

ELINOR & EDWARD

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[EDWARD takes off his coat and looks around the room at the memorial items for HENRY DASHWOOD. His phone chirps and checks a text message. Enter ELINOR]

ELINOR

Hello?

EDWARD

Hello. [short pause] Fanny and John are with Harry just- - You're Elinor.

ELINOR

Yes.

EDWARD

I don't know if you remember me. I'm Edward.

ELINOR

Ferras.

EDWARD

Yes. Fanny's brother. We last saw each other at their wedding in town. About 6 years ago?

ELINOR

I remember.

EDWARD

Of course. This is --just a bad day for you-

ELINOR

-'A bad day'?

EDWARD

-and I'm bumbling at you. Sorry. I am very bad with people- well, most people—who have just – suffered a loss. [she stares at him] I am sorry to barge in on you and you mother and sisters today.

ELINOR

Fanny and John have already done that. [stops herself] That was bad to say-

EDWARD

Please. In that, I wish I could apologize *enough* for my sister's behavior.

ELINOR

If my mother and sisters were not as *indulgent* in their grief as Fanny is oblivious to it, they'd probably all get along fine-- but now I am unfair to *everyone*. I'm not this blunt.

EDWARD [starting over]

I am sorry for your loss.

ELINOR

Thank you.

EDWARD

If your mother is unwell, perhaps I can persuade Fanny to delay her plans-?

ELINOR

No. Mother will be *unwell* for quite some time. Best to take care of things quickly--your sister has graciously offered us the *guest* wing.

EDWARD

Sorry to ask, but why – how does this work? With the estate?

ELINOR

Norland Park, the estate, belonged to our great uncle. He had no children, so he left Norland to Father and then –to little Harry.

EDWARD

4-year old Harry with a skinned knee?

ELINOR

Directly to John and Fanny's Harry- after our dad.

EDWARD

That's-

ELINOR

-old fashioned legacy stuff? Yes. But, Fanny takes it seriously. And she and John have legal control until my nephew is of age.

EDWARD

And by estate --not just the house and the grounds - but *the* - ?

ELINOR

Everything. Money too.

EDWARD

I suppose that's how massive family estates are kept together through the generations. Not split up to distribute the inheritance-

ELINOR

There's the comfort. Father thought he had more time. So did we all-