

FANNY & MRS. DASHWOOD

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FANNY

You will be missed at our party this evening. But I am sure you will find Barton very comfortable. We, of course, are tied here until the spring and then we are in Manhattan, but we may find time --

MRS. DASHWOOD

[stopping her] Of course. [looking around] I have spent my best years at Norland Park. Margaret was born here, you know?

FANNY [impatiently]

Hmm.

MRS. DASHWOOD

I suppose if there is *good* to come out of this, it is the months Edward and Elinor have spent together-

FANNY

Yes, I hope Elinor is not too disappointed. She shouldn't be-- I'm sure Edward has been honest with her-

MRS. DASHWOOD

Why should Elinor be disappointed?

FANNY

Why of Bitsy Morton. An old family friend—her father is a *Lord* of some sort, can you believe it? Mother tells me that she and Edward are inseparable – nearly engaged. I think they've been together since grad school. Surely Elinor mentioned -

MRS. DASHWOOD

No, she hasn't.

FANNY

Well, I hope---I mean, no one could call my brother a 'playboy,' but a young man with his wealth and family—I am sure he has broken a heart or two. You will explain it to Elinor. [short pause] Well, my dear, have a safe trip and please don't hesitate to call if there is anything John and I can do. Happy New Year!

MRS. DASHWOOD

Happy New Year, Fanny.