healthy, emotional coping strategy going on right now. So, that is the end of that chapter.

Becca: Next chapter. Here we go.

Molly: Here we go. So, the first quote I wanted to read, because I liked how this chapter opens up. "Human nature is so well disposed towards those who are in interesting situations, that a young person, who either marries or dies, is sure of being kindly spoken of." Kind of dark.

Becca: Yes, very dark, but also very true.

Molly: Very true.

Becca: One of those that [00:31:00] Jane Austen turns out of the rocking chair and takes our glasses and tells us something.

Molly: Yes, exactly. So, immediately everyone in the town is talking about how wonderful Miss Hawkins is. By the time Elton comes to Highbury to tell the news, there's nothing left for him to say, because everyone's like, "Oh, yes, she's amazing. We love her." He comes and he is in a much better situation than when he left. There's just like two long paragraphs about how when he left, he was degraded and depressed, and now, he's living the dream and he is so much better off, and I was just like, "Shut up. Nobody cares Mr. Elton."

We get to meet Augusta Hawkins and hear about her backstory. She has an independent fortune, because of course, she does, because why else would Elton have married her in four weeks.

Becca: Oh, yeah. It is established and I think this also answers some questions which we'll get to in the study questions about [00:32:00] how Elton felt about Emma.

Molly: Exactly. Knowing this about her makes it very clear what his intentions were with Emma. So, she has "so many thousands as would always be called ten." So, probably like 8,000, 9000. They just round up.

Becca: I mean, it's the rumor mill.

Molly: Right. Yeah, I guess, that makes sense. They're just going to call it whatever. He brags about how they met accidentally, and they fell in love immediately, or rather that she was easily impressed by him and willing to marry him, which is very romantic.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: He is so happy now. His ego is so bolstered by having married rich that he is ready to face the young ladies of Highbury with "cordial, fearless smiles." And the young ladies of Highbury meaning, Emma and Harriet, who so wounded his pride before. The wedding is expected to take place very soon, and Emma doesn't see much of him during this visit. So, he's here just to tell [00:33:00] them, just to brag about it and then, he's going to go away, and he's going to come back again in the future. But On this short visit, Emma doesn't see much of him, but she sees enough of him to see that he has not improved at all.

It said that he hasn't approved through peak or pretension, and peak is a feeling of irritation or resentment resulting from a slight, especially into one's pride. So, basically, after she shut him down, he hasn't learned from that situation at all. It says, "she wished him very well, but he gave her pain, and his welfare 20 miles off would administer most satisfaction."

Becca: Again, so relatable.

Molly: Yes. She's like, "I'm happy for you. Go be happy in another town."

Becca: Please.

Molly: She thinks that having a Mrs. Elton around will act as a buffer and make it easier for her to coexist with him civilly, because they will never be alone together again. Emma doesn't think much about Miss Hawkins other than to think that [00:34:00] after all Elton had looked down on Harriet, he actually hasn't done any better, because despite her £10,000 a year, she's not Harriet's superior-- Not £10,000 a year. £10,000 in total.

Becca: Yeah. It would be a dowry of £10,000.

Molly: Okay. So, it's not like she has an income. It's just she's got £10,000.

Becca: I think she's got £10,000.

Molly: So, that's still superior to Harriet though like logistically?

Becca: Oh, no, it's a big dowry.

Molly: Okay. So, Emma is just lying to herself.

Becca: No. So, here's what Emma's saying like, "Yeah, she's got money, but in every other way, she's got nothing on Harriet."

Molly: Right. But money is a big thing.

Becca: She's new money.

Molly: Yes. So, then we get into what kind of money she is. She is the younger daughter of a Bristol merchant. Both her parents are dead. Another one. She lives with her uncle, who's a lawyer. Now, it says, "Emma guessed him to be the drudge of some attorney, and too stupid to rise," which is an assumption Emma is making, but he's a [00:35:00] lowly lawyer. And the grandest thing about the family is her older sister married someone who keeps two carriages. I want to know what her father's line of trade was, because it said something about her father's line of trade not being like honorable. I don't really understand.

Becca: Well, this is a moment where I would say, we can ask ourselves whether or not Emma is being a reliable narrator.

Molly: Only she's definitely making assumptions about this like she's making stuff up.

Becca: Yes. So, what we're getting here is we're getting these professions that are just below the gentleman class and a lot of them are new money professions. Lawyers not, but tradesmen can be, merchant can be. And so, it's how we talked about Bingley and his wealth versus Darcy and his wealth, the new money wealth. Some tradesmen are more respectable than others. Take, for example, how Lizzie thinks for [00:36:00] Uncle Mr. Gardiner.

Molly: Right.

Becca: Some are less respectable and less prestigious for one reason or another. And so, Emma saying, "Yeah, her dad's a merchant, but he's basically a store clerk."

Molly: Right.

Becca: She's being classist, again.

Molly: Oh, 100%. Yeah.

Becca: She's saying, "Yes, she's rich, but that's not inherited wealth." So, Harriet could be a gentleman's daughter.

Molly: She could be.

Becca: Miss Hawkins has no connections, so to speak of, and nothing to offer the world other than being rich that Harriet doesn't have, which as you point out is not a small thing. But Harriet being beautiful and also having no connections. She's basically saying, "Other than the money, they're equal in every other way, or Harriet's better."

Molly: It's kind of like a physics problem. Harriet has potential to be-- It's [00:37:00] like Schrodinger's cat, which is a concept I don't really understand, except that I think in this situation it makes sense. And if any of our listeners are scientists, which I'm sure you are, you can totally come from me. But the idea is that the cat is both dead and alive at the same time, because you don't know until you open the door what kind of cat is inside of the box.

Becca: You can't know, because when you open the box, you could bring the cat back to life or you could scare it so much it died. And so, you don't know what's going on inside the box.

Molly: Right. You don't know what happened in the box.

Becca: So, it's everything at once. Yeah.

Molly: Exactly. Because the circumstances have changed once the door is open.

Becca: Exactly.

Molly: So, Harriet, we don't know who her parents are. So, she has potential to be both dead and alive at the same time.

Becca: Schrodinger's, a biological father.

Molly: Exactly.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Exactly. So, I see what Emma's going for there, but it's a stretch. Now, Emma wishes that she could make Harriet feel the same [00:38:00] way about Elton and this marriage that she feels. But she knows that the only thing that's going to get Harriet over Elton is, if she falls in love with someone else. I'm sensing another matchmake coming.

Becca: Emma.

[laughter]

Molly: She's addicted.

Becca: Girl.

Molly: But I also get it. It said something like, 'Harriet is the type of person who once she's in love will always be in love and I get that.

Becca: Yeah, that's actually very Molly Burdick.

Molly: Growing up and throughout all of high school and college, I was a perpetual crush haver. I didn't know how to not have a crush on someone.

Becca: I relate to this, because having a crush is very important. As our readers are all fans of romance novels, I bet you guys relate to this. But when I was growing up, I needed a crush because I needed to have fantasies and I needed to put someone in the fantasy. And the danger was, if I didn't have a crush, then one of my old crushes would surge back into my brain to fill all the fantasies, because I knew how to put him there, you know?

Molly: Yes, exactly. There have been times in my life where I have been bored, [00:39:00] because I didn't have feelings for someone. I would pick someone in my life that I knew peripherally, and I would say, "I could see if I have a crush on this person by inserting them into this fantasy in my mind and then develop a crush on that person because of that fantasy." I kid you not. And I get it. I get this and I also get like I've gone through breakups before where I've been so devastated and I've gone to my mom crying, and I've been like, "How will I ever get over this?" She's like, "You just have to wait until you fall in love again." She has said that to me and I read that in this book, and I was like, "Honestly, it's true that

the heartbreak might not go away until you feel love again, because your heart either knows how to be whole or broken."

Becca: The best way to get over someone is to get under somebody else is they believe the saying.

Molly: That is another way of putting it. Sure.

Becca: I will say, this isn't a good thing to do. It's not healthy. You should get over someone and heal for [00:40:00] yourself and be a full-fledged person and love yourself before you go out there and venture out to other people. It's the better, healthier way to break up with someone. It is also a lot easier to get over someone if you find new lay buddies.

Molly: Yeah. New places to put your fantasies.

Becca: And some other stuff.

Molly: Yeah.

[laughter]

Molly: Anyway, that's all to say that I get where that's coming from. Now, Emma hardly ever sees Elton around, but Harriet always seems to just be missing him, or just have seen him, or just heard his voice. He's always occupying her brain somehow and therefore, she's seeing him everywhere, and she's got her eyes peeled for him kind of. So, she's noticing him everywhere, whereas Emma's never noticing him around.

Becca: That's when you have *Teardrops On My Guitar* by Taylor Swift playing in your head.

Molly: Exactly.

Molly and Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Poor Harriet. Plus, the people that [00:41:00] Harriet hangs around have no reason to think they shouldn't be talking about him all the time and they all love him. So, at Mrs. Goddard's, for example, they are always talking about Mr. Elton, they're always talking about how awesome they're sure Miss Hawkins is and how beautiful and how much they're in love. So, Harriet is feeling her crush, she's feeling her regret, she's going through it.

If it were not causing Harriet so much pain, Emma would be amused by how she just like, one day is stressed about Elton and the next day she's stressed about Mr. Martin. This is where we get into each heartbreak acting as checks and balances for the other heartbreak, because one day, Mr. Elton's engagement helps with the shock of meeting Mr. Martin for the first time. And then, her agony over the engagement was forgotten for a moment when Elizabeth Martin comes to visit her at Miss Goddard's the next day, but Harriet wasn't [00:42:00] there. So, there's a letter from Miss Martin and she's then agonizing over the letter and like, "What should she do?" But then, she sees Elton again and she's like, "Oh, my God." The letter is driven from her mind, so she's just going back and forth being stressed about all of this.

Emma is a little bit anxious about the letter, because once Elton leaves, Emma thinks Harriet should probably return the visit from Elizabeth Martin. She's like, "That would be the polite thing to do, but I don't want to risk reacquainting her with the Martin's like, this is a dangerous acquaintance for Harriet." She's at war again with herself. She's like, "The thing that society tells us that we should do is return the visit." Someone paid her a visit, she must go return the visit. That's what society says. But the person who paid the visit is Elizabeth Martin. So, what do we do? Emma decides what she will do is she will drive Harriet herself to the Martins. She'll drop her off, she'll [00:43:00] drive down the road, she'll turn around, she'll come back, and she'll pick Harriet up before there's any time for them to get to really talking about anything and that's what she's going to do.

Becca: It's just like a drive by return call.

Molly: Yes. And she feels a little guilty that they're not doing the full thing like the full decorum and polite thing to do, but she's also like, "I can't risk it with Harriet."

Becca: This is the equivalent today like a one note word text response to a paragraph.

Molly: Exactly. Harriet is like, "What should I say? What should I say? What should I say? Help me figure out my response." And Emma's like, "Mm, say, okay, thanks."

Becca: Yep.

Molly: And that's the end of that chapter.

Becca: Which brings us to Becca's study questions. I don't have many for these chapters just because they're self-explanatory, but we'll go into a couple starting with obviously, why does Knightley want Jane to be friends with Emma?

Molly: I think Knightley wants Emma to have a friend who's actually of her same level, [00:44:00] because he doesn't like how Emma is playing with Harriet, like a toy, maybe. I'm just speaking. I didn't think about this really in advance. I thought of the question, and I didn't think of answer. So, some ideas. He needs Emma to have a real friend who's her age and of her same societal standing. He wants Emma to stop messing around in Harriet's life. Does he have some personal stake in Jane's life? I don't know. Those are the only two things I can think of. I'd like, "He just wants Emma to have a friend that's her own age and that challenges her mentally," maybe.

Becca: I'll plant a couple of other seeds. The only other seed I'll plant-- I'm not confirming or denying any of what you said is that Jane is opposite Emma, personality wise.

Molly: [00:45:00] Oh. Okay. So, it could be, he wants someone who challenges Emma mentally, but it also could be that he wants someone tone Emma down a little bit.

Becca: It could be any of those things.

Molly: But why does he care is my question. Like, why?

Becca: We're thinking about.

Molly: Definitely, we are thinking about.

Becca: All right. Do you have any more thoughts on the mystery between Miss Fairfax and Mr. Dixon?

Molly: The plot thickens. Things are growing in lasagna. Every time he's brought up, she says something that makes me think that there's something going on there. But again, I wonder if it's a red herring. I still think it might be a red herring. I'm hesitant to go all in on this theory, because I feel it's too obvious. But the fact that she was like, "Well, where I have regard, I always think them well looking." And then also, the big one for me was actually, he's nothing like Mr. John Knightley, [00:46:00] [Becca laughs] because you know that Jane Fairfax and Mr. John Knightley would not get along. I think that her thinking like, "He's not like Mr. John Knightley. How could you say that" is like, that's funny to me. So, I wonder about that. But her best friend is his wife. So, I don't know. Still unsure.

Becca: Okay. Another proposal, Graham, for good measure. The sound effect. [sound effect] Is Elton's match a good match?

Molly: For Elton, it's great. I was hoping that he was going to go off and get married to someone random and we wouldn't have to deal with his drama anymore. So, I'm hoping that's what happened here. He made off well with like-- It feels like a Wickham and Miss King situation, where it was like, "All right, go do your stupid thing and get married to the rich person and don't bother us anymore."

Becca: We're going to need another sound effect here, because we're going to talk about [The Economics of Dating and Jane Austen stinger] [00:47:00] The Economics of Dating and Jane Austen. So, there are other dynamics at play here. The way in which this is not like Mr. Wickham and Miss King is that Miss King was very wealthy, and Wickham brought nothing to the table other than being hot.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: What we actually have here is Elton bringing title to the table-

Molly: Right.

Becca: -as a rector.

Molly: Mm-hmm.

Becca: A vicar, as they're called, I think.

Molly: I think he's a vicar. Yeah.

Becca: And he's a gentleman's son and she has money. The combo means they have title and money.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: It's economically a very good match in that way. It's not as good as marrying Emma would have been for Elton, he would have been marrying up. But it is a marriage of sound economic purpose for all intents and purposes. That being said, Elton is saying, [00:48:00] "Oh, yeah, love of my life. Perfect. Four weeks. So psyched."

Molly: "Four weeks. Happy four weeks, babe."

Becca: Not someone posting on social media about their significant other. Who would do that?

Molly: I'm hiding.

Becca: That's okay. True. Trust me.

Molly: [giggles]

Becca: And then, next question I have, what does this match say about both Elton and his new partner?

Molly: What does it say about them? For Elton, I think it, like I said earlier, makes his intentions clear. He was looking for an economic marriage. He was looking for something beneficial to him, which, to be fair, he didn't really mince corners about. He claimed to be very in love with Emma, but he also was super offended when she suggested that he had a thing for Harriet. He was like, "No, she's so below me." So, I think that it just reinforces what he was looking [00:49:00] for in a marriage.

For her, they described her kind of as easy. They were like, "She was ready to marry him after a day." He said she was. So, I'm curious about her as well like, "What's she going to be like, I don't think I'm going to like her, because it seems like she might be similar to Mr Elton. So, I'm looking forward to potentially not liking Augusta Hawkins Elton."

Becca: This is a very nakedly economic marriage in a lot of ways, and they're talking like they fell deeply in love immediately. But there's a lot of ways in which they both got what they wanted very clearly.

Molly: Yeah. And also, there's nothing wrong with that, I guess. We're talking about people that we hate here. But also, in that time period, a lot of marriages were economic and that's just what it was. So, no hard feelings at them for marrying well for each other. Hard feelings at Mr. Elton for being a dick.

Becca: Hard feelings for Mr. Elton for dating to pretend like it's love.

Molly: Right.

Becca: [00:50:00] Because that's what he did with Emma. Then, lo and behold, a few weeks later, he's got somebody else.

Molly: Right.

Becca: It just becomes clear that Mr. Elton is just trying to find a lady to finance his lifestyle.

Molly: Exactly.

Becca: Make it his wife style, if you will.

Molly: His wife style. Yeah.

Becca: All right. You kind of touched on this, but predictions about the future Mrs. Elton?

Molly: I don't think I'm going to like her. One, because of the way that she was described as falling in with him immediately. And two, because I've definitely had to scroll really fast on Twitter past people saying stuff about memes about Mrs. Elton. So, I was like, "I don't want to know who Mrs. Elton is," but I did get the vibe that she's not a beloved character. So, I didn't see what any of them said, except for when Mrs. Elton blah, blah. I didn't read the rest of it, but I've seen people talk about her saying not positive things. So, I don't know what the not positive things say. I know that Becca will neither confirm nor [00:51:00] deny, but I just have a feeling.

Becca: Okay. To go to someone we do like, Harriet and our boy, Robbie M.

Molly: Robbie M.

Becca: Robert Martin.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: Did you miss him?

Molly: I missed him. He cares about her so much. He ran out and was like, "Wait, that way is muddy. Don't go that way." Yeah. And also, I like that he and his sister both still want to talk to Harriet. They are hurt by what she did, and they do have some hard feelings, but they're not unwilling to make amends because they are the best.

Becca: Yes. What else can we say about Emma's reaction to this?

Molly: My notes in my book, at the end of the first chapter that we just read said, "okay, Emma's still kind of the worst," because she still so badly wants to keep Harriet away from them and that she's trying to rationalize in her head like, "Wait, but he's still a bad match for her. This, that, and the other thing." [00:52:00] I feel like, "Can't she just let it go?" You've tried to get her with someone higher status and it blew up in your face, why can't you just let Harriet be happy and end up with someone that she has genuine feelings for? But Emma just won't have it. So, I got a little re annoyed at Emma, this chapter.

Becca: It's also almost like Emma can't face directly what that situation is. She needs to rationalize it away, she knows that Harriet has to go see the Martins, she wants to just drop her off and pull her right back. She doesn't want to think about what happened there.

Molly: She doesn't want to think about what happened there. She is so afraid that they will fall back in love that she doesn't even want her to see him for more than ten minutes, because she knows that they will, because love is more powerful and to Emma more dangerous. She thinks it's dangerous to the situation that she's trying to get [00:53:00]

Harriet into to put her near this man that she knows that Harriet will be in love with, because love is a powerful force and Emma is afraid of it.

Becca: Okay. Last question before the standbys. We're back in Harry's love life in the throes of it. Do you have predictions for it moving forward

Molly: This visit with the Martins, that hasn't happened yet, right? That's just her plan for it. Okay. I'm hoping that goes well and I think that Emma is going to put someone else in the mix. I don't know who it's going to be. Maybe Frank Churchill. No, Emma wants Frank Churchill for herself. I just think she's going to put another man in the mix. I don't know who it is, because she is starting to think that's the only thing that's going to get Harriet over these two men.

Becca: What do you think of Emma?

Molly: Again, I'm a little bit annoyed at her again, but I can see the turmoil that you're describing like, she is trying to rationalize it, because she feels a little bit bad. She [00:54:00] doesn't feel bad enough.

Becca: Yeah. Her feeling bad doesn't change the consequences of her actions.

Molly: Exactly. So, she's complicated.

Becca: As ever. All right, funniest quote?

Molly: The funniest quote is Emma of Elton. "She wished him very well, but he gave her pain, and his welfare 20 miles off would administer most satisfaction."

Becca: Questions moving forward.

Molly: What of Augusta Hawkins? Who will she be? What will we think of her? I look forward to meeting her. I don't know when they're coming back, but whenever the Eltons come back, I want to know. What's going to happen with Harriet and Mr. Martin with this visit that she's paying to Elizabeth? I'm hoping he's there when that happens. And I still want to know why Knightley wants Emma and Jane to be friends. I don't, 100%, know yet. So, yeah.

Becca: Who wins the chapters?

Molly: Ooh.

Becca: You said that you weren't [00:55:00] expecting that question.

Molly: I know. I think about my funniest quote, I think about my questions moving forward. Every time you ask me, who wins the chapter, I'm like, "Who wins the chapter?" I think that these chapters have got to be won by Elizabeth Martin for going up to Harriet in the shop and wishing her well and being the bigger person.

Becca: That's some fucking class right there from Elizabeth Martin.

Molly: Yeah. Go Elizabeth Martin. She was like, "Yeah, I'll talk to your crush for you."

Becca: Yeah. She's like, "I'm going to be the fucking adult here and talk to our friend, even though she's being kind of a dick."

Molly: Yeah, Elizabeth Martin takes the cake.

Becca: All right. Perfect choice. All right, listeners, that concludes this episode of Pod and Prejudice. For next time, you're going to read the next two chapters, Volume II, Chapters 5 and 6. Or, if you're reading a book without Volumes, Chapters 23 and 24 of the book.

[00:56:00] Molly, anything else before we go?

Molly: I'm just excited to read the next two chapters.

Becca: They're actually pretty cheesy ones.

Molly: Ooh.

Becca: So, until next time, stay proper--

Molly: --and take the long way around, because the short way is too muddy.

Becca: Yeah, it is today.

Molly: Yeah.

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