

**Molly:** Support for Pod and Prejudice comes from Bel Isteria, a curated venue for people who love history and romantic tradition. Austen lovers may want to stroll over to Bel Isteria to peruse a beautiful collection of period literature and drama inspired themed boxes. Each theme box is lovingly curated to take you back in time. We especially love the Jane Austen Regency Box, which includes a unique, vintage English bone China tea cup and saucer along with Austen inspired tea, *Pride and Prejudice* Lavender Lotion, a Dried Lavender Bouquet and a reproduction necklace from the film version of *Emma*. Also included is a theme booklet, that tells the story of each artisan and includes recipes and other fun facts from that place in time. New visitors can sign up for Bel Isteria newsletter and take 10% off their first order. Bel Isteria only ships within the US. Sorry UK listeners. If you're in the US, head on over to [belistoria.com](http://belistoria.com). That's B-E-L-I-S-T-O-R-I-A [00:01:00] dotcom and sign up for their newsletter to take 10% off your first order.

Hey everyone. Before we begin this week's episode, we want to thank our newest patron, Guy. Welcome to the team. If you want to be like Guy and get access to exclusive content like outtakes, fun facts and monthly livestreams, head on over to [patreon.com/podandprejudice](https://patreon.com/podandprejudice). Speaking of livestreams, we've got another one coming up this Saturday, April 24th. The details for that are on our Patreon. So, if you want in, sign up to be an Estate or Pod Squad level patron today. Now, enjoyed this week's episode covering Chapters Seven through Nine of *Sense and Sensibility*.

**Becca:** Listeners, Molly and I are both vaccinated are fully at this point in time. We have been super pandemic safe the entire pandemic and we continue to be, but the other weekend, I was here with Mike and I had a weekend's worth of interaction.

**Molly:** Wow.

**Becca:** It was wild, because one of my friends, she has a new boyfriend and we all had a socially distanced wine and cheese in her backyard.

**Molly:** Ah. [00:02:00]

**Becca:** Really nice, and then the next day, Mike went home and I had a hike with two of my friends.

**Molly:** Oh, I saw on your Instagram story.

**Becca:** It was so nice.

**Molly:** Wow.

**Becca:** I went home and I was like, "I had a social interaction on Saturday, and a social interaction on Sunday." Pre-pandemic, that would have been a reasonable amount of social interaction for a weekend.

**Molly:** Mm-hmm.

**Becca:** I need more people. I need them. I need them.

**Molly:** Y'all, the earth is healing or rather there is a light at the end of the tunnel. It's hard to see it and still I could not see a light two weeks ago, and I just feel there is the possibility that things may become sort of normal. I don't need to hug anybody. I just want to sit six feet apart from you and look at your face.

**Becca:** I need to hug people.

**Molly:** I do miss hugging.

**Becca:** I miss hugging so much.

**Molly:** I don't know who around here I'll hug, because most of my friends are in New York or California, [00:03:00] but maybe I'll date somebody.

**Becca:** Yes!

**Molly:** Who knows?

[laughter]

**Becca:** Speaking of romance.

**Molly:** *Sense and Sensibility* is heating up.

**Becca:** All right.

[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 Chapters 7 through 9 of *Sense and Sensibility*. Listeners, if you're new here, which I don't think that you will be on this episode, but just in case, I, Molly, have never read any Jane Austen.

**Becca:** I, Becca, have read many a Jane Austen.

**Molly:** Many of Jane Austen, and together we are making our way through the Jane Austen canon. This is Season 2 covering *Sense and Sensibility*. If you want to hear *Pride and Prejudice*, check out Season One.

**Becca:** Yeah, it's great.

**Molly:** If we do say so ourselves.

[laughter]

**Becca:** This includes both the books and a lot of the media content that surrounds it. Mostly movies, also TV.

**Molly:** Yes. [00:04:00]

**Becca:** I have an alcohol.

**Molly:** Becca, what are you drinking? Tell the people.

**Becca:** It's a Grey Goose vodka, elderflower liqueur, seltzer, lime juice and Meyer lemon.

**Molly:** What are we going to call this beverage?

**Becca:** Hmm. That's good question.

**Molly:** A Dashwood of-- hang on.

**Becca:** A Dashwood of Meyer lemon.

**Molly:** Dashwood of Meyer lemon. Well, ooh, you know what we can do? We could make cocktails and have our patrons name them.

**Becca:** Oh, yes. Okay.

**Molly:** That could be fun.

**Becca:** Let me describe it again, so that our patrons know. It's one part vodka, one part elderflower liqueur, and then a dash of lime juice, half a Meyer lemon, and just topped off with Seltzer shaken and poured.

**Molly:** That sounds so good and refreshing, kind of like a boozy Sprite.

**Becca:** I love a boozy Sprite. I don't like Sprite, but I like all of my cocktails to be a little bubbly and very sour.

**Molly:** Yeah. Ooh, okay. [00:05:00] Patrons, that's going to be your job. Let us know on Patreon, what you think that should be called, *Sense and Sensibility* themed preferably, but it could be *Pride and Prejudice* also.

**Becca:** Yes, both are fine. Yeah, or just Jane Austen generally, not with the books that we haven't read yet, but if it's called a Jane Austen.

**Molly:** Right, but there's no gin in it, but yeah.

**Becca:** A Collin Firth Fizz or something.

**Molly:** A Collin Firth-- Oh, my God. Collin Firth Sideburns. [laughs]

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** Instead of a sidecar.

**Becca:** So delicious. You just want to sip them up. Ah. Gross. Gross, Becca, gross.

[laughter]

**Molly:** All right. Today, we are talking about Chapters Seven through Nine of *Sense and Sensibility*. My first note in Chapter Seven was why is everyone's named John, which is something I didn't realize until now, but we've got John Dashwood, who is the Dashwood's brother, and John Middleton, who is the Dashwood's cousin.

**Becca:** Because it's England. This happens in the US [00:06:00] today still.

**Molly:** That's-- [crosstalk]

**Becca:** In my year, in our theater program, we had like, what, how many actors? 25?

**Molly:** Mm-hmm, and three of them are John and all three of them lived together.

**Becca:** Yes. There was like a three-John house. It's just how it is in society.

**Molly:** However, so yes, this is true. John is a very common name, but when you're writing a book, you can pick other names, like you are making this world.

**Becca:** I'm going to stop you there, because this is a spoiler, but not really a spoiler.

**Molly:** Is everyone named John in every Jane Austen book?

**Becca:** Just get ready for a lot of name overlap in Austen books.

**Molly:** At least it's not Fitzwilliam. That was too much for me.

**Becca:** He is a special delicate flower of his own making, Fitzwilliam Darcy.

**Molly:** There were two Fitzwilliams, is the thing. Like I know listeners, I get it, that Fitzwilliam, Colonel Fitzwilliam has the last name, and Darcy his mother's maiden name was Fitzwilliam, I get it. But what the fuck? [00:07:00] [chuckles] Like Jane Austen, you can pick the names, anyway. Let's get into the meat and potatoes, or the tofu and sweet potatoes, as it were. The Middletons always have guests over, and it turns out this is just because they are boring people. John is a sportsman. He's only occupied with his job for half the year, and Lady M is a mother, and because she's a mother, she's obviously going to have no other occupation than hanging out with her kids.

**Becca:** They're just bored, like all the time.

**Molly:** Yeah, I was like, "Oh, they seem like interesting people, I'm interested by them," and then it straight up says, "Having guests was necessary to the happiness of both for however dissimilar in temporary and outward behavior," which they are. "They strongly resemble each other in that total want of talent and taste which can find their employments unconnected with such a society produced within a very narrow compass."

**Becca:** Yep. I mean everyone knows someone who's the boring one in a group of friends.

**Molly:** These two together [00:08:00] are just both boring.

**Becca:** Yes.

**Molly:** Too bad.

**Becca:** But that's okay.

**Molly:** Yeah, it's okay. They are very hospitable, because that's his thing, and elegant, because that's her thing. They love throwing parties, because she gets to be all elegant and make elegant table settings and he gets to collect young people. I did want to comment on when it said that he was gathering all of these young people to his house, it felt very horror Slughorny.

**Becca:** A bit. There's a bit of a status thing to it. A flattering reading of John Middleton is that he's a very friendly, and likes talking to people, and we all know people like that.

**Molly:** Yeah, I think he seemed cool.

**Becca:** The less flattering reading here is that like, he is someone who likes to feel he's in the popular group.

**Molly:** Yes.

**Becca:** He is trying to get into the popular group by being wealthy and having parties.

**Molly:** Yes, it definitely, I would err on the side of that, based on the descriptions that we get of him. I like this. It said, "He was a blessing to all the juvenile part of the neighborhood for in summer, he was forever forming parties to eat cold [00:09:00] ham and chicken out of [unintelligible 00:09:01] [laughs] What is it with this time period and cold meats?"

**Becca:** Part of it is it's they don't have a microwave to heat them up later.

**Molly:** Mm-hmm.

**Becca:** None of the food sounds appetizing.

**Molly:** No.

**Becca:** At all.

**Molly:** No. Okay, from when I used to eat chicken, cold chicken could be the bomb.

**Becca:** I guess it depends on the ham. I was partial to a prosciutto back in the day.

**Molly:** Yeah, I don't like ham. I haven't eaten ham in 15, 16 years.

**Becca:** Wait, how long have you been vegetarian?

**Molly:** Since I was 10.

**Becca:** So, you also haven't eaten chicken in that long either?

**Molly:** Yeah, but I can remember tasting a good chicken.

**Becca:** Okay. I'm just going to say, I've been a vegetarian since, well, I've been a pescatarian since-- it's been about nine years now, so I was 18 or 19 years old when I became a pescatarian, so I remember meat very well. I'm going to say, I didn't like the same meat at age 10 that I liked at [00:10:00] age 19.

**Molly:** That's fair. I think that when I ate meat, I didn't have a refined enough palate to be able to tell the difference. I used to call everything chicken. I really liked pork, and so whenever we had pork loin, I would be like, "This is great. What kind of chicken is this?" Literally, words straight from my mouth.

**Becca:** There is some ham that I liked when I was 10, but there is a lot of really beautiful, high-quality ham out there that I did not appreciate as much until my teenage years.

**Molly:** Very fair. I didn't mean to get us on a tangent about the cold meats. I even specifically was like, "Molly don't quote this part," but then I went for it anyway.

**Becca:** You know what? I'm into it. I looked at that, and I was like, "You know what? It's relevant. It's very evocative," because it's supposed to be all lovely, and it sounds awful.

**Molly:** It does. The next sentence though, is the one that I actually wanted to quote, because I'm not entirely sure what it's supposed to mean. That [00:11:00] was about summer, the cold meats. "In winter, his private balls were numerous enough for any young lady who was not suffering under the insatiable appetite of 15." Does this mean, Becca is nodding, because I think it means what I think it does, but that if they weren't 15 or younger where your appetite is to go to hundreds of balls, so it was good for the older women?

**Becca:** It's basically, if you're not obsessed with partying, this is enough partying to satisfy you.

**Molly:** Okay, cool. That's what I was hoping it meant, because I got a little bit weirded out by the insatiable and 15.

**Becca:** No, there's a lot of like, "Oh, he likes the young people," where you're like, "Hmm."

**Molly:** I was like, [cringe sounds]

**Becca:** I think Jane Austen is just trying to make a point that he likes to be social and likes to have the status of being social.

**Molly:** Got it, because he likes to be social, he is thrilled that the Dashwoods are there, because there are three daughters and they are all unaffected. Meaning, I guess pretty normal, [00:12:00] because to be unaffected was all that a pretty girl could want to make her mind as captivating as her person. I'm just picturing he doesn't want a Lydia Bennet in his presence.

**Becca:** Basically, the Dashwood girls are both catches, the ones who are of age.

**Molly:** Yes.

**Becca:** Margaret's awesome too.

**Molly:** Yeah, fucking love Margaret.

**Becca:** Justice for Margaret.

**Molly:** Yes.

**Becca:** She's youthful. Taking her out of the equation for right now. Marianne and Elinor are both very pretty and very smart and very personable.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** Therefore, they have a lot of quality that make them good company. They're very marriageable, in terms of their persons, if not their social status.

**Molly:** Yes, that brings me to my next question, which was, it says something about him being happy, because he has all of his sporting men friends over, and he wants women around to keep the men happy. Is he trying to pair them all off?

**Becca:** Oh, yeah, there's definitely some like Bubby [00:13:00] bullshit going on here.

**Molly:** Mm-Hmm

**Becca:** Matchmaker.

**Molly and Becca:** [in a singing tone] Matchmaker, make me a match.

**Molly:** The Dashwoods come to dinner at Barton Park, and John tells them, unfortunately, there's only one man that will be joining them, and he is neither very young nor very gay, and I would like to beg to differ, because I think that everybody's gay, but also I get it.

**Becca:** No, I saw that, I was like, "Molly's going to focus on the gay."

**Molly:** Basically, they're describing another Mr. Darcy. That's the vibe that I'm getting from this man who is as of yet unnamed. Another guest will be lady Middleton's mother, Mrs. Jennings. She is dope as hell.

**Becca:** She is the best. She's outrageous, but she's so fun.

**Molly:** Becca was so excited to get to this part.

**Becca:** Do I just love the old ladies in Jane Austen books?

**Molly:** Yeah. I mean, who are you going to relate?

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** I feel that makes a lot of sense for you, and you're typecast.

**Becca:** Hey, hey now. [chuckles] [00:14:00]

**Molly:** I mean, am I wrong?

**Becca:** No, I was cast as a lot of old women. I have a very deep voice and a full figure.

[laughter]

**Becca:** Got that?

[laughter]

**Molly:** Got that. I can't got that. Becca, you know I can't.

[laughter]

**Molly:** Yes, she's great. She is vulgar. She's constantly making jokes about people's romantic interest. Basically, everything that you were saying. Also, she's plump and happy and just a good time, you want to be around her. She's joking about the girls and their lovers and she hopes that none of them left their hearts behind, and Marianne gets pissed. She's like Elinor is going to be so sad. I've got to get angry on her behalf, because she doesn't realize how much this is going to hurt her, but it was all in good fun. Marianne is getting annoyed about nothing really. I mean, in my opinion.

**Becca:** Well, Marianne's like, "Oh, my God, this is a touchy subject. Are you going to be okay?" Elinor's like, "I'm fine."



**Molly:** Yeah, I can picture them all at the dinner table, and Elinor is just eating her fucking soup and Marianne is [00:15:00] kicking her under the table like, “Oh my God, are you okay?” Or, squeezing her hand and Elinor is--

**Becca:** I was going to say she's like, “I need my hand, I'm eating.”

**Molly:** Yeah, I need my hand for my soup.

[laughter]

**Becca:** Or, my cold ham.

**Molly:** Yeah, or cold chicken. Who knows? Is it summer or winter? Depends.

**Becca:** I don't remember.

**Molly:** I think it's summer. Okay, so here we go. Turns out the man's name is Colonel Brandon. Dear listeners, it's time I inform you that I did find out that there was a character named Colonel Brandon, and that he is played by Alan Rickman. I have in my head that this is Alan Rickman, and I'm bummed about that. It was an accidental spoiler. I stumbled across it. Nobody's fault.

**Becca:** If you think about it this way, you knew certain actors in *Pride and Prejudice* while we were reading too, so it's not the end of the world.

**Molly:** That's true. Only Colin Firth and Keira Knightley, who were in the movie together. It's not the end of the world, but I do have Alan Rickman in my head. This man, like I said, is basically Darcy. He's just silent, he's older. [00:16:00] It says that it makes no more sense that he is John Middleton's friend than it makes sense that Mrs. Jennings is Lady Middleton's mother, because while Mrs. Jennings is dope as hell and Lady Middleton sucks, John is so buoyant and friendly, and Colonel Brandon is a rock in the corner, like a Bingley-Darcy vibe I'm getting.

**Becca:** Yeah, except Colonel Brandon is very distinct from Darcy in one specific way, which is that Darcy came off as very hoity-toity and cold. Whereas, Colonel Brandon comes off very polite, just sort of reserved and serious.

**Molly:** Got it. Yeah, that's the vibe I'm getting. I don't hate him. In fact, I quite like him. He has not yet said two words, but I think I like him.

[laughter]

**Becca:** Okay.

**Molly:** It goes on to describe him, and that he's not an attractive. He's just silent and grave. He's “old” at 35. There's a whole discussion about this in the next [00:17:00] chapter, but we'll get there. His countenance is sensible, and he is very gentlemen like. I liked the use of the word ‘sensible’ here.

**Becca:** It's in the title.

**Molly:** It's in the title. The Dashwoods wouldn't really get along with any of these people at the dinner party except for the fact that, and I wrote in my notes to read this part, "There was nothing in any of the party which could recommend them as companions to the Dashwoods, but the cold insipidity of Lady Middleton was so particularly repulsive, that in comparison of it, the gravity of Colonel Brandon and even the boisterous mirth of Sir John and his mother-in-law was interesting." I liked that. It's just like they're observing this party, and they're having a good time because of it.

**Becca:** It's also if one person at a party particularly sucks, you're going to be like, "Okay, who else is here? I can work with this."

**Molly:** Yeah, exactly. After dinner, they ask Marianne to play the piano. She plays and sings. She's very good. While she's playing, John is very loud, and Lady Middleton keeps hushing [00:18:00] him up, and is like, "Appreciate the music, please," and he's like, "Oh, oh, sorry." Colonel Brandon is the only one who's actually listening to her without being in raptures about it. He's not like, "Oh, my God, you're so talented," he's just listening and appreciating it, and she recognized that he has taste, which is important to her. I would like to just throw that out there. Marianne said from the beginning that taste is important to her, and she thinks that he's genuinely listening to her and not making a show of listening to her, which is important.

**Becca:** That sentiment is very beautiful.

**Molly:** Yes, it is. It is. Also, it's mostly in comparison to the people who are around her. It's like does he actually like the music or is he just the only one not being absurd?

**Becca:** I also think the idea of him not being in raptures, but him simply listening.

**Molly:** Mm-Hmm

**Becca:** I don't know. You're an artist.

**Molly:** Mm-Hmm.

**Becca:** I'm an artist.

**Molly:** I like when people are in raptures. Give me attention!

**Becca:** It's somebody just taking the moment to really [00:19:00] contemplate your art.

**Molly:** Yes, that is meaningful.

**Becca:** It's a very profound thing.

**Molly:** Yeah, and it shows that they're actually trying to appreciate it and not just make you feel good, because someone being like, "That was great, it looked like you're having fun." That's always like, "Hmm."

**Becca:** There's also just like, "Oh, beautiful." I love my family but sometimes, they'll be like, "Oh, my God, that was amazing. That was amazing. We love that." When someone is a little bit more stern about it, and doesn't have incentive to say nice things about it and just taking it in. I'm like, "Okay, okay." Like when someone takes it very seriously.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** When they look at you as the artist. It's important.

**Molly:** It's not just to make you feel good. Yeah, that is important. Good on him. He does that. Then, at the end of the chapter, she attributes his good taste to him being old, which again, he's not.

**Becca:** This also gets to the fact that Marianne is very young.

**Molly:** Yes, and we'll talk about that more in-

**Becca:** Oh, we will.

**Molly:** -the next few chapters, but they just keep talking about him being old and [00:20:00] we'll get there. Chapter 8. Mrs. Jennings is a widow with ample jointure, which I did have to look up, and it means she was settled with an estate instead of a dowry when her husband died. She has two daughters, and they're both already married. So now, she's moving on to marry the rest of the world.

**Becca:** I love her. I mean, thriving, she's not Lady Catherine de Bourgh rich.

**Molly:** No.

**Becca:** Mrs. Jennings is wealthy, and bored. She's like, if Mrs. Bennett got her wish, and all of her daughters were married off and good marriages, and they're all set, and she just has money to chill with and burn, and she's like, "All right, who else can I marry?"

**Molly:** Yep, exactly. I love it. She also has a good eye for romantic attachments. She immediately determines that Colonel Brandon is absolutely in love with Marianne, which I totally called the minute I saw him coming on the scene. So, proud of myself there. She could tell because of how he listened to Marianne play.

**Becca:** The next line you wrote down is absolutely iconic.

**Molly:** Oh, yes. [laughs] Mrs. [00:21:00] Jennings has decided that this is an excellent match, because he was rich, and she was handsome.

**Becca:** It still works today!

**Molly:** It does. They're a perfect match, except he's old, but we'll get there.

[laughter]

**Molly:** She is constantly railing on both of them about it. When she's at the house, she's railing on him. When she's at the cottage, she's railing on her. He is pretty indifferent about all of it, and Marianne is embarrassed by it. How I'm interpreting this part is that Colonel Brandon is embarrassed that she's making a fuss, and Marianne pities him, because she thinks that she's only making a fuss because he's old, and she wants him to get married.

**Becca:** Yeah, I also think they all really like Brandon at the Middleton house.

**Molly:** Mm-hmm.

**Becca:** He's a good friend of John Middleton's. They got these two little pretty girls in their orbit, and they are like, "Ooh, got to marry them off. This sounds fun." You get the sense these people are very bored. They need something to do with their time.

**Molly:** Yes, they are bored.

**Becca:** The thing is, [00:22:00] we talked a lot about-- Oh, here we go. Get the stinger ready, Graham, The Economics Dating in Jane Austen. Ka-ching!

[ka-ching sound]

**Becca:** Don't put up fart sounds here. He's going to put up fart sounds here. [fart sounds] We have seen how Marianne feels about love. We've seen how she feels about marriage. She has very strong feelings about romance. On the other hand, you have your Charlotte Lucases, who would look at a guy like Colonel Brandon and be ideal.

**Molly:** Well, Charlotte Lucas is 27, and we'll get there in a minute.

**Becca:** Oh, yes, we will. Colonel Brandon is wealthy, polite, seems respectful, like by a sensible match standard, he's a great catch. It's just he's also really quiet and serious, and Marianne wants someone who's--

**Molly:** Vivacious.

**Becca:** I'm trying to think of a today equivalent, but this is such a dumb reference, and it's not even up to date, but I'm going to use it anyway. [00:23:00]

**Molly:** Okay.

**Becca:** Have you ever watched the show, *Dawson's Creek*?

**Molly:** I have not. We've been over this before.

**Becca:** This show, anyone who's watched *Dawson's Creek* and people can come at me for this. Everyone knows that, Pacey and Joey were the better couple. Just knowledge.

**Molly:** All right.

**Becca:** But there's an episode, when they're figuring out their feelings for each other for the first time, and it's complicated, because Joey is Dawson's ex, and Dawson is Pacey's best friend.

**Molly:** I'm sorry. Dawson is the name of a character?

**Molly:** Yeah, it's *Dawson's Creek* because they live at a creek, and his name is Dawson. It's possessive.

**Molly:** I thought the creek was named Dawson's Creek.

**Becca:** [laughs] That's fair.

**Molly:** Because it's a creek.

**Becca:** Nope. His name is Dawson. He is a film guy. He's a total tool, but he's not sold that way by the show. The show wants us to root for him, which is weird. Joey is played by Katie Holmes, and she's like the girl next door. They've known each other forever. She's in love with him. They get together. They have a really explosive breakup. [00:24:00] They both suck together. Then, Dawson's best friend, Pacey, falls for Joey, and they have all this insane chemistry, and it's Joshua Jackson. So, obviously, everyone's in love with him.

Anyway, one of the episodes of this show that had a very big effect on me in my teenage years was that Pacey kissed Joey, and she freaked out at him. She's like, "Your best friend is my ex-boyfriend. We can't do this." Then, she's having a discussion. They're away for a weekend. She's having discussion with someone older, and she's like, "Yeah, I left my husband and I left him for a guy who died a year later, but I'll never regret it, because the other guy I knew him forever, he was one of my best friends. I loved him. But this next guy made me feel alive."

**Molly:** I see where you're going with this metaphor now.

**Becca:** Then, Joey realizes that Pacey makes her feel alive, unlike the idea of someone just by their presence making you feel more alive. That's what Marianne wants.

**Molly:** Yeah, fair.

**Becca:** That was a long rant about *Dawson's Creek*, but that's [00:25:00] where I'm at today. [chuckles]

**Molly:** Fair. I don't know. Alan Rickman would always make me feel alive. Rest his soul. What a beautiful man.

**Becca:** I love Alan Rickman. It's fine.

**Molly:** It's fine. Mrs. Dashwood thinks that Mrs. Jennings is only poking fun, because again, she couldn't possibly think with a 17-year-old and a 35-year-old that there's any chance of romance there. Marianne says, "He's old enough to be her father," and "If you were ever animated enough to be in love, he must have long outlived every sensation of the kind."

**Becca:** Oh, my God! This is the thing. I don't know if you've thought of this comparison yet, but there's a small amount of Lydia in Marianne.

**Molly:** Yes, absolutely.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** Actually, at the end of this chapter I think is where I say it. Yeah, at the end of this chapter, I made a comparison of her to Mrs. Bennett.

**Becca:** Oh, no!

**Molly:** I'll explain, but yeah, there's definitely some Lydia in her.

**Becca:** It's just the lack of filter, but at least Marianne knows to keep it within [00:26:00] the family.

**Molly:** Sure. She wouldn't say this to his face.

**Becca:** She is so savage!

**Molly:** Absolutely. I mean, she is going on right now. She says that first. Then, she asks like, "Will men ever be safe from this joking if age and infirmity won't save him?" and then Elinor is like, "Okay, hang on, backtrack. He is not infirm. Calm down. He still has full use of all of his limbs." Marianne says, "Notice the other day he was complaining of rheumatism?" Mrs. Dashwood says, "Well, okay, if you think he's old, you must be constantly panicking that I'm going to drop dead any second."

**Becca:** [laughs] She's five years older than him.

**Molly:** I know. She's only 40. Okay. Then, I had this wild thought. What if Mrs. Dashwood and Colonel Brandon, an older woman? Hmm.

**Becca:** I will neither confirm nor deny.

**Molly:** Becca will neither confirm nor deny, but listeners, here's my head canon. Marianne-- We're going to meet someone in the next chapter that I think-- [00:27:00] we'll get there, but that's a possibility for her, and then meanwhile, Colonel Brandon and Mrs. Dashwood are going to fall in love. I don't actually feel that it's going to happen, but maybe. All right. Marianne clarifies that he might live much longer but 35 is just far too old to be thinking about getting married.

**Becca:** Really quite hilarious.

**Molly:** Especially considering, our standards nowadays, I'm 26, and I haven't been in a relationship in like four years.

**Becca:** It's actually one of the wonderful things about the era we live in my opinion, is that, yeah, people still do get married, but people wait now.

**Molly:** Oh, yeah.

**Becca:** They wait for the right person, and that means they wait a while.

**Molly:** Yeah. Elinor says, maybe 35 and 17 is too much of an age difference to be thinking about getting married. But if Colonel Brandon were to meet, say a 27-year-old, like Charlotte Lucas, for example, he could totally marry her, and then Marianne is so rude. She's like, "If you're 27 and unmarried, there's just no hope for you." [00:28:00]

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** Oh, Marianne, she's so fast with the clap back.

**Becca:** She gives no fucks. It's amazing, because everything Elinor says makes total sense.

**Molly:** Right.

**Becca:** Marianne is just like, "Nope, fuck every--"

**Molly:** Yeah, Marianne must think that she's going to get married pretty soon too, because she waits too long.

**Becca:** Again, she's young and beautiful and smart and talented. She has a lot going for her. She can afford to be a little mean.

**Molly:** Well, she continues. She gets worse. After saying there's no hope for a 27-year-old, she says, "You know what? Fine, a 27-year-old could submit to the offices of being a nurse," because by that point, she just wants a marriage of convenience, and he's 35. Of course, he needs a nurse.

**Becca:** I want to say my sister met her fiancé when, I think she was 27, and he was 35.

**Molly:** Thank God.

**Becca:** She is not his nurse.

**Molly:** Obviously.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** Elinor says that, you may not believe that people have 27 and 35 are capable [00:29:00] of love, but please don't commit Colonel Brandon and his future wife to a sick bed-

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** -because he complained of some pain in his neck and shoulders, like all of us do.

**Becca:** Here's where I want to point out that Austen is writing that really authentic bickering between the siblings.

**Molly:** It's so good. It was like boom, boom, boom, boom, boom.

**Becca:** Oh, yeah. It's because also, Elinor is as witty as Marianne, she's just less savage. She's way more tactful.

**Molly:** She is witty and nice, and Marianne is witty and mean. I love her.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** She is just unforgiving.

**Becca:** Yep.

**Molly:** I love it. Marianne says, he talked to flannel waistcoats, which is the talk of the old and feeble, because you've got to keep warm.

**Becca:** Oh, my God. No, wait. What's the modern-day equivalent of this?

**Molly:** Like wearing a bathrobe?

**Becca:** No, talking about wearing cardigans.

**Molly:** Sure. Or, talking about, um, ah man, there's certain items of clothing. Yeah.

**Becca:** [00:30:00] I definitely wear old person clothes sometimes. What do I wear that's old?

**Molly:** I don't know. Even just wearing a jacket in 60-degree weather.

**Becca:** Skinny jeans and side parts. [laughs]

**Molly:** Oh, my God. Becca's [unintelligible [00:30:15] with the discourse that the millennials are getting shit from the Gen Z about our side parts and our skinny jeans. Listen, there's nothing wrong with our side parts and our skinny jeans.

**Becca:** There's also nothing wrong if you want to do a middle part or straight leg jeans. Just don't wear low-rise jeans, and we're all fine.

**Molly:** Yeah, as long as nobody tries to bring low-rise jeans back, we are all fine.

**Becca:** That's the only request I make of the youth.

**Molly:** Yeah. Elinor's clap back to that is that Marianne would not hate him so much if he had a high fever and then she says, "Confess, Marianne, is there not something interesting to you in the flesh



cheek, hollow eye and quick pulse of a fever.” My first response was, “Ah, yes, and her fine eyes were brightened by the exercise.”

**Becca:** Yep. I don't think Elinor is going there, but that was immediately where I went in my head, because I was like, “Ooh.”

**Molly:** Elinor is meaning it in a sarcastic [00:31:00] way, whereas Darcy meant it legitimately. Then, Elinor leaves and Marianne confides to her mom that on the subject of sickness, she thinks Eddie might be sick, because he hasn't visited, and it's been two weeks. Mrs. Dashwood says, “I was a little more anxious, because it seemed like he was hesitant to come when I invited him,” and then she asks, if Elinor is expecting him to come, and Marianne's like, “Uh, probably, but she hasn't said anything to me about it.” Mrs. Dashwood says the last time she spoke with Elinor, Elinor said that she probably won't be expecting any guests anytime soon.

Marianne is just baffled by both Elinor and Eddie, because she said their goodbyes seemed like perfectly friendly, and she tried to leave them alone together twice, and both times Eddie had followed her out of the room, and that Elinor needs to be crying more, like she's handling it too well. In this moment, I was like, she has Mrs. Bennett qualities, like the leaving them together.

**Becca:** Oh, yes, definitely, definitely. I think like Marianne's is more perceptive and subtle, but also [00:32:00] a little miscalculated. This has the vibe for me of when you're not sure whether or not one of your friends broke up with her boyfriend.

**Molly:** Hmm. Okay.

**Becca:** You think they might have, so the whole group chat is behind her being like, “I don't want to bring it up if it's sensitive, but he seems gone, she seems weirdly okay, I'm confused.”

**Molly:** Yes, that is definitely what's going on here. I don't think that Marianne has “tact” or anything of that kind.

**Becca:** No, she doesn't have tact, but she's a bit more perceptive than Mrs. Bennett.

**Molly:** Sure. Speaking of Regency Era romance literature, Pod and Prejudice is sponsored this week by Bel Istoría. As Jane Austen aficionados, we think you'll love Bel Istoría's period literature and drama-inspired theme boxes, particularly the Jane Austen Regency Box. Each box is lovingly curated to take you back in time, head on over to *belistoria.com*. That's B-E-L-I-S-T-O-R-I-A [00:33:00] dotcom, and be sure to sign up for their newsletter to take 10% off your first order. Remember, they only ship to the US. Now back to the show.

Chapter 9. The Dashwoods settle into life at Barton, and they're always employed with some activity or another. Sir John is always encouraging them to get out and visit family, and he's always offering them his carriage, but Mrs. Dashwood's independent spirit overcame the wish of society for her children, and they only ever go see people they can walk to. This is going to be important. Just putting a pin in it.

**Becca:** Okay.

**Molly:** Just the fact that Mrs. Dashwood is treasuring something over the wish of society for her children, because *Pride and Prejudice* indoctrinated in me that society is the most important thing, so that's important to me. About a mile from their cottage, there is an ancient mansion, and they often walk by it and they want to go inside, but the owner, they learn, is [00:34:00] a little old lady who is too old to mix with society. I am loving this haunted house vibe-

**Becca:** Yes.

**Molly:** -and I want this old woman to be a witch. I want her to be in her house casting spells, I know that's not what's going to happen, but the general vibe is mysterious old woman in a big empty mansion. Ooh, love that.

**Becca:** Yes. The *Haunting of Hill House: Sense and Sensibility* edition.

**Molly:** All right, because this was a big theme in Season 1, is this a horror book?

**Becca:** Do you want me to answer that?

**Molly:** No, neither confirm nor deny.

**Becca:** I will neither confirm nor deny.

**Molly:** Great. One morning, it's a sunny day in the middle of a rainy spell. Marianne and Margaret go for a walk, and they're trying to convince Elinor and Mrs. Dashwood to go, saying it's definitely not going to rain, but they don't go. They're frolicking through the hills and they describe it. There's some really beautiful descriptions of the hills in the countryside, and [00:35:00] it's beautiful, and they're so happy and they're dancing and saying that there's nothing better than the blue sky. And literally 20 minutes later, it down pours upon them.

**Becca:** Yep, and we've all been there.

**Molly:** We've all been there.

**Becca:** We've all looked at the sky and been like, "I don't need the umbrella."

**Molly:** "Yeah, what a nice day for a walk." Go outside, immediately-- and you're like, have your phone you're going for a run and you have your phone in your hand and starts pouring and then your phone gets all wet.

**Becca:** Yeah, I once walked home from work in a a white dress--

**Molly:** Oh, no.

**Becca:** I saw it was raining. It was close enough that there was no public transit that could help me, so I had to walk. I put my phone in a plastic bag, which I'm glad I did, because it would have been ruined. I had an umbrella that blew inside out and broke from the wind.

**Molly:** Oh, no!

**Becca:** I ended up walking home. It was honestly weirdly visceral and poetic. I was just like, “Argh.”

**Molly:** Yeah, walking in the rain in New York was really a thing.

**Becca:** Yeah, New York, also there's garbage and slime on the streets. [00:36:00]

**Molly:** That's true. One time my roommate, Hannah, and I left our house, and we were like, “It's such a beautiful day for a walk. We're going to go to a coffee shop, and well, it's going to be so nice.” We got down the block and it started raining, so we stopped until a store and Hannah bought a 50-cent umbrella, which immediately broke, but we kept it anyway as a memento or whatever, and we walked to the coffee shop and we got our coffee. That's what's happening here. They turn back and they go to run back, and Margaret keeps going, Marianne slips and tumbles down the hill. The drama of it all.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** She's just completely, I like-- what do my notes say. I wrote “OMG,” because nothing like this ever happens in Jane Austen, at least to my knowledge.

**Becca:** You have only read one Jane Austen.

**Molly:** I've only read one Jane Austen, but my impression was that nobody ever falls down and tumbles down an entire hill.

**Becca:** This is a different book. This book has a little bit of a different vibe than the last one.

**Molly:** It's edgy.

**Becca:** It's edgier. [00:37:00] It's a little bit more wild. It's by the sea.

**Molly:** It's by the sea.

[laughter]

**Molly:** A gentleman with a gun and two pointers arrives, and I had questions about the pointers, which are later answered. It turns out pointers are dogs.

**Becca:** They are.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** Haven't you ever seen a pointer? They're cute.

**Molly:** Is that a kind of dog?

**Becca:** Yeah, it's like here, let me-- [crosstalk]

**Molly:** Oh, I thought it was the dog's job.

**Becca:** They're cuties. They're good for hunting, pointers. Nowadays, they're good for curling up with a little stick on your lap.

**Molly:** Are you sending me?

**Becca:** Yeah, I sent you a picture.

**Molly:** Oh, there it is. [gasps] That is a really good kind of dog. Listeners will post a picture of the dog.

**Becca:** Maybe just a montage on our story of different pointers.

**Molly:** Good boys. If you have a pointer, give it a scratch for us.

**Becca:** Yeah, and this is why they're called pointers.

**Molly:** Because they are buff and pointy on the nose?

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** Or, what?

**Becca:** No, he's pointing.

**Molly:** He's pointing?

**Becca:** Look at his foot. Look at his nose.

**Molly:** His toes?

**Becca:** [00:38:00] His nose.

**Molly:** His nose. Oh, he's pointing with his nose, okay. Not because his nose is pointy.

**Becca:** He's buff and pointy?

**Molly:** Because he's telling the guy with the gun where the bird is or where the game is.

**Becca:** Something like that. Yeah.

**Molly:** He's like, "Oh, this way."

**Becca:** I can't pretend to know anything about like hunting dogs. I just know that pointers were a common hunting dog in this era.

**Molly:** So, it's not the dog's job?

**Becca:** Oh, it is. The job is a hunt-- He's out with his dogs, because they are helping him hunt, right now.

**Molly:** The dogs breed is not necessarily pointer. It's like he's a foxhound or something, and he is a pointer?

**Becca:** No, not at all. That's the reason, it's how certain people who are descended from ancient times from bakers have the last name Baker.

**Molly:** Oh, okay, so he is-- there are two pointer dogs.

**Becca:** Yes, they are pointers.

**Molly:** Okay, so got it. This man runs up to Marianne, sets down his gun, scoops her up, and brings her into her house and puts her in a chair. Now, Margaret is already there, Margaret did not even [00:39:00] stop and look back to her sister, when she fell.

**Becca:** The idea is that she ran home to get help.

**Molly:** [chuckles] Oh, I kind of pictured Margaret being like, "All right, bye," and then not noticing that Marianne just--

**Becca:** The two of them being like, "Come on, let's race home!" and then Marianne falls down a hill and Margaret doesn't even notice.

**Molly:** I'm picturing big hill. I'm picturing Marianne scraping through the mud, tumbling all the way down the hill, and just disgusting.

**Becca:** Yeah, it's pretty high drama, high drama.

**Molly:** Cool. High drama. Elinor and Mrs. Dashwood are just immediately enraptured by this man, because one, he showed kindness to Marianne, and two, he is hot.

**Becca:** Yeah, I'm not going to give away who plays this man in the movie, but imagine, the sexiest man-- you don't have a sister.

**Molly:** No.

**Becca:** You do have a brother?

**Molly:** I do.

**Becca:** I don't think this metaphor is going to work. We're going to use Amy.

**Molly:** My dog?

**Becca:** Yes, your dog.

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Becca:** Imagine, Amy is out and you can't find her anywhere, and the hottest woman or man, you've ever seen comes back cradling Amy.

**Molly:** [laughs] [00:40:00]

**Becca:** In her arms, or his arms.

**Molly:** [laughs] Uh-huh.

**Becca:** It's like, "Don't worry, she's fine. She might have hurt her paw a little bit, but I made sure she didn't have to walk all the way home on it." Your face is going bright red right now.

**Molly:** I am. It's the best way to meet someone hot, because you're already all in a tizzy about Amy being lost or hurt, and then somebody really hot takes her home and is like, "It's okay." Oh, man.

**Becca:** In this case, Marianne is meeting the guy as he's being like, "Don't worry, you're safe. I've got you," and he's just caring her home, this beautiful man through the rain.

**Molly:** He's buff.

**Becca:** He's got dogs.

**Molly:** Yeah. That all being said, I do not trust this man. I don't have any reason not to, except for the fact that I-- this terrible--

**Becca:** Feeling burned by Wickham.

**Molly:** Well, one, he's about to tell us his name is Willoughby, and I just imagined that Jane Austen was spurned by someone with a W name. I don't think [00:41:00] that she would name this character Willoughby were he not secretly a dick. Two, he's not played by Hugh Grant, or Alan Rickman, unless I'm mistaking who Hugh Grant plays. I have definitely heard of Willoughby before. That's not to say that this could not be one of the main two love interests. However, I'm pretty sure that Hugh Grant and Alan Rickman are the ones on the cover of the movie. Now, listeners, this is not my fault. I have just seen these things in my scrolling and I am drawing conclusions that I could be wrong about. He is hot, and I don't trust him. That's where I'll leave that.

**Becca:** Fair enough.

**Molly:** He's all wet, so he won't sit down. He says, he'd just to come again tomorrow to see how Marianne is, which is very spoonable. I would also be melting over him.

**Becca:** Caring hot man with dogs finds you and saves you in the rain and then says, “Are you okay? Don't worry. I'll be back tomorrow to check on you.”

**Molly:** Yeah, just checks all my boxes like--

**Becca:** There you go. [laughs]

**Molly:** Yeah. **[00:42:00]** He leaves and everybody falls apart. They're just swooning over him. They're like he's a hero. He's a knight in shining armor. Marianne thinking about how gallant he is, makes her just forget about all the pain in her ankle. The next day, John comes by and they ask if he knows Willoughby, and John is like, “I do. He's great. I'll invite him to dinner on Thursday.”

**Becca:** He specifically says he has a good dog.

**Molly:** He specifically points out that he has a good dog, and he asks if the dog was with him when they met him, and it said that Marianne could no more tell him about the dogs than he could tell her about his character, because Marianne asks like, “What are you talking about? He's a good, kind fellow. Is that all you can say for him? What about his manners on a more intimate acquaintance?” What are his hopes and dreams?

**Becca:** See, I relate to John here, because I too know some people only exclusively by how cool their pets are.

**Molly:** Yeah, there are some people that I wouldn't recognize if you separated them from their dog. Some people only know me, because of my dog.

**Becca:** I have forgotten what certain **[00:43:00]** people I know in real life look like, because their internet presence is just like their pet, and I'm like, “Great. That's all I care about.”

**Molly:** Especially in the age of coronavirus, because if you're out walking-- especially in the wintertime, there was one time I had my hat and my mask on, and I was walking, so nobody would really know who I was. I didn't have my dog with me, and so a neighbor who I often greet, he's walking his dog and I'm walking my dog, we often-- our dogs are friends. His dog ran up to me and I was like, “Oh, my God. Hi Teddy, love you.” My neighbor was like, “How did you know his name is Teddy?” I was like, “Oh, hello, it's me. Amy's owner.” [chuckles] He was like, “Oh,” because you know we know each other by our dogs.

**Becca:** Yeah, it's the way you do it.

**Molly:** Feel that. This is the dog episode. Elinor asks, but “Who is he? Does he have a house at Allenham?” [phonetically] Allenum. Allenham?

**Becca:** Allenham.

**Molly:** Let's call it Allenham.

**Becca:** Should we look it up, so our British listeners don't yell at us.

**Molly:** All right, let's see. Hang on. I'm going to do how to pronounce. [00:44:00] [typing] How to pronounce Allenham.

**Becca:** Wait, wait, wait. It might have spoilers.

**Molly:** I'm pretty sure it's probably Allenham, because I live near Binghamton, which is spelled Bingham-ton.

**Becca:** Let's call it Allenham for now.

**Molly:** Okay, Elinor asks if he has a house at Allenham, which is where he said he was from. It turns out that he doesn't. He in fact is staying with the old lady at Allenham Court, which is very exciting, because that means we're going to get to meet the witchy old woman and I'm very excited about the haunted house. Then, John says that Elinor should keep an eye out for him, that he is worth catching, and not to give him up to Marianne, "In spite of all this tumbling down hills," and that Marianne, if she keeps flirting with him, will make Brandon very jealous if he's not careful. Now, Mrs. Dashwood, in this moment, is a queen and says that neither of her daughters [00:45:00] are going to be catching anyone and men are quite safe with them, which I loved.

**Becca:** She's like, "Excuse me."

**Molly:** That's such a weird language to be using and she's calling him out.

**Becca:** Mm-Hmm.

**Molly:** He says that one time at a party, Willoughby danced until 4 AM, which of course makes Marianne swoon, because "Whatever be his pursuits, his eagerness in them should show no moderation and leave him no sense of fatigue."

**Becca:** He's a passionate man.

**Molly:** He's-- Ooh, oh, whatever his pursuits. I know what you mean, Marianne.

**Becca:** [giggles]

**Molly:** John says, "Oh, you will be setting your cap at him now. I never think of poor Brandon," and Marianne says, "I don't like that phrase, 'setting your cap' or making a conquest or any of that stuff." John doesn't really get it. He says, "Well, you'll make conquests enough one way or another. Poor Brandon, he is quite smitten already, and he is very worth setting your cap at in spite of all this tumbling about in spraining of ankles," which is gross, because he's saying that she's doing that all to get men. That's the end of that chapter. [00:46:00] At this point, I do not know who to root for, because I really feel bad for Brandon.

**Becca:** How's my face, the neutral?

**Molly:** It's a very neutral.



**Becca:** All right, good. This is my number one skill set. It's like law degree-

**Molly:** Yep.

**Becca:** -trained Oprah, keeping my face neutral.

**Molly:** [laughs] That's Becca's resume right there. That's it.

**Becca:** Yeah. All right. That brings us to Becca's study questions.

**Molly:** All right.

**Becca:** You're ready?

**Molly:** I am.

**Becca:** We've met Colonel Brandon. I want to get your initial thoughts. Obviously, we've talked a bit about him, but I want to get your general impression of him as a character at this point in the book.

**Molly:** I think he's the underdog. Again, he has not said anything, but I think he's very sweet. I think that he is proper and kind and is not messing with anyone, and is not being annoying, and I think that's going to make him go unnoticed by our women. I like him, though.

**Becca:** Question two. They talk a lot about the age difference between Marianne and the potential suitor in Colonel Brandon. Now, [00:47:00] you and I talked a lot in *Pride and Prejudice* of how Wickham is a predator.

**Molly:** Yes. [with dawning realization] Oh

**Becca:** Yes. I'm bringing this up, because I want to talk about it. It's important to tease this out and talk about it and draw out what's problematic about a big age difference, and also what's accepted in the Austen times, and also, how this feels different than Lydia and Wickham, or Georgie and Wickham.

**Molly:** Yes. Okay. This is interesting. This is a good point. Lydia and Georgianna are both 15, which legal age nowadays being what 17 or 18? Then, I think also probably being 17.

**Becca:** No, it was younger. I don't know if there was this specific age of consent in England in this time period, but Wickham didn't do anything illegal.

**Molly:** He didn't. Georgie was not like out yet, but Lydia [00:48:00] was. Oh, yes, technically that is legal. Their age difference is even less, because he's only 30, right?

**Becca:** Well, we didn't get an exact age.

**Molly:** Right, but we assumed he was somewhere around twice her age.

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Molly:** 17 to 35 is a few years more of an age difference than that. I don't know why I don't feel as gross about it like, "Oh, man."

**Becca:** Well, there's a couple things. I would say like nowadays, 17- to 35-year-old, I would be very grossed out by, I want to tease this out, because I just think it's worth mentioning, because it's something that we don't talk about always in talking about these books. I do think it's problematic in that sense. I do think by the standards of the time period, it's less problematic, but I think what's not gross about it, and the reason it's not gross in the same way *Pride and Prejudice* is gross, is the power at play, the dynamics.

Yes, Brandon is [00:49:00] wealthy, and yes, Marianne is not. But Marianne is extraordinarily self-possessed. As of right now, I don't want to spoil as we go forward, and I'm not going to tell you what happens, but what we've seen right now, all we've seen of Brandon is that he seems to have taken an interest in her. He's not forcing himself on her. He's not manipulating her. He has just seen her, and noticed her.

**Molly:** Other people have started saying that he likes her, but he hasn't said anything.

**Becca:** Yes. No one disputes the fact that she's somewhat young for him. Also, no one disputes the fact that even though they prefer them to be together, this is ultimately Marianne's choice.

**Molly:** Yes, that is good.

**Becca:** And Brandon's choice.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** What we saw with Wickham was taking young, impressionable girls, and lying to them and manipulating them and ruining their reputations with sex and disgracing them either because they had money he wanted or to punish someone who was close to them, [00:50:00] or simply because he was bored, and it was easy. There's a real difference in the power dynamic in those characters. Whereas, here, I think that at the very least, everyone is on notice of everything happening.

**Molly:** Yeah. Basically, the difference is that Wickham sucks, and Colonel Brandon does not.

**Becca:** Yes, the difference is that Wickham sucks, and Brandon has not given us any reason to believe he sucks as of right now.

**Molly:** Yes. Okay. Interesting.

**Becca:** I just wanted to bring it up because I feel it's something reading the Jane Austen novels in general, we don't talk about how young these girls are all the time, but I wanted to bring it up, because-

**Molly:** He is quite older.

**Becca:** -we talk so much about Wickham being a predator--

**Molly:** Sure.

**Becca:** --and I thought, we should also talk about the fact that this is an older man who has addressed in a teenage girl.

**Molly:** Yeah, it's definitely a little bit weird, and I hadn't thought about it, because he seemed pretty sweet. I'm really glad that he's a lot older than her, [00:51:00] because in my mind, when I was trying to remember who was in this movie, I was like, "Alan Rickman is way older than all of these characters." So, no way.

**Becca:** Yes.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** I want to be clear for any of our listeners, I'm not making a judgment on the characters themselves. I'm simply making an observation about the time period, the world at that time, and Austen's perspective on it, but there's no question in the Austen era that a 17-year-old was of marriageable age.

**Molly:** Right, exactly.

**Becca:** It is an age difference, but not one that necessarily has to be dictated by crazy power dynamics in the same way.

**Molly:** I see, I see, I see. Yeah, that makes sense. I'm glad that you brought it up, because I hadn't really thought about it.

**Becca:** Yeah, just worth mentioning. We don't support men in this century dating women who are 18 years younger than them if they are not women yet. But I think that there's a sort of consensus on the part of Austen in the context of her world that Marianne [00:52:00] is a woman. Just worth noting.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** What do you think of the mention of Eddie?

**Molly:** I really agree with Mrs. Dashwood. I think that they've only been there two weeks, and Marianne needs to chill. I don't sense anything fishy yet, unless his sisters have taken him hostage, but I'm pretty sure that he just isn't visiting yet.

**Becca:** All right. What's your initial impression of Willoughby?

**Molly:** Hot. He's given me no reason not to trust him, and I was swooning right along with everybody else. I'm just on guard. I think that he is definitely a suitor, and I think that Marianne is already literally head over heels for him.

**Becca:** Yeah, [chuckles] she toppled.

**Molly:** I'm excited that he has dogs and then the dogs were mentioned. I think he's hot. I think that he's kind and very gentlemanly.

**Becca:** All right, last question, Brandon, or Willoughby? Are you Team Brandianne? Or, Team Merahby?

**Molly:** [chuckles] Oh, man, I don't know [00:53:00] yet. Again, after I finished these chapters, I was like, "I do not know whose side I'm on."

**Becca:** Hmm.

**Molly:** There's pros and cons of both sides. Right now, I don't know what the cons of Willoughby are. I think that there will be cons. The Willoughbycons.

**Becca:** I love that. The Willoughbycons.

**Molly:** Willoughbylove, Willoughbynotlove.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** Right now, I'm Team Brandianne. Brandianne?

**Becca:** Brandianne, I said. It's Brandianne and Merahby. If you want to come up with different names, you can.

**Molly:** Brandianne or Merahby. I like them both. Gosh, I think right now, I'm Team Brandianne. Oh, no, oh, maybe, I'm Team Merahby. It's hard. This is a hard one.

**Becca:** It's hard.

**Molly:** I'm going to be on the fence. Ooh, can I be team Brandohby?

**Becca:** Is that that they become a throuple?

**Molly:** That would just the gays.

**Becca:** Oh, just the two men, you know?

**Molly:** Yeah. I don't really think that that's going to happen. I'm just too on the fence right now to make a decision.

**Becca:** Well, we already found out Brandon's not so [00:54:00] gay.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** It's canon. [laughs]

**Molly:** He's not so gay. I'm not going to work out there, unless they're saying that, because they want us to think that he's not so gay. Listeners, I know that's not what I meant. I'm just being really on brand right now.

**Becca:** [laughs] Yes. No, I love it. Currently, the answer to Team Merahby versus Team Brandianne is to be Team Brandohby.

**Molly:** Brandohby. I'm just on the fence. I can't make a decision.

**Becca:** All right. That brings us to our standbys, funniest quote.

**Molly:** "She only had two daughters, both of whom she had lived to see respectively married, and she had now therefore nothing to do but to marry all the rest of the world."

**Becca:** Questions moving forward?

**Molly:** All right. We've got lunch or dinner, whatever meal John is going to invite Willoughby, too. I want to know what's going to happen. I'm too indoctrinated with *Pride and Prejudice*, because I'm assuming that Willoughby and Brandon have some beef, but I'm probably just thinking of Darcy and Wickham, so I could be wrong about that, but I want to know if they know each [00:55:00] other. I don't think that they actually would have beef, because I think that John Middleton would know and not invite him to dinner if he thought it was going to cause problems. I don't know. I have questions about all of that. I am curious now about Eddie and whether or not he's coming back.

**Becca:** Okay. Who wins the chapters?

**Molly:** Mrs. Jennings.

**Becca:** Ah, yes!

**Molly:** What a queen!

**Becca:** Love her. She's a queen. Oh, my God. I'm so excited.

**Molly:** Me too.

**Becca:** I'm so happy. This has been so much joy. Listeners, that concludes this episode of Pod and Prejudice. Molly, how you feeling?

**Molly:** I'm feeling excited, because we took a break in between recording Episode 2 and Episode 3, and so I finally get to keep reading and I'm so excited.

**Becca:** I'm so excited for you to keep reading. Listeners, if you want to read along with us for next episode, we're going to be reading Chapters 10 through 12 of *Sense and Sensibility*. Molly, you should also read Chapters 10 through 12 of *Sense and Sensibility*.

**Molly:** What if I just didn't? What if I just showed up to the record without reading it? **[00:56:00]**

**Becca:** You'll just be like, "And then, Colonel Brandon grabbed Willoughby's ass--"

**Molly:** Aah.

**Becca:** -and like, 'You know what Marianne, we decided we are going to live together as one and you should join us--'

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** "-as our beard collectively, and we're going to have all the pointers in the world."

**Molly:** [laughs] We got the doghouse. We could call her house the doghouse.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** Y'all, it is 9:30 PM, and Becca and I are grandpas, and we both are loopy.

**Becca:** Woozy. Oh. All right, so that means it's bedtime. Good night, listeners. Until next time, stay proper.

**Molly:** Find yourself someone who's just going to scoop you up and carry you down the mountain and who has dogs.

**Becca:** And who has dogs.

[Pod and Prejudice theme]

**Molly:** Pod and Prejudice is edited by Molly Burdick, and audio produced by Graham Cook. Our show art is designed by Torrence 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](http://podandprejudice.com). To keep up with the show, you can follow us on Twitter, **[00:57:00]** Instagram and Facebook @PodandPrejudice. If you love what you hear, check out our Patreon at [patreon.com/podandprejudice](http://patreon.com/podandprejudice) to see how you can support us, or just drop us a rating and a review wherever you listen to podcasts. Pod and Prejudice is sponsored this week by Bel Istorla. Check them out at [belistorla.com](http://belistorla.com) and be sure to sign up for their newsletter to take 10% off your first order. Thanks for listening.