

MARIANNE

And he has no taste

ELINOR

Not true.

MARIANNE

He doesn't appreciate *your art*-

ELINOR

Marianne, if you really thought Edward *deficient* you could hardly muster any civility toward him-

MARIANNE

I'm *surprised*. [slight pause] Edward is amiable. *Nice*. But— he's not someone I would have pictured for you. He is not striking. He has no opinion on music. Yes, he admires your sketches and paintings, but it is not the admiration of a person who can understand their worth.

ELINOR

He's shy and sometimes distrusts his own judgment.

MARIANNE

I could not be happy with a man who wasn't confident--whose taste did not in every point coincide with my own. He must enter into all my feelings; the same books, the same music, the same films--

ELINOR

We're different. You want to date *yourself*.

MARIANNE

I *want* someone who shares my passions! Who isn't boring and idle. [ELINOR reacts] Don't be offended- perhaps I don't know Ed as well as you.

ELINOR

Edward *is* reserved, but he understands things. He has imagination and a sense of humor, but he is shy and that keeps him silent. I have seen a great deal of him while you and Margaret have been with Mother. He loves books and art, but his taste is - more *respectful* than your *passion* for everything! And at first sight, he is certainly not *striking*; until he relaxes and lets you in - you don't truly *see him*. Now, I know him so well, that I find him attractive.

MARIANNE

Then I will too. I will see no more imperfection in his face, than I do in his heart.

ELINOR

Marianne, I won't deny, that I think well of him –but Mother's hopes are too high. I like him. That's it.

MARIANNE

'Like him!' 'Think well of him!' After all that--! Cold-hearted, Elinor-- Oh! worse than cold-hearted--!

ELINOR *[laughing]*

I didn't mean to upset you.

MARIANNE

Use the word '*like*' again and I'm leaving!

ELINOR

You know I feel more than I say, but I am not- by no means *assured* of his feelings for me, or even if he plans to act on them--

MARIANNE

You're *scared*!!

ELINOR

I don't want to call it more than it is. He is far from being independent-

MARIANNE

He is the first son in a family where that means something. He is *independent* -!

ELINOR

His mother is apparently, worse than Fanny-

MARIANNE

Who cares-!

ELINOR

Marianne! We know better than anyone how tricky family situations can be. I am the last person Edward's family would deem suitable. And like it or not, he must take that into consideration-

MARIANNE

Ed told you this?

ELINOR

He didn't have to. None of this matters--Soon we will be gone to Barton and-

MARIANNE

The Berkshires are only two hours away-!

ELINOR

Yes. But my life is far from--it's not yet settled. Nor is his.

MARIANNE

[calmly] I am convinced you'll end up together. [matter-of-fact] And I hope it kills Fanny and her mother.

ELINOR [gently reprimanding]

Marianne-

MARIANNE

You are far too patient. I could never be *patient*.

ELINOR

I know.

MARIANNE

The more I know of the world, the more am I convinced that I shall never see a man whom I can really *love*. I require so much! He must have all Edward's virtues, *and* pursue his passions with an unbridled earnestness.

ELINOR

It is way too early in your life to despair of such an unhappiness, my love. Wait until you are 22. If you haven't met him by then, you have my permission to kill yourself.

[They exit]